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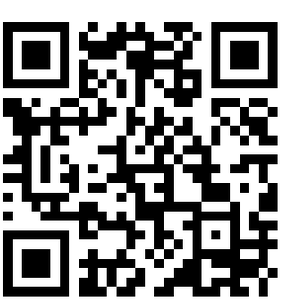

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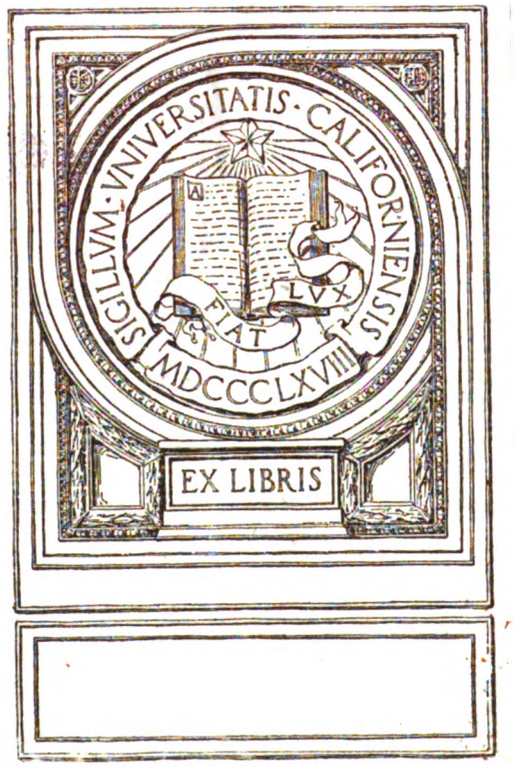

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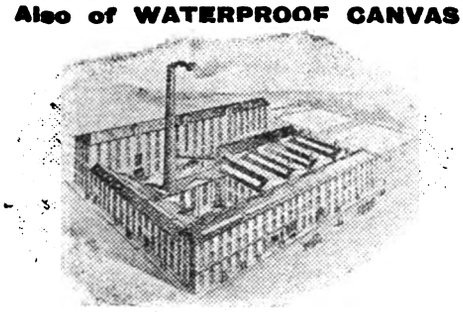
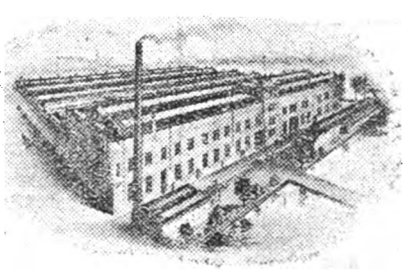
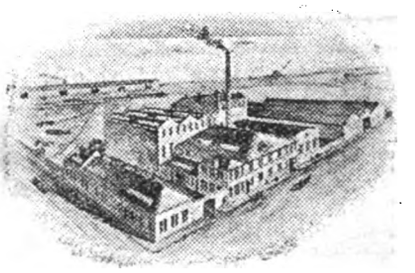

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 261.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

After a siege of nearly five calendar months Kut has fallen. For some weeks it has been known that the prospects of relief were becoming fainter and fainter, and General Townshend's capitulation was expected at any moment. On the night of April 24 a last desperate effort to revictual the garrison was made by the dispatch of a ship laden with supplies. The attempt to run the gauntlet of a series of Turkish lines was carried out with the utmost gallantry; but it failed. Aeroplanes discovered the vessel aground some four miles short of Kut. The same day General Townshend's force, having come to an end of their provisions, surrendered unconditionally. They numbered a little over 9,000 of all ranks, of whom 2,970 were British and the remainder Indian troops.

The full story of the defence of Kut has yet to be told; but enough is known to justify the wording of the official report, which spoke of the resistance being conducted with a gallantry and fortitude that will ever be memorable. General Townshend's force reached Kut on December 3. It had already suffered from an arduous campaign when it started from the same point in the first half of November in the attempt to reach Baghdad. On November 22 it fought the battle of Ctesiphon, defeating a large force of Turks. The arrival of reinforcements for the enemy rendered the position of General Townshend, whose force had suffered considerably, untenable, and he was compelled to withdraw down the Tigris. Throughout the retreat the Turks pressed hard upon the column, which had been considerably weakened by casualties amounting to a quarter of its effectives. More than one rearguard action had to be fought; but Kut was reached four days before the enemy arrived in sufficient strength to attack it, although they had been able to dispatch a force lower down the river to cut General Townshend's communications. A series of assaults of the British position were launched in the earlier days of the siege and again on Christmas Day; but the losses suffered by the Turks made them abandon the attempt to take Kut by storm, and they settled down to starve out the garrison, with such assistance as an occasional bombardment and, latterly, air raids afforded them.

Before a relief column could be sent forward, the Turks, under German instruction, had been able to construct a number of positions below Kut, which have proved too formidable for any British force that could be collected and equipped on the spot to penetrate. By the time reinforcements reached General Lake, who had succeeded General Nixon early in January, floods and weather conditions were fighting on the Turkish side. General Townshend's critical position compelled the relief expedition to follow the shortest route; there was no time to organise any turning movement on a scale that could promise success. As the event proved, the Kut garrison was able to hold out much longer than had been anticipated; but before this fact was recognised the time for attempting any line of advance except that along the Tigris had gone by. General Aylmer attacked the Turkish lines on January 21 and again on March 8, in each case unsuccessfully. He was succeeded by General Gorringe, and operations on a larger scale, owing to the arrival of reinforcements, had by this time become possible. A great effort to reach Kut was begun in April, but such was the strength of the Turkish positions, continually narrowed down as the area of attack was by the encroachment of floods, that the relief column was only able to register an advance of nine miles in three weeks before General Townshend was forced to surrender.

Public sympathy with the garrison in Kut has very naturally been stirred by the thought that their gallant defence should have proved of no avail in the long run. But King George has reminded us that another force has to be remembered as well at this time. For three months the Tigris Corps, as the relief column has come to be termed, has been endeavouring to force impossible positions held by a brave and stubborn enemy. During part of this time it had to endure not only the effects of well-directed fire, but also a shortage of supplies and a complete breakdown of hospital arrangements. The story is too fresh in the public memory to need recapitulation here. If General Townshend's force has suffered, the Tigris Corps, too, has been sorely tried. The felicitous wording of the King's message to them, therefore, will meet with ready endorsement throughout the British Empire. "Although your brave troops," runs the telegram to the General Officer Commanding, "have not had the satisfaction of relieving their beleaguered comrades in Kut, they have, under the able leadership of yourself and subordinate commanders, fought with great gallantry and determination under most trying conditions. The achievement of relief was denied you by flood and bad weather, and not by the enemy whom you have resolutely pressed back. I have watched your efforts with admiration, and am satisfied that you have done

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all that was humanly possible, and will continue to do so in future encounters with the enemy."

Although Kut has fallen, Great Britain's task in Mesopotamia is not at an end. The question whether it was wise to attempt the original dash on Baghdad with the force at General Townshend's disposal is at least open to discussion; but in the face of all that has happened there can be no argument in favour of a withdrawal of the British forces at this stage. We shall hope that the wish is not father to the thought, if we read into the concluding words of the King's message to the Tigris Corps an assurance that a fresh advance is to be made on Baghdad, but this time with an adequate force properly equipped. A Turkish message speaks of the British relief column using old aeroplanes, which were easily shot down by the superior machines on the enemy's side. The description may not be strictly accurate; but it suggests that the Turks have formed their own idea of the equipment of the force that was launched against them with such inadequate preparation.

Bucharest is the medium of transmission for a circumstantial report regarding the death of von der Goltz Pasha. The first announcement of his death gave the cause as spotted fever. It is now stated that the Field Marshal was shot by three revolver bullets fired by one Ali Abdullah, an officer in the 17th Anatolian infantry regiment, in the evening of April 14. All that is established is that von der Goltz died very suddenly. Murder is at least as probable a cause as spotted fever, for we should expect to hear of a serious epidemic raging before the generalissimo of the army is attacked. On the other hand, it is not the first time that reports of friction and worse between German and Turkish officers have reached the outside world. According to one account Turkish officers, before leaving Trebizond, shot several of their German colleagues stationed in the town. The statement may not be true; but few who know both Turks and Germans will regard the incident as impossible. The only room for doubt is whether from the Turkish point of view things have already come to such a pass that the time is ripe for the Turks to turn on their German task-masters.

The refusal of the Greek Government to allow the passage of the Serbian army across Greece to Salonika has created an atmosphere exceedingly favourable to the circulation of rumours. It has been found necessary to deny the report that the Entente Powers intend to proclaim a blockade of Greece with a view to bringing her into a better frame of mind. But there can be no question that the situation is strained. The Greek Government is in a stronger position than it has been hitherto in its intermittent protests, because it controls the railway over which the Serbians would have to be transported. There can be no mere ignoring of the refusal, for before the Serbians can be entrained Greek rolling stock will have to be collected, and this cannot be done in Greece's despite without what would in effect amount to the occupation of the whole of Greece. The occasion is one for a final decision on the part of the Allied Powers in regard to Greece. If it be true that the Government threatens in the last resort to blow up the railway bridge over the Corinth Canal, the Allies must be prepared for Greek obstinacy being maintained to the point of an ultimatum.

All efforts at trying to persuade Greece will fail, and may, therefore, be omitted entirely. The Allies must make up their minds whether they will themselves withdraw their request and meekly transport the Serbians round by sea, or whether they will regulate once and for all Greece's position towards the Grand Alliance. As on each previous occasion when controversy has arisen between the Greek Government and the Allies, a large section of Greek public opinion supports the latter. The dispute is not with the Greek nation, but with a junta which has elected to accept the German point of view of Greek interests. In all probability the whole matter is not worth the quarrel; but the quarrel had to come sooner or later, and, unless we are mistaken, it is to Greece's advantage that it should come without further delay. We may hope, therefore, that the Allies will not indulge in such a foolish course as a blockade or any other method of exercising pressure, so-called, upon the Greek Government; but that they will merely offer M. Skouloudis' Cabinet the choice of declaring itself "for us" or "against us" and standing by the consequences. There is some danger in delaying the issue, for the recent experience of the Venizelists at a party meeting shows that the art of public demonstration has not been lost by the Greek Government. Its Press is trying to stir up public opinion by declaring that the whole proposition is a mere pretext for putting King Constantine and the Government under the absolute control of the Entente. If the Press had the power of clear thinking, it would realise that that is the present position of the Greek Government, for it has forfeited its right to make suggestions to the Entente. On the other hand, if the Government boldly accepts Greece's responsibility, there can no longer be any question of the control of Greece by the Entente, but it will be a partnership, with an equal voice for each member.

A single Russian *communiqué* during the past week refers to operations "in the direction of Baghdad." An important enemy detachment, it is stated, was thrown back towards the west, and a portion of his artillery and a number of ammunition wagons were captured. The locality of the engagement is not specified. Some time has now elapsed since the Russians were reported to be on the Turco-Persian frontier, on the road leading from Kermanshah to Baghdad, and in the absence of further information it was concluded that they had found it necessary to consolidate their position in Persia before undertaking any further advance westwards. The latest engagement, therefore, may not have taken place in Turkish territory. In view, however, of the studied self-restraint which characterizes the Russian official statements the reference to Baghdad is significant.

In view of the references that have been made in Parliament to the treatment of British prisoners of war in Bulgaria, we may call attention to the interesting communication published on another page in connection with the efforts made in Roumania to send comforts to these unfortunate men. The reply of the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs was to the effect that the reports of unsatisfactory treatment were only too well founded. The conduct of the Bulgarian authorities in this respect, it was stated, has been deplorable, and "they have been far from realizing their obligations towards the prisoners of war in their hands." Mr. Einstein, the American Minister at Sofia, has, however, taken the matter up, and has remonstrated with the Bulgarian Government. To judge by the correspondence that has passed between him and Mme. Jonesco, he has already succeeded in bringing about some amelioration in the lot of the prisoners, and the arrangements made for the safe delivery of parcels will prove a great boon to the men.

The impression gained in England that the veto on the landing of ladies in Egypt was about to be relaxed has not yet reached Egypt, where a chorus of complaint goes up that it should still be persisted in by the military authorities, in spite of its manifest injustice and the hardships it imposes on individuals. That newcomers should be debarred from flocking to Egypt during the war is a legitimate and natural precaution; but very definite military reasons ought to be given for refusing to allow the wives and near relatives of civilian residents to conform with the practice, imposed from considerations of health, of leaving the country during the hot summer months and returning to their homes in the autumn or winter.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 19.

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

Private reports of the Prince of Wales's visit to the Sudan show that his Royal Highness made just as excellent an impression there as he had already done in Egypt. It was undoubtedly a very sound stroke of policy that prompted his appointment to a staff post in this country, for it brought the colonials and the Egyptians in closer touch with the British Crown, and afforded them an outward and visible sign of the interest which the King-Emperor takes in their welfare. It is, however, an incontestable fact that, wise as that move was, its success would not have been half so great had it not been for the Prince's personality, which has won for him strong sympathy and golden opinions from all those, Egyptians as well as Europeans, with whom he has come into contact. Although no references have appeared in the local Press, I know from conversations with Egyptians that they have been much struck by his tact and his intelligent outlook on things in general.

Lord Hardinge's Short Visit.

Lord Hardinge spent a day in Cairo on his way home from India. The High Commissioner met him at Suez, came up with him to Cairo, where he spent the night at the Residency, and accompanied him to Port Said, where he rejoined the P. and O. s.s. Arabia. Lord Hardinge was to have been entertained at dinner by the Sultan, but his ship was delayed by bad weather in the Red Sea. He, however, had an audience of his Highness during the very short time he stayed in Cairo.

The Law School.

H.H. the Sultan paid a visit to the Law School this week. It may be recollected that when his Highness visited that institution shortly after his accession the students of the fourth year, who had undoubtedly been egged on by political agitators, adopted a disloyal and disrespectful attitude and absented themselves from the lectures at the very hour fixed for the visit of the Sovereign. Recently the Sultan pardoned the offenders, and this is his first visit to the school since the incident. The vernacular Press has hailed this as a sign that his Highness has overlooked the delinquencies of this section of Government students, which has in the past always been foremost in all political agitations that from time to time have taken place in the country. The students on this occasion gave the Sultan a most enthusiastic reception, and it is to be hoped that the fate suffered by the participants in last year's uncalled-for demonstration will serve as a lesson to their comrades, and will convince the law students of the future of the folly of attempting to maintain the unfortunate traditions that have become associated with this institution.

The Financial Adviser.

Lord Edward Cecil, who has completely recovered from the operation that he recently underwent in England, returned to Cairo this week. He is now busy putting the finishing touches to his annual report, which will shortly be published. Its publication is anxiously awaited, as it is hoped that, apart from other interesting and important statements of policy, it will contain some indication as to the manner in which the very large surplus yielded by the last financial year will be used. In his last report, it may be remembered, the Financial Adviser very rightly insisted on the necessity for building up again the reserve fund, which on April 1, 1915, had become reduced to £E3,700,000. At the same time he pointed out that the value of the securities in which it was invested had depreciated by £E800,000. It is understood that the 1915-1916 surplus, which is variously estimated now at about £E2,000,000, will be placed to reserve, the entire depreciation to date being written off, and the fund being increased by the balance. This would mean that the reserve fund would be restored to almost the figure at which it stood prior to the outbreak of war, not taking into account the depreciation in the value of the securities—2 per cent., or, roughly, £E100,000—registered at that date. This would be an excellent step, for it would considerably consolidate the State's financial position, and would prove to the world that Egypt, alone of all the countries at war or drawn into the vortex of the war, had been able to pay her way during eighteen months of extreme financial and commercial stress. Whilst, however, this decision would meet with general approval, it is, nevertheless, hoped that some means will be found to resume before the cessation of hostilities the great public works which have been almost entirely suspended since August, 1914. Sir Murdoch Macdonald's recent report plainly showed the serious effects that the continuation of the suspension of, for example, the Delta drainage works is having, and also drew attention to the urgent necessity for meeting the requirements of the country in the very near future.

THE PRINCE IN THE SUDAN.

Further details of the visit of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to the Sudan are contained in the last numbers of the *Sudan Times* which have arrived in England. In addition to the events described in our last issue it appears that the Prince paid a visit to the historic field of Kerreri and also obtained some idea of the White Nile scenery by a short trip up that river. A pleasing incident in his welcome to Omdurman occurred when, passing near Beit-el-Amarrah, his Royal Highness was received by a group of boys in charge of a sheikh with loud cries of "Long live his Royal Highness the Prince, and long live his Excellency the Governor-General." The visit terminated on April 6, when the Prince left Khartoum by special train for Halfa. The following is the text of a farewell message received by the Governor-General from his Royal Highness after his departure:—

"I cannot leave the Sudan without taking the opportunity of asking you to convey to all the officers and officials, as well as to Ulema, Nazirs, Omdas, Sheikhs, notables and inhabitants of the Sudan, my deep appreciation of the loyal and warm reception accorded to me on every occasion during my visit. It has been the greatest satisfaction to me to have had this opportunity of meeting many of those to whose untiring energy and labour the peace and prosperity of the country is so largely due, and to have personally heard from many of the leading inhabitants their grateful expression of thanks for the benefits they now enjoy. I shall always look back with the greatest pleasure to my visit to the Sudan. I would ask you to convey to all officers and officials concerned my great appreciation of the excellent arrangements made both on the journeys to and from Khartoum, and also during my stay there."

The following special Army Order was issued from Headquarters on April 7:—

"On his departure from Khartoum, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales wishes an expression of his appreciation conveyed to all ranks of the Egyptian Army in garrison at Khartoum of the part taken by them in the military arrangements made for his reception.

"His Royal Highness was much struck by the smart and soldierly bearing of the Egyptian Army troops."

In connection with the Prince's visit, the Governor-General wrote a letter to Sir Seyid Ali Mirghani, in which he said: "It delights me to inform you that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has been greatly pleased that he has been able to meet you last evening and to have a talk with you. . . . H.R.H. has graciously expressed to me his full satisfaction and pleasure with all that he saw, with his own eyes, of the great development that the Sudan has reached in these few years, and of his being assured of the sincerity and loyalty of the natives to their Government. H.R.H. is going to inform his Majesty of all this, and before his departure wishes all the notables and the natives of the Sudan to be informed that they are protected and watched over by the Government, who is anxious to secure their comfort and the welfare of their country, with all its might."

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, April 21.

The Russian Sack Incident.

The question of the sacks bought by Russia for transport to Bessarabia has been handled by the Greek Government with the same lack of tact as other incidents, and has led to a further lowering of the country's prestige. After taking up an attitude which further estranged the Entente Powers, M. Skouloudis has had to retract, by his declarations in the Chamber. He took care not to repeat what he had said in his official *communiqué*, in which he had invoked the declaration of the Bulgarian Minister, M. Passaroff, who maintained that the telegram which was discovered by the Entente in the Bulgarian Consulate at Salonika, and which incriminated M. Gounaris, was apocryphal, thus accusing the Entente Powers of a forgery. In point of fact, regarding a telegram which passed through the Athens Telegraph Office, the Government should have had no need to resort to the evidence of M. Passaroff, in whom nobody places any confidence to-day; it would have sufficed to make a search in the archives of the office mentioned, and if nothing had been found M. Skouloudis could then have declared that such a telegram had never been sent. Not having followed that course, he has shown that he is aware that the telegram was sent, in spite of the *dementi* which he had published in Paris, based upon M. Passaroff's evidence. Now, as—according to M. Skouloudis' declarations—neither M. Gounaris nor any other Minister ever promised to hand over any sacks to Bulgaria for military purposes, it is asked why M. Skouloudis, instead of making common cause with M. Passaroff and rendering himself a party to the charge against the Entente Powers, did not protest indignantly against the calumny upon his colleague, M. Gounaris, and demand his recall. M. Skouloudis preferred to entangle himself in a network of contradictory statements, and finished up by declaring in the Chamber that the Russian Government persisted in affirming that, according to its information, from a trustworthy source, the sacks referred to were, after being requisitioned by the Greek military authorities, sent through the agency of the National Bank to Bulgaria to be used for forwarding grain, but were detained to be used for military purposes. M. Skouloudis sought to counter these allegations by an assurance that the sacks had been employed in the (Greek?) military service.

As for M. Passaroff, his position has become extremely difficult in Athens as a result of the declarations of M. Skouloudis, who, having avoided an assurance that such a telegram had not passed through the Athens office—and having thus indirectly confirmed its existence—has, on the other hand, denied all that M. Passaroff affirmed. It is stated that the latter will very soon be recalled.

The Transport of Serbian Troops.

Now, after the incident of the sacks, public attention is focussed on the question of the probable passage of Serbian troops through Greek territory. The Ministerial journals daily draw harrowing pictures of the population of the Peloponnesus dying of starvation if the Allies insist on taking possession of the railway for the passage of these troops; but the fact is that official circles, thanks to their vivid imagination, believe that the proposed passage of Serbian troops through the Greek capital hides some dark design of the Allies, who, with the connivance of M. Venizelos, would thus seek to stir up trouble in the country, in the hope of forcing Greece to side with them! It has even been suggested, though, doubtless, not in good faith, that the ulterior object of these designs is to stir up a revolution and depose the King.

Statement by Sir Francis Elliot.

An interview which the British Minister has accorded to the *Nea Hellas* in connection with this subject has unpleasantly disillusionized those members of official circles who had proclaimed through their Press that the Government had given a categorical refusal to the Entente's request regarding this transport of Serbian troops, and who had always declared that it was a calumny to suggest that German submarines found shelter in Greek waters. Sir Francis Elliot, with his customary frankness, said that the Entente has been forced by imperative necessity to demand leave for the Serbian troops to pass over Greek territory and to use the Greek railways, because the watch over enemy submarines in Greek waters and along the Greek coast is not what it should be. His Excellency, naturally, ridiculed the fears expressed regarding an occupation of the Greek capital in order to restore M. Venizelos to power.

No decision has yet been reached in this matter, but it is not unlikely that in view of the shortage of rolling stock on the Greek railways and the urgent need of transport only a part of the Serbian troops will be sent overland and that the rest will go round by sea.

Venizelist Activities.

Besides the publication of a weekly journal, the *Kyrix*, and a monthly review expounding the party's ideas in authoritative fashion, the Liberals have inaugurated a series of meetings in the theatres (failing other places) in order to enlighten the people regarding the political situation. The second of these meetings, which was to have been held last Sunday at the Théatre Athénée, was broken up by the opposition party. A number of roughs, having obtained entrance without tickets, started a disturbance and fired pistol shots, with the result that a panic ensued and everybody fled. The leaders of the Venizelists have complained against the police, accusing the four officers who were deputed to keep order of having allowed the agitators to enter in order to break up the meeting. A friend who was present informs me that on leaving the building he saw a detachment of soldiers in readiness to attack the crowd, which, fortunately, offered no pretext for the execution of that plan. Mounted gendarmes also appeared on the scene a little later. The Venizelist Press, righteously indignant, remarks that this employment of armed force only dishonours the Government, which doubtless ordered it, and has thus restored the days of terror which the Venizelist *régime* had banished.

In spite of all opposition, M. Venizelos is firmly resolved to go on with the meetings. Indeed, he would merit the title of traitor—which his adversaries make no scruple of applying to this creator of Greater Greece—if, being so convinced that the policy of the present Government is disastrous that he openly predicts war with Bulgaria, he allowed the catastrophe to come about without using every means in his power to avert it.

On the other hand, the decision of M. Venizelos and of some of his partizans to contest seven vacant seats in Parliament, with the sole aim of showing the party's strength, but without any intention of entering the Chamber, has disconcerted official circles. The Ministerial *Nea Himera* professes to know from an authoritative source that immediately after the proclamation of the end of the demobilization the Liberal party will, in the name of the Constitution, demand a general election. Such a course—represented by the *Nea Himera* as Satanic—would, if followed, be the best way of returning to constitutionalism. The same journal further reproaches M. Venizelos with entertaining the hope that the demobilization, through which he hopes to reach the elections, will not be long delayed. This must undoubtedly be so if the Entente Powers stop supplying money to the present Government, which would then be compelled either to demobilize or to resign.

ARCHÆOLOGY IN CYPRUS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, April 17.

Sir John Clauson, presiding at a meeting of the Cyprus Museum Committee on April 13, stated that the sum of £200 towards enlarging the Museum had been sanctioned by telegram from London. A sum of £25, supplemented by a similar amount from other sources, was voted for excavations at Polis Tes Chrysochou, in the Papao district. This site has been already tapped since the British occupation, and has yielded many objects of antiquity—some of great value—but the burial ground, as in many other ancient sites, is so extensive that there is a prospect of fresh and interesting discoveries.

An Athens telegram reports that in a by-election at Chios the Venizelist candidate was returned unopposed.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, April 22.

Lack of Communications.

Constantinople seems to be entirely cut off from this part of the world, and it has become impossible to ascertain what is really happening in Turkey. The mails to and from Greece are most irregular, and even the Greek diplomatic courier is apparently not allowed to cross Bulgarian territory. Travellers from Turkey to Greece have to take the circuitous route viâ Switzerland, for all passenger traffic through Bulgaria to Greece and *vice versâ* is stopped. Some belated newspapers have recently arrived from Constantinople, but they, of course, give no indication of the state of affairs in Turkey.

Enver is mentioned as being present at the Selamlik and at other functions, so that the persistent reports of his death have been incorrect. General Mackensen arrived in Constantinople on March 24, to present the Sultan with the bâton of a field-marshal from the Kaiser, and left on the 28th.

Commodities Less Scarce.

Commodities in small quantities seem to be reaching Constantinople. Some flour has evidently arrived from Roumania; there does not seem to be the previous scarcity of sugar, and the *Hilal*, which had to reduce the size of its edition owing to want of paper, again appears in its full form.

There is a report of a large fire having occurred in one of the suburbs of Constantinople, but no further information is available.

The newspapers publish a warning to the public with regard to aeroplane attacks, and state that when an enemy aeroplane appears a yellow flag will be hoisted at the Stamboul and Galata Towers, on the appearance of which the public must retire underground and extinguish any lights!

A Rival to Hindenburg?

Oriental ingenuity has devised a novel form of amusement and of collecting funds. An announcement appears in the Press to the effect that a cannon made of wood is to be placed on the Bayazid Square, with the view of commemorating the Turkish victories at the Dardanelles. The public will be invited to visit this work of art, and a contribution to the National Defence Fund will entitle them to drive a nail into the cannon. The papers do not give any interpretation of this performance, but possibly it is the Oriental way of singing the "Hymn of Hate."

No Change at Smyrna.

The news from Smyrna, meagre as it is, indicates no change in the situation, excepting that tea and coffee and many other commodities are unobtainable, and that flour is about 20 piastres the oke.

FOR PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

On behalf of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., has written to the Press as follows:—

"In response to a request from the Ottoman Red Crescent that special postcards should be printed for the use of persons having relations who are prisoners of war in Turkish hands, we beg you to make known the fact that these postcards may be had on application to the Prisoners of War Department, 18, Carlton House Terrace, W. We are informed by the Ottoman Red Crescent Society that the delay in the censoring of letters will be avoided by the use of these postcards."

A GOOD WORD FOR THE TURK.

The Turk is not, in some respects, at all events, as bad as he is sometimes painted, says the *Westminster Gazette*. Writing to the New Zealand Defence Minister just prior to the Gallipoli evacuation, General Godley said: "I have written to the Turkish Commander, who will come in when we leave, asking him to take steps to preserve the graves of our men. I feel sure this will be effected, as the Turks have been most honourable during the eight months we have been fighting them, and will not do anything to desecrate our resting places." "Most honourable" is high praise.

THE LEBANON AND SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 10.

From recent accounts given by a person who arrived a few days ago from Syria, and was interviewed by the editors of the *Mokattam*, it appears that the new Governor of the Lebanon, Ali Munif Bey, is letting it be understood both by word and deed that the Lebanon is now only an Ottoman Province, with nothing to distinguish it from the other vilayets of the Empire. For instance, when someone threw out a veiled hint as to the appropriateness of a visit to the Maronite Patriarch, in accordance with the traditional usage, he arrogantly replied: "I wish to abolish this custom." Meantime the aged Patriarch is keeping aloof, and it is said that, contrary to established custom, he did not move down this year to his winter residence in Bkerké, but preferred to remain in his summer residence of Diman, an old convent nestling amidst the snowy hills of Northern Lebanon.

Rumours are being circulated that it is the intention of the Government to divide the Mountain into three sections: the first, from Batroun northward, to be included in the district of Tripoli; the second, from Batroun southward, to be included in the vilayet of Beyrout; the third, comprising Jebel Hermel and adjoining parts, to be included in the district of Baalbek.

But the breach of faith on the part of the Turks that the Lebanese are dreading most is the abolition of their privileges in regard to military service. It is said that already Lebanese of military age who happen to cross into a neighbouring vilayet are arrested for the purpose of enrolment, and, in spite of their protestations, are released only on payment of the exoneration tax. The Lebanese have reason to dread military service, because for Christians it is tantamount to condemnation to hard labour. Building of military roads and other auxiliary work of an onerous nature are allotted to non-Moslems, who are not even given a soldier's uniform.

A first step towards the absorption of the Lebanon is the so-called election recently of five Lebanese delegates to sit in the Ottoman Parliament. I say "so-called" advisedly, because it has been intimated to the Lebanese that, if they do not elect members who are after the heart of the Unionists, the latter will simply appoint three of these from among the committee's own nominees. About thirty schools have already been founded by the Government in the principal villages of the Lebanon, and it is required that at least two of the instructors in each school shall know Turkish and another European language, which—naturally—must be German!

It is further reported by the informant quoted that Jemal Pasha and his coterie transmit their orders for exile, imprisonment, or hanging, based mostly on personal rancour, to the Court-Martial at Aleih, whose members obediently execute them. These dastardly acts have led to revolt even among some of the Unionists themselves, such as Azmy Bey, Vali of Syria, and Khouloussi Bey, his predecessor, who preferred to return to his former post in the Hejaz Railway, with a monthly loss of £Tq50, rather than lend his hand to such ignoble deeds. It is said that the latter once declared that, as he regarded his vilayet as belonging to a civilised Government, he could not permit the hanging of anybody without an order from the Sultan, the head of this Government; and that when Jemal Pasha replied, "My will is above Sultanian irades, and may be enforced on you as well as your Government," the Vali had no other alternative but to resign. This autocratic impudence is not confined to the leaders, but runs through the whole body of Unionists. A curious fact is that those enjoying the highest favour, and wielding the greatest influence in inner Unionist circles, are not genuine Ottomans—apart, of course, from the Germans. For instance, the Musteshar of the Minister of War, for the Arabic Department, is Sheikh Saleh, the Tunisian who had been exiled by the French for seditious and subversive conduct; while the Musteshar of the Minister of Marine, for Syria, is a Mahmoud Zaki well known to Egyptians.

Further particulars about the distressing economic situation in Syria are given by the same informant. Taking advantage of the extreme need of the people, German agents were active in buying up copper utensils. At the same time rapacious jewellers, subsidised by unscrupulous usurers, have been scouring the country to buy up from the famished population their jewels at half, sometimes even at one-third, of their proper value. A veil of mourning enshrouds the land, all festive ceremonies are suppressed, and the only fêtes were those lately given in honour of Enver Pasha's visit to Syria. In addition to these honours the municipality of Beyrout is said to have offered the distinguished visitor a jewelled sword, worth about £Tq300. But the man of blood and iron, who has madly brought untold miseries on the population of a vast Empire, could not but be moved to a passing compassion, and he ordered £Tq500, in the shape of bread tickets, to be distributed among the poor. The penniless ex-lieutenant of a few years ago, who amassed millions by selling his country, as well as himself, body and soul, to the Germans, could well afford to make this theatrical display of "generosity," in imitation of his Imperial master of Berlin.

Subscriptions fixed at £Tq2 per head for persons stopping at the three principal hotels of Beyrout, and at proportionately lesser amounts for persons stopping at the other, cheaper hotels of the town, were being collected lately, and it was thought that these amounts were destined for the alleviation of the misery of the poor, but it was at last discovered that these were destined for the War Fund!

A Spectator.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, April 9.

The Situation.

The situation still remains stagnant, although the Allies are now in daily touch with the enemy. The operations have hitherto been confined to artillery duels at various points and a few skirmishes between patrols. In the Ghevgheli sector the Germans have been using some heavy guns, up to 21 centimetres calibre, within the last few days; but the damage caused to the French trenches has been insignificant. A few German prisoners have been taken during the last week, including an officer. These were put on board a warship and afterwards transferred to France.

Although we have suffered no more aeroplane attacks since the serious raid of March 27, and although it is reported that the German Minister at Athens has assured the Greek Government that no more bombs will be dropped on Salonika, even the Germanophiles here attach little value to German promises, and as a consequence many families have left for Athens and parts of the interior, where they imagine they will be safer. A curious instance of the nervous condition of the inhabitants was afforded the other day when, about 5 a.m., several cannon shots were heard in the town. Many people jumped up and rushed into the streets. It was not, however, an aerial attack, but a salute fired by the Greek artillery to herald the anniversary of the establishment of Greek independence.

Independence Day.

It is now about a hundred years since this country gained its independence, and last Friday the anniversary was celebrated all over Greece. At Salonika the religious ceremony at the cathedral of St. Sophia was rendered specially memorable on this occasion by the presence of General Sarrail and General Mahon with their staffs in full-dress uniforms. Greek soldiers lined the streets and presented arms as the Allied generals passed, while the immense crowds cheered with the greatest enthusiasm. All the local newspapers call attention to the splendid reception given to these officers, and take the fact as one indication of the increased friendliness of all classes of the people towards the Allies as their only saviours.

Greek Officers as Spies.

While it is manifest that the people are becoming more friendly to the Allies every day, it is quite as obvious that there are many officers and men in the army who are not only friendly towards our enemies the Germans, but are actually spying on the Allies in Macedonia, presumably with the intention of passing on to their Boche friends the information they secretly secure.

A painful instance in point is that of Sub-Lieutenant Avdis. When the French occupied Karasouli they allowed Avdis and a few Greek soldiers to remain. He improved his opportunity by going about and spying on the French operations in the neighbourhood. Not content with that, he tapped the French military telephone line from headquarters, secretly leading the wires to his room, where he established a soldier, who knew French, to listen to all the French official messages to the troops. He was caught red-handed, and under ordinary circumstances would have been shot as a spy. However, as he was a Greek officer, General Sarrail contented himself with ordering him out of the place along with his men. This case is admittedly exceptional, and I am assured by a high Greek officer that the army is really becoming more and more convinced that they should throw in their lot with the Allies.

Salonika, April 17.

Strained Relations with Greece.

Just when everyone was convinced that the relations between the Allies and Greece were rapidly improving, certain events have occurred to make those relations more strained than ever. One of these unfortunate events, to which I referred in my last letter, was the case of the Greek officer Avdis, who was caught tapping French military telephone messages at Karasouli. To add insult to injury it is now confirmed in the Athens Government organ, the *Neon Asty*, that this spy has been decorated with the Cross of the Order of the Saviour, because, forsooth, as the newspaper puts it, "he, at the risk of his life, collected useful information under circumstances of great difficulty"! On the top of this we have the question of the sacks sold by Greece to Bulgaria at a time when such goods were contraband of war. The Allies happened to discover at the Bulgarian Consulate the text of the telegram addressed by the Bulgarian Minister at Athens to his Government, in which he quoted certain words used to him by M. Gounaris, Greek Minister of the Interior, in reference to England, which clearly indicate the underhand nature of the deal and this Minister's hostility towards the Allies. The Government now pretend that M. Gounaris' words were incorrectly reported by the Bulgarian Minister; but nobody here believe this, since M. Gounaris is well known to be the keenest pro-German in the present pro-German Greek Cabinet.

Another cause of friction is the refusal of Greece to permit the Serbian troops to be brought here by land instead of by sea, where they would, of course, run the risk of being attacked by German submarines. It really looks as if the Skouloudis Government would only be too glad to see the whole Serbian army at the bottom of the sea. Are they troubled with a guilty conscience?

Still another painful matter is the way in which, according to the French authorities, the Greek military within the Allied lines are spying on all the French and British military operations, and, presumably, communicating what they observe to our enemies. Ample confirmation of this is given in General Sarrail's official statement to the Press a few days ago, in which he declared that the Greek gendarmes within the zone of French operations were in continual communication with the Germans and Bulgarians, and that if, as the Athenian newspapers alleged, these gendarmes were to be withdrawn the Allies could not be otherwise than satisfied.

THE DEUNMEHS OF SALONIKA.

(From Our Salonika Correspondent.)

Who or what are the "Deunmehs"? The name comes from the Turkish word *deunmé*, signifying one who has "turned" or been converted, and is applied to a peculiar sect of Mohammedans living in Salonika, who number about 16,000 persons. Their origin is peculiar and interesting. It was about the year 1655 that a mystic rabbi from Smyrna, who believed himself to be the Messiah expected by the Jewish people about that time, came to Salonika after visiting various places in the Levant and attracting a large number of disciples and followers. Here he was received with enthusiasm by the Jews who had settled in the town after escaping the terrors of the Spanish Inquisition. This new Messiah arrogated to himself unlimited power, declaring himself to be "King of Kings," and even proposed the dethronement of the Sultan. The Turkish authorities promptly arrested him, and he only saved his life by adopting the turban and pretending to turn Mohammedan. His followers adopted the same course. These people gradually gave up their own language, and all now speak Turkish. They practise the Mohammedan religious observances, but only as a matter of form; while in their own homes they secretly follow the mystic practices of their founder.

At the present time these people are bitter enemies of the Allies, and are engaged in spying and endeavouring to find out their plans with an almost fanatical ardour. They stop at nothing. Even their women freely mix with French and British officers, and are ready to accord any favour in the hope of gaining useful information. Most of them know French. Then these officers are freely invited to the houses of the Deunmehs and treated with a show of the keenest friendship. The truth, however, is that they are nearly all dangerous spies against whom the Allies have been warned; but, of course, it is not easy for a foreigner to distinguish between the numerous sects in this town.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 11.

Parliamentary Activity.

During the last fortnight the Chambers have been kept moderately busy with a number of legal projects tending to regulate outstanding economic questions. A most praiseworthy Bill, purposing to prevent the rise of rents, has been presented in the Senate, on the proposal of a Commission specially appointed to inquire into the means of provisioning the communes and controlling prices. According to this project, the rent of houses, flats, shops, etc., is fixed at that which was current on October 26, 1915, all subsequent contracts by which the rent is raised being annulled. The law is to remain in force during the whole duration of the war and for a year following upon its termination. Another law which was voted in the Chamber of Deputies with a bare majority, imposes a tax upon all articles of luxury, such as jewels, furs, motors, expensive hats, and other articles of wear, etc. The tax is to be of a temporary character, the proceeds being devoted to the families of the men under arms. The project showed signs of hasty preparation, and was worded in terms so little precise that many members, who in reality sympathized with the idea, found themselves unable to support the Bill in the form in which it was presented.

On April 5 the Minister of Finance laid before the Chamber a Bill authorizing a tax of 50 per cent. on the total proceeds of the casinos and other gaming establishments, including those of Constantza and Sinaia. One-half of the proceeds of this tax is to be devoted to the improvement of these watering-places. This project is a deadly blow aimed at establishments which not only ruin thousands of lives, but, being in foreign hands, also serve to drain the country of its resources. It is much to be hoped that the measure will receive the support of the majority.

In order to supply the public with an adequate quantity of fish at a reasonable price, a series of measures have been taken with the object of encouraging private fisheries. Fish has been declared an article of first necessity, and its cost will have to conform to the maximum prices that have been laid down, whether the fish be the product of the State or of private fisheries.

The Debate on the Budget.

The debate on the Budget has also occupied much of the members' time. M. Arion made a declaration in the name of the Conservative party—by which we must understand the Marghiloman group—the bent of which was somewhat obscure, and M. Cuza floundered through devious by-ways in the course of a very long speech extending over several sittings. M. Take Jonesco, in the name of the Conservative party, of which M. Nico Filipesco is the leader, and of the Conservative-Democrat party, of which he himself is the founder and leader, read a statement to the effect that this year there could be no real discussion on the Budget, and that in any case the two parties in the name of which he spoke would take no part in the debate. Any debate would provoke the discussion of the financial and political situation, and the latter being entirely dominated by the question of foreign policy, it would be superfluous to repeat their opinions on the subject—opinions which found full expression on the occasion of the debate on the response to the Message from the Throne. Their opinions had undergone no change since then. M. Take Jonesco ended by declaring that the parties composing the opposition would without a doubt vote against the Budget.

An Aerial Feat.

On April 7 an aeroplane carrying the Roumanian tricolour made its appearance at Sinaia, performing a number of evolutions over the Royal residence, and finally disappearing along the valley of the Prahova. This is the first time that an aeroplane has succeeded in negotiating this dangerous part of the Carpathians.

Russian Prisoners in Serbia.

A number of Russian prisoners from Austria-Hungary are reported to have made good their escape into Roumanian territory. Some of these travelled over the mountains; others crossed the Danube on a wooden beam propelled by planks in the place of oars. Landing at the village of Shimian, they were well received by the soldiers of the 17th Regiment of Infantry. They brought the news that more than 7,000 Russian prisoners have been recently conveyed to Serbia for the purpose of digging trenches and building military roads.

THE ARREST OF M. GHENADIEFF.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 10.

Nicolas Ghenadieff, the Bulgarian statesman, who is of Macedonian origin, was a *Komitaji* in his youth, and has up to the present retained much influence over these bands, to which he always gave his support when in office. His revolutionary temperament, his position in the forefront of all movements of a national character, and his gifts as an orator, have brought him a very large measure of popularity. Strongly supporting a rapprochement with the Central Powers, he naturally enjoyed the protection of his sovereign, and this continued until early in 1915, when, on the occasion of a diplomatic mission to Rome, he gave unmistakable signs that his sympathies were veering round towards the Quadruple Entente. This led to a break in the good relations existing between the King and M. Ghenadieff, and had as a sequel his implication in the bomb outrage. Subsequently he abstained from any political activity, but it seems that the King, who needed the support of so popular a spirit, did not abandon the hope of winning him over as a partisan to his policy. Elected a member of the commission chosen to present the Sobranje's reply to the Message from the Throne, he refused to betake himself to the Palace. This was irrefragable evidence of the steadfastness of his opposition to the King's policy, and led to the decision to remove a man so obviously capable of proving dangerous, in view especially of the present state of discontent in Bulgaria, which has shown itself in frequent acts of insubordination on the part of populace and soldiery. Indeed, the state of enervation seems to be great, and it is only the *fait accompli* of having realised (however temporarily) their national ideal with the occupation of the coveted territory and of having wreaked vengeance upon their neighbours that holds the population back from open revolt.

The arrest of the chief of the Stambulovist party, on the ground that he had been concerned in a sale of cereals to England before Bulgaria's participation in the war, but thinly veils an arbitrary act of tyranny which is, after all, but one link in a chain of similar events. That M. Radoslavoff did not dare to order the arrest of M. Ghenadieff until the Sobranje had been closed is on his part a concession to public opinion, and may be interpreted as evidence that "Tsar" Ferdinand and M. Radoslavoff are more isolated in regard to public opinion than might be inferred.

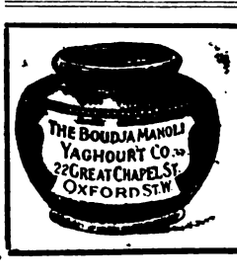
Governmental organs are meanwhile carrying on a violent campaign against the parties forming the parliamentary opposition, who are accused of treason. Invectives against M. Malinoff are particularly acrid, and the general belief is that his day is not far distant, and that we may at any time expect to hear of his arrest.

Meanwhile, M. Ghenadieff and his friends are said to be interned in the monastery of Branowski, some dozen miles from Sofia. A Roumanian paper relates that the Macedonian *komitaji* Torefotzkief had accepted the mission of assassinating M. Ghenadieff, but that he was himself murdered before he had the opportunity of carrying out his plan. It was then that Ferdinand of Coburg and Radoslavoff hatched the plot which has resulted in M. Ghenadieff's arrest.

STREET OF THE ALLIED VICTORIES.

The *Journal des Balkans* draws attention to the changes which the names of many of the Sofia streets have undergone, writes our Roumanian Correspondent. Thus the Rue de Paris has become the Rue de Berlin, and others have acquired the names of various German and Austrian cities. But what are we to think of one of the new creations, the Rue des Victoires Alliées? Whatever the issue of the war, it is little probable that the name of this street will suffer any subsequent alteration.

M. Tontcheff, the Bulgarian Minister of Finance, announced recently in the Sofia newspaper, the *Outro*, that Roumania had made advances towards Bulgaria for the conclusion of an economic entente. A Bucharest telegram, however, denies that any such advances have been made by Roumania.



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BULGARIA AND THE ENTENTE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—While appreciating the tone and object of your leading article in last week's issue on Greece, Bulgaria, and the Entente, I may, perhaps, be permitted to express my dissent from one or two of the propositions set forward in it. You point out truly that Europe desires permanent peace in the Balkans, and ask whether it is to be achieved by "confining Bulgaria for ever in the prison house of unrealized national aspirations . . . or by settling once and for all differences which estrange the Balkan States? . . . Only these territorial concessions by Greece and Serbia could secure permanent peace in the Balkans."

I do not see that Bulgarian claims can be held to have been made good merely by reason of the ceaseless reiteration with which they are advanced or by the persistence with which she says that she will never be satisfied until they are conceded. To admit that, if a State insists on a certain claim and threatens trouble if it be not granted, she should have her way is to permit a system of international blackmail. The method has, in fact, been Germany's stock-in-trade for some years.

It cannot be admitted, I think, that the underlying assumption that, if Bulgaria can obtain the greater part of Macedonia, she will be satisfied and peace secured has any foundation in political reality. Bulgaria is fighting not for national rights, but for the hegemony of the Balkans. M. Rizot has stated that a governing motive was to prevent Serbo-Croat unity and the establishment of a Southern Slav State stronger than Bulgaria. Dr. Radoslavoff admits it, and Dr. Gueshoff, the "moderate," the "pro-Ententist," has advocated the Bulgarization of Nish and the Morava valley. Were Bulgaria to obtain all that was conceded by the 1912 treaty she would be still dissatisfied if Southern Slav unity became an actual fact. If it were otherwise, why did she not close with Serbia's offer of September 1, 1915?

I fear that I cannot understand why it should be thought that the Entente can summarily settle these differences once for all, as is so often said. We do not imagine that French and Germans will soon fall on each other's necks, and I do not think that the majority of Englishmen imagine that in two or three years' time the Germans and ourselves will be the best of friends—nor do they desire it. Why should we imagine it to be otherwise with Serb and Bulgar, or Greek and Bulgar? They came into conflict over a thousand years ago, and have been in conflict ever since, and the injuries suffered by Serbia at the hands of Bulgaria lately have been as great proportionately as those which French or English have undergone at the hands of the Germans. Everyone must desire a Balkan accord (as also a general European accord), but unless we take our desires for facts and our hopes for accomplishments (as unfortunately is our habit), it seems to me to be impossible in the near future. I deplore it, but the facts are there, and it is folly not to recognize them, or to build up a policy on reasoning which is removed from actuality. Bulgarian ambition and Balkan race hatred are stubborn things.

Finally, there is the point of honour. I do not understand the plea of your article to be for the bribing of Bulgaria—a disgraceful plea frequently made—but for a lasting settlement. The difficulty is that the condition laid down does come, not in intention, but in effect, to a bribe—that is, Bulgaria is to receive Serb territory. How can we ask that of Serbia? Should we, after all that passed, deliver up her interests to her foe, I do not see what answer we could give to those who say that England is a disloyal and untrustworthy ally; that she uses her weaker allies as pawns in her game; that she abandons them when it suits her interests; in short, that Albion is perfidious. It is Serbia's interests that have to be considered by us, and if we sacrifice them to our own idea of what is best for all, she might justly say that she is the best judge of her own good, and that it is her view as our ally, and not the Bulgarian view, which should prevail in matters of dispute. What an encouragement, too, would such a course be to Roumania to throw in her lot with those who look so well after their friends! Is the Serb army to help to reconquer Macedonia for Bulgaria? That seems rather superfluous, not to put too fine a point upon it.

With your object, Sir, everyone must be in agreement, but I fear that I for one read the facts differently. It is not a matter of sentiment or prejudice, but of judgment. I do not think that Bulgaria would give up her ambition of Balkan hegemony even if she had all Macedonia, nor that race hatred will die quickly, and consequently I see no reason to "go back upon" our ally, apart from other considerations.—I am, etc.,

A. H. E. TAYLOR.

Canterbury, May 1.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

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LIFE IN BUCHAREST.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, April 11.

"An Englishwoman's" article to the *Daily Mail*, quoted in THE NEAR EAST's issue of March 3, under the heading "Life in Bucharest," gives an interesting snapshot of those superficial manifestations of life which strike the eye of the casual observer. Much that "An Englishwoman" says is true, but there are one or two minor inexactitudes and insufficiencies calculated to convey an erroneous impression.

I have already mentioned that luxury and extravagance are not general by any means, but are the appanage rather of a particular class which has become especially numerous since the war has been in progress. No doubt the country has been enriched to some degree by the war, but it is very difficult to gauge the increase of wealth. My own impression is that the net gain which the country enjoys must be very small indeed. To imagine that the general public has been greatly, or even generally, enriched is a mistake. Indeed, the middle and lower classes have suffered much from the increased cost of living, and they have worse sufferings before them. People in easy circumstances have been inconvenienced by this state of affairs, and they may be satisfied if it remains at that.

Nor has the State derived so very great a benefit from the importation of gold, for the expenditure has suffered a fabulous rise. It is enough to mention the cost of reorganising and augmenting the military and auxiliary forces, of bringing their state of efficiency up to the standard demanded by present-day warfare, not to say anything of the cost of keeping several hundred thousand men quasi-mobilized over a period which is not unlikely to run into years.

Another statement in the article, to the effect that the windows of the German and Austrian Legations have been smashed by the mob on two separate occasions, and, again, that the two Ministers seldom appear in public, calls for correction; for, as they stand, they convey the impression that the public is in a state of hostile excitement directed against the two Ministers. The truth is that some irresponsibles drove past the German Legation on one occasion, when few people were about, and threw stones through the window panes. The two Ministers are far from popular; the majority of people have a marked aversion for the German representative, and avoid his Austrian colleague. None the less, there are a number of leading families by whom they are well received, and certainly they have no hesitation about showing themselves in public. The Austrian Minister seems to be sensitive to the unsympathetic atmosphere, and adopts a correct attitude and a retired manner of life which is fitting in a Minister whose country is so sorely tried by the state of war. His German colleague, on the other hand, seems to have commenced his Bucharest career with the fixed intention of braving public opinion, and has found it good to persist in this attitude in spite of the resentment it has called forth.

TO OUR READERS.

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PORT SAID. Charles Evans, and on board vessels in the harbour.

KHARTOUM. Sudan Stationery and Bookstore.

CYPRUS. Cababe and Wilson, Nicosia.

SALONIKA. Librairie Française, Rue Sabri Pasha, and Vafiades and Co.

ATHENS. Librairie Th. Vafiades.

BUCHAREST. No. 1, Strada Academiei, and Socec and Company, Calea Victoria.

CALCUTTA. 1, Royal Exchange Place.

NEW YORK. Office of "The New Armenia," Flat Iron Building.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"CARMEN SYLVA"*.

The sad death recently of the gifted Queen of Roumania has brought again vividly before the public eye the paths, by-paths, and stepping-stones of a long life, sincere and pure as are those of the mystics, sweetly fragrant as those of idealistic dreamers, yet humble in spirit because untouched by exalted vanity. It is fitting, therefore, that the mood of the moment inspired by the knowledge that Royalty has lost one of its most distinguished scions in the person of the late Queen Elizabeth should coincide with a new and more popular edition of her child and girlhood's impressions, as written by herself when age had mellowed her vision and drawn a fine-spun veil over her memories, rounding off sharp contours as though smoothed over by a mountain mist, and leaving only the most prominent landmarks to stand forth, boldly or not, as the case may be.

It is not our intention here to review this self-study of an aged princess looking back to the years of her girlhood at a German Court. The work is already too well known in its more costly garb. The cheaper edition now issued is a handsome volume, illustrated by many photographs of the author; it should succeed in making the book, which is ably translated in its way (though doubtless the many homely touches of style have been lost which have made Carmen Sylva a writer of merit), more generally known.

We have here the picture of a venerable lady whose life had been well spent with a full measure of charity for the suffering and destitute, turning back more than three-score years to the days when a tiny girl learnt to toddle, and, later, a maiden left her old home for a new one of her own making. Here the picture vanishes, as though a slide had been gradually drawn across the misty landscape. But before doing so the landmarks of those early days are imprinted on the mind of the elderly seer, and, as should be the case, they are persons rather than things, and more humble in state the more remote in years. In a child's mind at three "the advent of a new nurse is an event of no small importance," and so we have the picture of Carmen Sylva and her brother "firmly ensconced in the broad window-sill to have a better view of the newcomer"—an English nurse, Mary Barnes by name.

"I see her still, in her plain black dress, coming towards the Castle from the landing-stage of the steamer, and crossing the quadrangle with soft, noiseless tread, as gentle and calm as the breath of the evening breeze, bringing with her an atmosphere of comfort and peace, of which we became conscious even before she had crossed the threshold. . . . The quick, unerring instinct of childhood told us that many happy days were in store for us in the care of this good, kind soul, who came along as noiselessly as a leaf wafted hither by the wind."

The child grows into a girl, the nurse's sway is usurped by the governess, and the latter's rule comes to an end when the tutor is called in. No longer are people the only landmarks: impressions now come to add to the store of knowledge gradually being acquired, and prominent are the family tragedies of these girlhood's years—a long-suffering mother, the loss of dearest friends, the death of a favourite brother; events, these, that left a lasting impression on the fine-strung imagination of a sensitive girl. They are recorded without that cheap pathos which is affected melodrama; they are tender pictures of sorrow buoyed up by faith and hope, in which there is and can be no place for what is not good. The series culminates, we think, in the magic cures of a faith-healer. It is a remarkable chapter which Carmen Sylva has devoted to this man who cured her mother, and there can be no doubt that the mesmeric influence of the healer on the receptive mind of the mystic maiden was a lasting one—stronger, perhaps, than the influence of music, at the tremendous strength of which we have many peeps in the pages of the autobiography.

The crowning event in a girl's life is her wooing, of which we have the following old-fashioned picture. It was at Cologne, and Carmen and her mother were at a concert at which Brahms played. "I could not help noticing, however, that my mother's thoughts were entirely elsewhere." They drove off to the flower-gardens, and lunched there. "I noticed that we seemed to attract the attention of a little group of gentlemen, strangers, as I thought them, who were walking up and down, and one of whom at last seated himself at a little table quite close to ours, looking at me so hard that I slightly turned away from him. But when we rose to leave, they all three came up to us, and we recognised Herr von Weiner . . . whilst his two companions were none other than the young Prince of Roumania and the latter's representative in Paris, the last-mentioned being the gentleman who had just been observing me so closely."

But I was sincerely glad to meet the young Prince again, for I had seen much of him in Berlin some years before, and was full of admiration for the adventurous spirit and strong sense of duty in which he had entered on his task in his new country. So I welcomed with pleasure the opportunity of talking to him again, and walked on ahead with him, discussing all sorts of things. . . . When we left there was only just time to dress for the concert. But whilst I was hurriedly dressing the Prince of Roumania had been announced, and stayed, and stayed, and I could hardly control my impatience, until at last I heard him leave, and rushed to my mother to hurry her. But the serious look with which she met me checked the impatient exclamation on my lips. Taking my arm in hers, she began to pace the room with me, saying, "The Prince of Roumania was here just now to ask you to be his wife." She stopped and looked at me, half expecting the decided refusal with which all such proposals had hitherto been met. But instead—"Already?" was the only word I brought out. I said to myself, "He hardly knows me; he cannot love me. He only happens to have heard how well and carefully I have been brought up, and thinks I may prove the suitable companion, the fittest helpmate for him in the work he has set himself. And a thousand similar thoughts flashed like lightning through my brain. But through it all I heard my mother telling me of the high and noble mission awaiting me should I accept the Prince's hand, of the wide field in which my energies might find scope, and the honour she accounted it that his choice should have fallen on me. As she went on talking my hesitation seemed to fade away, and it was not long before I said to her, "Let him come! He is the right one!"

And so verily it proved, but of this life we do not catch a glimpse. The child, the girl, has ceased to exist, and the woman, the Queen, is born. Perhaps it is better that the veil should be drawn, because, frankly, we prefer the dim, humble pictures of early impressions. For has not the poet aptly said that "the thoughts of youth are long, long thoughts"?

* From Memory's Shrine. The Reminiscences of Carmen Sylva." By Edith Hopkirk. (Sampson Low and Co. 4s. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

Those who have read Mr. H. G. Dwight's delightful book, "Constantinople, Old and New," will be glad to know of a new volume from his pen, which is published in the United States by Messrs. Page. It is entitled "Stamboul Nights," and contains a number of short stories and studies, some of which have appeared before in magazines and reviews.

The Hakluyt Society has published Fryer's "A New Account of East India and Persia," which gives a most interesting, and frequently lively, description of travels in that part of the world in the last quarter of the seventeenth century.

Mr. Milford has recently published in London (for the Yale University Press) "Miscellaneous Inscriptions in the Yale Babylonian Collection," by Dr. A. T. Clay. The book, which contains many plates, is priced at one guinea.

Mr. Eveleigh announces "The Stricken Land: Serbia as We Saw It," by Alice and Claude Askew.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From Moscow to the Persian Gulf: Being the Journal of a Disenchanted Traveller in Turkestan and Persia. By Benjamin Burges Moore. Illustrations and Map. (Putnam. $3.00 net.)

Les Tribes du Louristan. Medailles des Qadjars. By H. L. Rabino. Illustrated. (Paris, Ernest Leroux.)

The Influence of Ancient Egyptian Civilization in the East and in America. By G. Elliot Smith, M.A., etc. Illustrated. (Longmans, Green. 1s. net.)

Landmarks of Polish History. By August Zaleski, with an introduction by R. W. Seton-Watson, D.Litt. (George Allen and Unwin. 6d. net.)

Egyptian Agricultural Products: Arachis Hypogœa. Lin., the Ground Nut, or Earth Pea (Fûl Sudani in Egypt). (Cairo, Government Press. P.T. 2.)

ARMENIAN RED CROSS & REFUGEE FUND

FOUNDED DECEMBER, 1914.

President, VISCOUNTESS BRYCE.

Donations are earnestly entreated for the relief of sickness and distress among 250,000 destitute Armenian refugees in the Caucasus, whose condition is "pitiable in the extreme." Relief pay is less than 4d. per head a day. Food and all necessaries of life are very dear. A copy of the Report for last year will be sent to inquirers. All work in connection with this Fund is voluntary. Contributions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Emily J. Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W. Cheques may be made payable to the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund; they should be crossed "London and South Western Bank, Holland Park Branch."

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. May.	1916. April.		1334. Rejeb.	5676. Iyar.
5	22	Friday	2	2
6	23	Saturday.....	3	3
7	24	Sunday	4	4
8	25	Monday	5	5
9	26	Tuesday	6	6
10	27	Wednesday	7	7
11	28	Thursday	8	8

To-day is the birthday of Queen Milena of Montenegro, who was born in 1847, and was married on October 27, 1860 (O.S.).

To-morrow is the anniversary of King George's accession to the throne.

H.H. the Zil-es-Sultan, the eldest son of Nasr-ed-Din Shah, and great uncle of the present Shah of Persia, is expected to arrive in London this week from Paris.

Earl Kitchener had an audience of the King, at Buckingham Palace, last Friday.

It is expected that the High Commissioner of Egypt and Lady McMahon will remain in Cairo until the end of May, when the Residency will be transferred to Alexandria, and will be established in the same house as last year.

The Marquess of Crewe, on behalf of Sir E. Grey, received the Greek Minister at the Foreign Office on Tuesday afternoon.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Watson, A.D.C. to the High Commissioner of Egypt, has been awarded the Legion d'Honneur by the French Government.

Lady Maxwell underwent a second operation on Saturday, after which she was reported to be progressing slowly.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier, arrived in Petrograd on Monday.

Sir Reginald Wingate and Lady Wingate, who left Khartoum for Erkowit on April 6, accompanied H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as far as Atbara.

Major Rees-Mogg (Military Secretary), Major Edwards (A.D.C.), Shaheen Bey George (Arabic Secretary), and Mr. Patterson left for Erkowit with the Governor-General.

Major G. S Symes, D.S.O., and Mrs. Symes arrived at Atbara on April 7 from Cairo, and proceeded direct to Erkowit with H.E. the Governor-General and Lady Wingate.

Colonel Jackson Pasha, the Governor of Dongola Province, made a brief visit to Khartoum in order to meet H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. This, says the *Sudan Times*, was Colonel Jackson's first visit to Khartoum during the last sixteen years.

Mr. K. P. Struvé, the Governor of the White Nile Province, and Mrs. Struvé were at Khartoum to meet H.R.H. the Prince of Wales

El Miralai R. V. Savile Bey, the Governor of Kordofan Province, who was also at Khartoum to meet the Prince, left for the North on April 11.

The King has granted authority to Sir Ralph Spencer Paget, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., Assistant Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to wear the Insignia of First Class of the Order of the White Eagle, conferred upon him by his Majesty the King of Serbia in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

Under date of April 22, our Special Correspondent in Athens, in forwarding us news of Constantinople, writes:—"It is said that Dr. McClean and his staff have left the British Hospital, but the reason is not known. Mr. Scudamore, it is satisfactory to state, was released some time ago."

Mr. Harold G. Mountain, son of the late Alfred Mountain, of Constantinople, has obtained a commission in the Royal Engineers. Mr. Mountain is a mining engineer, and recently came home from South Africa to offer his services.

An Aden correspondent writes:—Amongst those on board H.M.S. ——— when she arrived here recently with Admiral ——— was Mr. Ronald Storrs, the Oriental Secretary of the Residency at Cairo. Mr. Storrs, who had come here on a special mission, stayed at the Residency for a few days, and after visiting our lines left by H.M.S. ——— for Port Sudan. Later advices state that he proceeded to Atbara, where he joined H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, who was on his way back from Khartoum, and with whom he had the honour of returning to Cairo.

The Crown Prince of Serbia has conferred upon Miss Gosse, of the Scottish Women's Hospital, the Order of St. Sava (fourth class) and upon Miss Palliser and Miss K. Burke the Order of St. Sava (fifth class) in recognition of the services rendered by them to the Serbian sick and wounded.

Lord Cromer contributes to the current *Nineteenth Century* an interesting article on Rousseau.

The *Berlingske Tidende*, of Copenhagen, states that Slatin Pasha arrived in that city on Tuesday, and subsequently left for Stockholm, where he will represent Austria at the International Mixed Commission for the Care of Prisoners of War.

Dr. Christopherson, Director of Khartoum and Omdurman Civil Hospitals, and Mrs. Christopherson have now returned to Khartoum. Dr. Christopherson, it will be remembered, had volunteered last summer to help with one of the British Red Cross Missions to Serbia, but was captured by the enemy, and remained in captivity for several months. Lately, however, the members of this philanthropic mission were released, and Dr. Christopherson was thus able to return.

H.E. El Lewa Carroll Pasha, P.M.O., Egyptian Army, who accompanied H.R.H. the Prince of Wales on his return to Egypt, left Cairo for the Sudan on April 14.

Last Friday, at Dodington Cottage, Nantwich, the wife of Captain Adam Block, R.F.A., gave birth to a daughter.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly at Ulverston, between Flight-Commander James William Ogilvy Dalgleish, R.N.A.S., Lieutenant R.N., only son of Captain James Ogilvy Dalgleish and of Mrs. Dalgleish, of Glebelands, Wokingham, and grandson of the late Captain James Ogilvy Dalgleish, R.N., of Woodburne, Fife, and Sybil Guinevere Butler, younger daughter of Myles Kennedy and of Mrs. Myles Kennedy, of Stone Cross, Ulverston.

The engagement is announced of Captain R. O. Hilton Jones, R.A.M.C., youngest son of Dr. R. T. Jones, High Sheriff of Merionethshire, and Mrs. Jones, of Harlech, North Wales, to Olwen, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Davies Bryan, of Cairo.

On April 29, at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street, the marriage was solemnized of Miss Gwen Schreiber, elder daughter of Colonel Schreiber, late Royal Irish Regiment, and Mrs. Schreiber, of Bognor, Sussex, and Mr. Alan E. Leudhars, R.F.A. The bridegroom was formerly a civil engineer in Egypt, but served with the London Scottish early in the war, and is now a lieutenant in the R.F.A.

The death is announced at Jassy, at the age of seventy-eight, of M. Nicolas Gane, an ex-Minister and Academician, and one of the most eminent of Roumanian authors, especially as a novelist.

A cable message was received last week at Croome Court, Worcester, stating that Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Charles J. Coventry, second son of the Earl and Countess of Coventry, is a prisoner. Lieutenant-Colonel Coventry was in command of the Worcestershire Yeomanry in Egypt.

It is now officially announced that Lieutenant and Adjutant Viscount Quenington, Yeomanry, has died of wounds. He was the only son of Lord St. Aldwyn, whose death, after a brief illness, took place in London on Sunday. Viscountess Quenington, it will be remembered, died in Egypt early in March last. Lord Quenington had represented the Tewkesbury Division of Gloucestershire in Parliament since 1906. His only son now becomes Earl St. Aldwyn.

Lord Elcho, another officer who was in the same line of Yeomanry as Lord Quenington, is reported "missing, believed wounded."

A correspondent writes:—Your notice of the death of Captain J. E. Ross, which appeared in last week's issue, conveys the impression that this young and brilliant officer joined the Army as a private. As a matter of fact, young Ross obtained a commission on August 15, 1914, when he joined the Special Reserve of the King's Liverpool Regiment. He finished his probation on February 15, 1915, and was gazetted full lieutenant on March 4 following. Although quite young, he showed remarkable aptitude for his new career, and soon gained the confidence of his superiors. As a result, he was in command of a company in the field, without being struck off battalion strength, from May to November of last year, when he came home on sick leave, returning to France in February. He was more than once selected for undertakings demanding dauntless courage, and met his death in the sap at one of the craters in front of the trenches. His death is a great blow to his brother officers, and none the less to his men, who all had a huge regard for him as a good comrade and a gallant soldier.

Captain Herbert Christian Holland, who died at Buxton on Wednesday at the age of fifty-seven years, served with the Hussars in the Afghan War of 1879-80, in the Boer War of 1881, and in the Egyptian War of 1882, being wounded in the last-named campaign.

A Cairo correspondent writes to the *Egyptian Gazette* of April 15:—"The statement which appeared in your issue of Thursday last that Captain W. Henderson, of the West Yorkshire Regiment, was among the 'unofficially prisoners' was erroneous. Captain Henderson, who belonged to the Ministry of Education before the war, was wounded slightly at the beginning of March and seriously on April 3. He was not made a prisoner."

A hundred Serbian youths and children arrived at Southampton last Friday morning under the care of a representative of the Serbian Relief Fund, in order to pursue their studies in this country. They remained at Southampton for the week-end, and on Monday went on to Oxford, where Wyclif Hall has been placed at the disposal of the Committee by the Trustees for the newcomers' temporary accommodation.

Before proceeding to Oxford the Serbian students were on Saturday entertained to luncheon by the Southampton Municipality.

A Lebanese correspondent writes from Egypt, under date of April 4:—The well-known Moutran family of Baalbek is said to have been exiled, including the women and children. It was to one of the members of the leading branch of this family—a lady of exceptional intelligence, who played a prominent political rôle in the early part of the Young Turks' career—that Talaat and Javid owed their lives when, under the short-lived Kamel régime, they and their clique were hunted down by the Liberals."

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News has been received in England this week that Mr. J. L. Battey, who was shut up in Kut and was taken prisoner when the town fell, is quite well.

The Duchess of Westminster will appear in the Victorian romance with M. Morton, of the Ambassadors Theatre, at the *matinée* in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund which will take place at Drury Lane Theatre on Tuesday, the 9th inst. Among other items on the programme will be a sketch played by Miss Elizabeth Asquith and Mr. Nelson Keys, an extract from "Kitty Grey" played by Lady Rothermere and Mr. G. P. Huntley, and a dance by Miss Lily Elsie and Mr. Joseph Coyne.

The Rev. J. H. Ritson, speaking at the annual meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society on Wednesday, said that the depot of the society was still open in Constantinople.

Lady Church, who gave to the Red Cross Sale held at Messrs. Christie's in the month of April a selection of thirteen embroideries from the Greek Islands and the Near East, forming part of the collection of the late Sir Arthur Church, F.R.S., and re-acquired them at the sale, has since generously presented them to the Victoria and Albert Museum. The gift includes several pieces which were shown in the exhibition of embroideries of the Greek Islands and Turkey held at the Burlington Fine Arts Club in 1914.

A very interesting work of art was carried out in London recently to the order of the first party of New Zealand soldiers convoyed to Egypt. This is a silver replica of an old Maori war canoe, with the tail and head pieces and full Maori decoration. The canoe stands on two blocks of greenstone, the base being formed of a fine piece of New Zealand black maire wood. It is a present to the Japanese captain in command of our Ally's warship Ibuki, which helped to convoy the first party of New Zealanders to Egypt. So pleased were they with the courtesy and kindness of the captain that they decided to give him and his officers and men a memento of the occasion, and a considerable sum of money was collected in small amounts, every man of the expedition contributing. By request of his Majesty the King this model was sent to Buckingham Palace for his inspection, and he has expressed great appreciation of, and interest in, the model canoe.

"Conversions to the Islamic faith in this country are not numerous, and the adoption of the religion by the Hon. Mrs. Gifford and her two sons is therefore all the more interesting," says the writer of "A Londoner's Diary" in the *Evening Standard*. "There have for long been a few society people interested in Islam, if not actually its adherents, but some have gone the whole hog and embraced the faith fully and enthusiastically. One of these was the late Lord Stanley of Alderley—the predecessor in the title of the present Lord Sheffield—who was a devout Mohammedan, practising his creed for many years, and being buried according to the rites of his religion in a sequestered portion of the beautiful Alderley Park. He was a man of great originality of character, and gained his first insight of Islam when in the diplomatic service of the East."

Colonel Charles Owen Hore, C.M.G., aged fifty-five, of South Eaton Place, late of the 2nd Royal Garrison Regiment, who saw service with the Egyptian Expedition in 1882. in the Sudan and Nile Expeditions, and in the South African War, left property valued at £2,440.

Sir Charles Rivers Wilson, of 9, Berkeley Street, W., who died on February 9, left £10,091.

Five members of the Aboukir Company's staff in Egypt have joined his Majesty's Forces since the outbreak of the war. They are Messrs Keable, McKinstry, David, Des Clayes, and Lowden. The first-named has since been killed in action.

A course in spoken Greek, to be conducted by Mrs. Ernest Gardner at University College, will begin on the 8th inst.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

Our Bucharest Correspondent announces that Captain Pichon, the French Military Attaché in Bucharest, has been promoted to the rank of Major.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of April 17 says :—It is stated that Hunter Pasha, the Director-General of the Coast Guards Administration, has declined to accept the post of Governor of the new Western Gouvernorat owing to his age and because he wishes for rest. According to the native newspapers this post is, in consequence, to be offered to Morice Bey, of the Coast Guards Administration. Nothing official, however, has as yet transpired on this matter.

Lieut.-Commander A. J. Larking, R.N.R., and Lieutenant E. Tibbits have been appointed to the President for service on the Staff of the Principal Naval Transport Officer, Egypt. Both appointments are dated April 28.

A Washington telegram dated April 27 reports :—"It is stated that Mr. Morgenthau, the retiring United States Ambassador in Constantinople, will probably be succeeded by Mr. Abraham I. Elkans." Mr. Elkans is a prominent New York lawyer.

Mr. A. W. Keown Boyd, Assistant Private Secretary of the Governor-General of the Sudan, left Khartoum on April 7 on leave.

Sir Reginald Wingate, Governor-General of the Sudan, has appointed Colonel the Hon. M. G. Talbot, C.M.G., to act temporarily as an additional member of the Governor-General's Council.

The Governor-General of the Sudan has appointed Mr. F. P. Osborne Province Judge under the Courts Ordinance 1915. Mr. Osborne is posted to Berber Province.

Egyptian papers received by this week's mail report that it is expected that Judge Bond will leave Egypt in July on three months' leave of absence, and will not return. Some newspapers state that he will be succeeded on the bench of the Native Court of Appeal by Judge Percival.

Major Kelly, Officer Commanding the Egyptian Cavalry and Mounted Infantry, and now in command of the expedition against Ali Dinar of Darfour, has been granted the temporary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

The following promotions are announced in the Egyptian War Office *Gazette:*

To be Lewas :—

El Miralai (temporary Lewa) W. H. Drake Bey, C.M.G., Adjutant-General.

El Miralai (temporary Lewa) E. S. Herbert Bey, O.C. Cairo District, and Commandant Military School, Cairo.

El Miralai (temporary Lewa) L. O. F. Stack Bey, C.M.G., Civil Secretary, Sudan Government.

W. P. Archdale and Mr. R. C. Maxwell have been granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi while employed with the Transport.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 3s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTH.

LOWICK.—On the 14th, at Sporting Club, Alexandria, the wife of F. G. Lowick, A.S.C., of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

DE TEISSIER—SELIGMAN.—On April 19, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, by the Right Rev. Bishop Ryle, Dean of Westminster, and Bishop Boyd Carpenter, Geoffrey Fitzherbert de Teissier, Captain Scots Guards, eldest son of Baron and Baroness de Teissier, 16, Eccleston Square, S.W., to Katharine Henriette, eldest daughter of the late Theodore Seligman, of New York, and Lady Waldstein, and stepdaughter of Sir Charles Waldstein, of Newton Hall, Cambridge.

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FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1916.

THE FALL OF KUT.

Something of the spirit of David, who mourned and fasted so long as his son was sick, but resumed the normal tenour of his life as soon as he learned of his death, will actuate the feelings of the British public towards the fall of Kut. In spite of the cheerfulness which the garrison has maintained throughout the siege, and which it has been careful to emphasise in all communications with the outside world, it was well known that General Townshend's force has for many weeks been in a parlous state. The grim determination of the commanding officer and his troops enabled them to hold out long beyond the time when the conditions of the beleaguered town might have justified surrender. Now that the inevitable capitulation has taken place, we may hope that the sufferings of this sorely tried and gallant band are at an end. The fortunes of war have placed them in the hands of an enemy who has fought cleanly. There has been nothing in the record of the Turkish army on the field of battle in this campaign to cause anxiety for the lot of General Townshend and his troops as prisoners of war. The only grounds for misgiving are to be found in the possibility that the necessarily straitened circumstances in which the Turks are carrying on the struggle may not be equal to adequate provision for an additional ten thousand men, and in the interference of the civilian or the German element in the disposition of the prisoners. The outrages which have disgraced the enemy's conduct of this war—the Belgian and other atrocities in Europe and the Armenian massacres—are the handiwork of the Turks' Allies, or have been directly instigated by the Germanised clique in German pay which now rules Turkey. Where the fighting Turk has been left to his own devices he has refrained from firing on the Red Cross flag, he has rendered first aid or supplied water to British wounded whom he has been unable to take away. It is his German Ally who torpedoed a hospital ship in the Black Sea, and the Constantinople Government which sends foreign civilians into the firing zone or imitates the Germans in the harsh treatment of those who are in its power. Fortunately, the British garrison of Kut falls into Turkish hands late in the day. The glamour of the German alliance has become dimmed, and with German prestige has passed, we may hope, the tendency to imitate German methods of frightfulness. For the Turks, moreover, the surrender of Kut is merely an incident—gratifying enough, it must be admitted; for they have not only repulsed the first effort to reach Baghdad, but have followed up and accounted for the whole of the force that made the attempt. The main features of the campaign, however, remain unaltered. The Russian menace in the North is still there; the Russian force in Persia has carried through its task with a thoroughness which argues ill for the Turks, if progress in the direction of Baghdad is maintained; in the south the British expedition has been reinforced, and will not always be hampered by floods. While, therefore, the Turks may feel justifiably proud of their achievement, they know that its military significance is not great, and in the face of dangers pressing from three directions will be the more likely to safeguard themselves for the future by treating their prisoners well.

For the British Empire, now that the chance of relieving Kut has gone, there can be but one thought—to avenge the loss it has suffered. For, let there be no mistake, the fall of Kut constitutes, until it is retrieved, a grave blow to British prestige in the Middle East. It will have no effect on the main course of the war, and we need have no anxiety regarding the way in which our Allies will take the incident. But the Mesopotamian Expedition was and is a purely British affair, and the British alone are concerned with the effects of the campaign. We may rest assured that in the Middle East there will be no nice balancing of the relative importance of the different theatres of war. The only theatre that counts for the people in this part of the world is Mesopotamia. There they have seen a British force checked at Ctesiphon, driven back to Kut, and then, after a four months' siege, forced to capitulate. During those four months, they will argue, the great might of the British Empire failed to rescue it. Although the people of that Empire will know that it was unable to exert its real strength on account of its commitments elsewhere, the Middle East will not stop to reason on these lines. Undoubtedly the first business of Great Britain is to win the war; but she has also a responsibility in the Middle East which cannot be ignored. It is to reverse with all possible speed the decision of Kut, and to reverse it by the clear exercise of British power. The Russians may be achieving wonders in the North, and they may eventually threaten Baghdad by way of Persia; but Great Britain will not be able to rehabilitate her prestige in Asia by means of Russian successes. She must recover her lost position in the minds of the Asiatic world by an exhibition of her own strength, for all that the pundits may say against the subordination of military strategy to political exigencies. Among the people who dwell between the Mediterranean and the Himalayas the final verdict of the war will not entirely supersede what they or others of their kinsfolk have seen with their own eyes. However complete the defeat of Germany and the discomfiture of Turkey may eventually be, these people must not be left to say that wherever the British met the Turks they were worsted, and were only able to win the war by the help of their Allies. The future of Persia, the peace of Afghanistan, and the British position in India require a definite achievement to be associated with British arms in the Middle East.

It is symptomatic of the anxiety to which the policy responsible for the fiasco of Gallipoli and the mismanagement in Mesopotamia has given rise that there should be the least question of the course of action to be adopted after the surrender of Kut. The political aspect admits of no alternative; the need for co-operation with our Allies north of Baghdad is insistent. At the same time the military position has become much more favourable. The Mesopotamian Expedition is no longer tied down to a frontal attack on formidable entrenchments under the necessity of trying to cut its way through to a besieged force in the shortest possible time. It has now an opportunity to reconsider its whole strategy; it can wait until the floods have subsided. All that is required of the British Government and of the military authorities is that the determination to counteract the reverse suffered at Kut should be registered and acted upon without undue delay. In no other way can the whole sorry business which has culminated in the fall of Kut be atoned for. Details in the story of mismanagement may call for investigation at a later date; but unless an attempt to make individual officers scapegoats has to be frustrated, we are of opinion that little purpose will be served by an inquiry into the origin of the campaign. The British Government has already distributed the responsibility for it among as many authorities as could conveniently be cited, and let it be known that what at the time represented the military genius of the nation discovered nothing unwise in the despatch of a small imperfectly equipped force several hundreds of miles from its base to capture the chief city of Asiatic Turkey in the face of well-established facts regarding the military strength of Turkey in this region. No formal indictment can strengthen the condemnation which such an admission carries with it. Since that date there have been a change in the higher command in Mesopotamia, a transfer of the direction of the campaign from the Indian Government to the War Office, and changes of still greater importance in Whitehall. It is to be hoped that this combination of new driving forces will avail to bring about in Mesopotamia the victory with which British prestige in the Middle East requires that the expedition should at long last be crowned.

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BRITISH PRISONERS IN BULGARIA.

(From Our Bucharest Correspondent.)

In a previous communication I had the pleasure of informing you that Mrs. Take Jonesco had had the happy idea of collecting funds, provisions, clothes, books, etc., for our prisoners in Bulgaria. The idea soon took a practical form, and to-day Mrs. Take Jonesco and the ladies who have so strenuously helped to realize her project have had the satisfaction of receiving two letters announcing the reception of the different articles.

The first is a letter signed by a number of British officers at Philippopolis. The second is one addressed by Mr. Einstein, United States Minister at Sofia, to Mrs. Take Jonesco, a copy of which I am sending you, without having had the opportunity of first obtaining Mr. Einstein's consent to its publication. I will, however, risk this gentleman's displeasure at what he may consider an indiscretion, for it will in any case not survive the universal gratitude which his unostentatious kindness and painstaking solicitude for our prisoners will have evoked. I should also like to draw attention to the passage concerning M. Derussi, the Roumanian Minister at Sofia, who is deserving of all our thanks for the trouble he has taken.

It may not be out of place to mention here that the tea of which the men stand in need is difficult to obtain in Roumania, where its price has gone up tremendously. No doubt many people in England would be willing to help remedy this difficulty, but the parcels service through Russia is, I hear, interrupted. The only thing to do would be to despatch a consignment of tea representing individual contributions. The tea could be bought in Bucharest, I think, if funds were forthcoming. Should prisoners' friends care to send cheques payable to Mrs. Take Jonesco (Strada Atena, Bucharest), crossed Bank of Roumania, and marked "Prisoners' Fund," Mrs. Take Jonesco would give her personal attention to the matter.

Following is the text of the letters referred to:—

I.

Depôt des Prisonniers,
Philippople,
March 22, 1916.

To the Ladies of the British Committee at Bucharest,—

We, the English officers here in Philippople, wish to thank you very much indeed for the generous parcels you have sent us.

We are all glad to know you are thinking of us, and we appreciate very deeply the kindly feelings which prompted your gifts.

On behalf of the men, we would also offer you our grateful thanks. Their needs have indeed been great, but now, thanks to your gracious thought, and to the strenuous endeavours of the American Minister at Sofia and certain sympathisers here and in the capital, their wants have for the moment been amply met.—Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) Samuel Spira, Captain
(9th Batt. The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regt.).
L. W. Harries, Captain
(9th Batt. The King's Own Regt.).
Second Lieut. A. A. Townsend
(7th R.M.T.).
Michael Moloney, Second Lieut.
(6th Royal Dublin Fusiliers).
W. E. Gilliland, Lieut.
(2nd Norfolk Regt., attached 6th Royal Dublin Fusiliers).
R. G. Howe, Second Lieut.
(6th Dublin Fusiliers).
—J. Cowan, Second Lieut.
(8th Batt. The Connaught Rangers).

II.

American Legation,
Sofia,
March 26, 1916.

Dear Madame Take Jonesco,—

I have delayed a bit in replying to your letters in order that I might be able to tell you that I had personally distributed the articles which you and your committee have been kind enough to prepare.

Mr. Derussi* handed them over to me, and insisted on himself paying the transport to Sofia. I merely mention this as an illustration of the sympathetic interest he has taken in the prisoners. On Monday night I left for Philippopolis with your trunks and nine other cases of stuff I had prepared here. How I wish I had your assistance. . . . The parcels from Bucharest were all so beautifully prepared, and the letters which accompanied them were, I think, immensely appreciated.

If you will forgive my saying so, the real trouble with the parcels for the men is that they are too dainty. Although there are only 150 English at Philippopolis there are probably between 420 and 430 prisoners in all (18 have died!). I hope to succeed in having them all concentrated at one point, when relief will be much easier to distribute. But for the present, as it seemed unfair that certain men should have the parcels and the great majority remain without them, their officers will probably sort the effects and distribute them accordingly.

Meanwhile, I am trying to have each man provided with two kit bags and a complete change of underwear, towel, razor, soap, and tooth-brush, also with such articles of apparel which they require, and which are almost invariably boots and trousers, for few have either whole. I would, therefore, suggest, if I may, that should you be able to send more articles, the following would be most useful:—

For the men:

(1) Tea.—They miss their morning breakfast, and tea costs here 36 levas a kilo. I fear that jam is out of the question. Any food delicacies for the officers or men you might like to send (spirits not advisable).

(2) Blankets.—None, unfortunately, have them, and though we are running into the fine weather, they will require them again.

(3) A Gramophone, with Records and Needles.—I have tried to buy them one here, but none are to be had. They need to be put in better spirits.

(4) Cricket Wickets, Bat and Balls (also interior rubber for footballs; they have the footballs).

(5) Golf Clubs and Balls for the officers, including, if possible, one for a left-handed player.

In case you cannot get (3) (4) (5) at Bucharest, pray let me know, and I will try Vienna.

I am enclosing a list of prisoners which I have made up myself from different sources. It is not complete, but I doubt if more than twenty or thirty names are missing. From the Prisoners' Bureau it is impossible to obtain any information.

I think I can promise the safe delivery of the articles to the prisoners, if I once receive them here. It is always possible for me to send some on to Philippopolis, even though I do not myself receive permission.—Very sincerely yours,

James Einstein.

FOREIGN OFFICE STATEMENT.

Lord Newton, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has addressed the following communication to Mr. Walsh, M.P., who drew the attention of the Foreign Office to the reported deplorable plight and treatment of British prisoners of war in Bulgaria, at the request of Councillor Edwin Yates, of Wigan, whose son, Sergeant James Yates, was taken prisoner by the Bulgars during the operations in December last year:—

"Foreign Office.

"Dear Mr. Walsh,—With reference to your letter to Sir Edward Grey, I regret to say that the statements to which you allude in regard to the treatment received by British prisoners of war in Bulgaria are unfortunately only too well founded. A letter from the United States representative at Sofia (Mr. Einstein) to the Ambassador in London, of which his Excellency has just sent me a copy, leaves no doubt as to the treatment, that the conduct of the Bulgarian authorities in this respect has been deplorable, and that the latter have been far from realizing their obligations towards the prisoners of war in their hands. Mr. Einstein is, however, keenly alive to the urgent necessity of bringing about an immediate and material improvement, and has already addressed to the Bulgarian Government a vigorous remonstrance, which will be followed by further representations, which he has been requested to make on behalf of his Majesty's Government. You may be well assured that no effort will be spared either on the part of his Majesty's Government or of the United States Legation at Sofia to put an end to a state of things which is as distressing to us as it is discreditable to the Bulgarians.—Yours truly,

"Newton."

*Roumanian Minister at Sofia.—[Ed.]

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The fall of Kut can hardly have come as a surprise to anybody, and to those of us who had friends shut up in the place it must have been almost a relief. The reports of the superhuman efforts made by General Gorringe's force to break through—at any cost—on that fatally narrowed front told their own tale only too eloquently, and it was well known to quite a number of people in this country that the beleaguered garrison had already endured longer than even their dauntless leader had thought they could. Both inside and outside Kut the Turks had allies far more formidable than the Germans: in the dreary little town hunger and disease did their part, and outside, the Tigris seems to have fought for the Turks with an almost fiendish appreciation of just how best to hamper the relief force. I shall never be able to think kindly of the muddy stream again, I fear, though I have spent many happy days on its banks. The combination of circumstances was too powerful for mere flesh and blood to overcome, and so—we have to start over again. In the meantime we may take comfort in the thought that our friends are in the hands of the Turks, and not of the Dogeaters. Khalil Pasha's chivalrous conduct towards General Townshend and his prompt agreement to the exchange of sick and wounded are sufficient proof that the Huns are not able to influence the course of events on the Tigris to any great extent; and we may therefore confidently expect that the prisoners will be far better treated than they would be in Germany. Indeed, I apologise to the Turks for instituting even a momentary comparison between them and their "allies." Personally I had three friends shut up in Kut, and to-day I am not in the least uneasy concerning them.

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Look at it as we may, the surrender is a bad business, of course, but it is for us to make the best of it; and we shall not do that by stopping just now to endeavour to apportion the blame for it amongst the paltry politicians, as some people and a certain section of the Press seem disposed to do. We are promised a full inquiry into it all in due time, and if, as a result of such inquiry, one or two people get their deserts, many of us will feel much happier. But that is for the future. Let us remember the promise, by all means, and, when the time comes, let us press for its fulfilment. But what we have to do just now is to "make good." That is what General Townshend, General Gorringe, and every one of their brave men would tell us, I feel sure; and there can be no possible doubt that it is the only thing that matters—so far as concerns Mesopotamia—just at present. I know nothing about High Policy, but I do know something about Mesopotamia and its people, and I am convinced that, unless we undo the harm that has been done to our prestige there by the bungling and overlapping of the past twelve months, we may as well bid good-bye to our carefully built-up reputation in that part of the world. Unless we carry the Union Jack forward to Baghdad before we make peace, we must be prepared to see it disappear from the Tigris for good and all, our trade with Irak and with Western Persia will receive its death-blow, and our reputation throughout the Moslem world will suffer irreparable damage.

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The Arab and his neighbours do not understand brilliant withdrawals or masterly retreats; and though it may be perfectly true that the fall of Kut is merely "a deplorable incident," and "not one of serious military significance"—as Mr. Asquith informs us is the case, and as our generous Russian and French Allies also tell us, with the best intentions—I fear that is not quite the view that will be taken in Mesopotamia, Arabia, Persia, and possibly in other parts of the East. So let us, with the tenacity of purpose that characterized our forefathers, and that still characterizes the true Briton to-day, set about the job once more. This is no time to "wait and see." We may have to "wait" long enough to make sure that our next move will be in sufficient force to avoid errors of the past. But that is all. The British public has been badly upset by this fall of Kut, and what it wants now is to "see" our flag over Baghdad, and to see it soon. It knows our soldiers can get there if they are given a fair chance. If they are not given that chance, Kut may prove the grave of certain reputations of which the owners, at least, appear to hold a high opinion at present.

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The name of Professor Mahaffy is well known in Egypt and the Near East, and the account of his recent activities in Dublin, where he seems to have played quite a useful part in helping to make the Sinn Feiners unhappy, will afford much satisfaction to his admirers. He was formerly a crack shot; and now it transpires that amongst his other accomplishments—he is a great Greek scholar and papyrologist, besides being an historian and a wit—he has a good eye for a likely gun position. For it was he who suggested that a field gun should be mounted on the roof of Trinity College; and his suggestion, being acted upon, proved so successful that it was largely instrumental in saving the Bank of Ireland, to say nothing of clearing the adjoining streets of the Casement riff-raff.

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Bishop Stileman has again been telling an English audience of some of the lies the Germans have been circulating among Moslems. Speaking at a C.M.S. meeting on the 2nd inst., he told his hearers that one of these lies was that Germany "sought, above everything else, to bring Islam up to the position of supremacy which to some extent it occupied a thousand years ago." This, after the pig breeding circular, will hardly wash! No doubt the Germans have tried to spread the impression, but educated Moslems are not likely to be taken in by the attempt. Nor will they readily believe the other falsehood to which the Bishop referred, about the desire of the British to capture Mecca and Medina and rifle the Prophet's tomb. Great Britain has repeatedly stated that she will not interfere with the sacred places of Islam; and "the word of an Englishman," we may still say proudly, is a phrase as well known in the East as is that other phrase "a scrap of paper," which was more recently coined in Germany as a synonym for "a solemn promise," and which has now, the world over, a reputation quite its own. The Germans hardly pay a compliment to the intelligence of Moslems by the circulation of such utterly foolish falsehoods.

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A correspondent has been kind enough to send me another story illustrating the beautifully simple and direct methods of the German propagandist in Persia. It concerns that noble specimen of a Prussian gentleman, *sans peur et sans reproche*, Herr Wassmuss; and my correspondent, who is in a position to do so, vouches for its truth:—"The Tangistani chiefs were getting impatient. Wassmuss assured them that the German Emperor was anxious to speak to the chiefs, so he arranged a 'wireless' by fixing up a pole and some wires. He then summoned the chiefs to his tent, telling them the Emperor wanted to speak to them. They duly arrived, dressed in their best. Wassmuss took hold of the 'receiver,' placed it on his ear, and, after a pause, said: 'Ala Hazrat Kazar, salaam mifrested, ahvalporsi mikunad.' Then, after a pause and still listening with the receiver on his ear, added: 'His Majesty confirms the everlasting alliance between the German Empire and the chiefs of Tangistan. He inquires after the health of Sheikh Sadegh, Haji Mir Ali,' etc. (naming each chief); and wound up by saying: 'Ala Hazrat Aksee Khode Mobarek Ca Kassid makhsoos ferestadeh barai ishan.' The week after Wassmuss presented each chief with a photo of Wilhelm, which he had 'just received from Berlin'!"

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I am told by a friend that the "Persian" in the above paragraph is very poor indeed. An expert to whom it has been submitted reports as follows:—"The first sentence reads (Ala Hazrat) His Majesty the Kaiser (Kazar), Salaam mifrested (sends greetings of peace). It *should* read: Salàm mirasanand (greetings, they *cause to arrive*): ahwalporsi milkunad (enquires after your health). The second sentence is: Ala Hazrat (His Exalted Majesty) akée (the (or a) portrait) Khode Mobarek (of his august person) (self) Ca (? Bà) (with or by) Kassid makhsoos (special messenger) frestadah (has sent) barai ishan (for them). A'lau-e-Hazrat-e-qaisar (His exalted Majesty the Kaiser) salam miferested (sends greetings of peace)—the third person plural is always used in speaking of royalty, and they don't 'send,' but 'cause to arrive'; hence it should read: Salam mirasanand. Ahwal-porsi mikunad *should* read: Ahwal-pursi mikunand—Ahwal is the plural of Hal: condition or state otherwise—health. Pursi from verb pursidan—to ask or inquire. Mikunand, third person present, from the verb kardan—to do. Ahwal-pursi mikunand They ask after (your) health."

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A Greek friend has kindly forwarded me a cutting from the *Patris* of April 13, which I find very interesting. For it contains a photograph of the famous telegram of M. Passaroff, the Bulgarian Minister in Athens, regarding

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those sacks which have so greatly worried the unsophisticated M. Skouloudis and the unfortunate M. Gounaris. Unhappily I cannot read Bulgarian, but the *Patris* obligingly supplies a French translation of the original, and for the benefit of my readers I make bold to pass it on, merely adding that the message is addressed to that eminent statesman M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, and dated November 8, 1915:—

R. N. 927.—Nedkoff me communique qu'à Salonique il y a des sacs en toile. J'ai entretenu le ministre Gounaris de cette question qui me dit ce qui suit: Je verifierai et si réellement il y a des sacs à Salonique. je recommanderai à la Banque Nationale de Grèce de les acheter et de les euvoyer à la Banque de Bulgarie sous le prétexte qu'elle les expédie pour la farine. Il fera cela pour éviter l'attention des espions anglais à Salonique. Si vos négociants achetaient les sacs et que les Anglais en étaient informés nous aurions un grand désagrément. Après s'en être servi pendant les opérations militaires la Banque Nationale de Bulgarie, nous les rendra avec la farine. Tout cela sera fait dans le but de justifier l'envoi devant les Anglais.

Le ministre de l'intérieur me commun qu ra après quelques jours combien de sacs on nous donnera. Je communique cette dépêche à Nedkoff. 950. PASSAROFF.

Observe how the good Passaroff—who really seems to be aptly named—is scandalized by the presence of the "espions anglais" at Salonika, and the pains he was at to avoid any "grand désagrément." And, after all, it was a case of "Love's Labour Lost" to a certain extent. But I should not be a bit surprised if somebody, or several somebodies, get the sack over the business yet. Even a Bulgarian diplomatist cannot be found out with impunity.

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Kut Surrender. May 2.

Viscount MORLEY asked whether the Government were prepared to present papers respecting the unfortunate and lamentable affair at Kut-el-Amara.

The Marquess of CREWE replied that some papers would be laid before the House as soon as possible.

Viscount MORLEY expressed a hope that the papers would deal with the extension of the expedition to Baghdad, the mode in which the advance was carried out, the supplies, means of transport, and so on.

The Marquess of CREWE agreed that the public were entitled to the fullest information that could be given consistently with the necessity of safeguarding military operations, but he could not say precisely when the papers would be ready.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Suspicions in the Balkans. April 27.

Mr. R. M'NEILL asked whether the British Legation at Athens had issued an official statement to the effect that General Howell, Chief of the Staff in Salonika, had asked permission from the Government to take proceedings for libel against the editor of a paper called *Britannia* for falsely attributing to him the publication of an article displaying pro-Bulgarian sympathies; and whether, in view of the importance of removing the suspicion alleged to exist in the Balkans that Great Britain was favourably disposed towards Bulgaria, the Government would grant the permission requested by General Howell in order to enable him publicly to disavow the pro-Bulgarian views attributed to him.

Lord R. CECIL: At the request of the British Minister the semi-official Press Bureau at Athens issued a statement on General Howell's authority that a memorandum alleged to be by him and published by the newspaper *Britannia* was a forgery, and that he had asked permission to prosecute. The second part of the question should be addressed to the War Office, as General Howell is an officer on active service.

Mr. PRINGLE: Will any action be taken against persons responsible for circulating forgeries relating to public policy?

Lord R. CECIL: Certainly action can be taken, if it is worth while. The only question in these matters is whether it is really worth prosecuting people whose obscurity is their best defence.

Mr. PRINGLE: They have been subsidised by a Department of the Government.

Serbia and Peace Negotiations. May 2.

Mr. R. M'NEILL asked the Foreign Secretary whether Serbia was a party to the declaration of September 5, 1914, against the making of a separate peace by any of the Entente Powers; if not, whether his statement that his Majesty's Government were precluded by that declaration from entertaining any peace negotiations with Bulgaria without the knowledge and consent of the other parties to the declaration applied to Serbia.

Sir E. GREY: The answer to both parts of the question is in the negative, but in a matter so intimately affecting the interests of Serbia the Serbian Government would naturally be consulted in common with the other Allies.

The Suvla Bay Landing. May 3.

Mr. TENNANT, answering Mr. Hohler, who asked whether Sir F. Stopford's report on Suvla Bay would be published, said: As I stated on April 15, it is customary to publish only the dispatches of the Commander-in-Chief or senior officer in command. The reports of Sir Frederick Stopford were addressed in the usual manner to the Commander-in-Chief, who made the customary use of them in compiling his dispatch.

Sir E. CARSON: Has there been any report on these dispatches by the General Staff?

Mr. TENNANT: I am not aware at the moment whether that is so or not. I understand that Sir Frederick Stopford has agreed that no further action shall be taken on this matter at present.

Mr. HOHLER: Are we not entitled to see the materials upon which Sir Ian Hamilton based his report?

Mr. TENNANT: It would be quite unusual for the materials upon which a Commander-in-Chief based his reports to be given to the public.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Kut.

In its leading article on the fall of Kut, the *Times* (May 1) does not spare those whose criminal ineptitude was responsible for placing General Townshend in the unfortunate position which has culminated in his surrender. We quote from portions of this article:—

The news has been received by the nation with the deepest regret, but with a strong determination that such irresolute and unjustifiable adventures as the attempt to take Baghdad with an entirely inadequate force shall be finished once for all. There is universal admiration for the long and brilliant stand which the beleaguered force had made against desperate odds. General Townshend is not only a brave and skilful commander, but he is the soul of cheerfulness. . . . Honour impelled us to persist in our attempts to raise the siege so long as General Townshend was able to hold out, but it may now be acknowledged that the chances were always small. We were beaten, not by the Turks, but by the Tigris, the desert, and the swamps. It is hardly necessary to say that the capitulation of the garrison of Kut has very limited military importance. The numbers involved are comparatively small, and Kut itself is merely a squalid little Arab town set in a loop of the river. Such interest as attaches to the siege and its unfortunate termination is almost exclusively political. The enemy will doubtless exploit the episode to the utmost, but their efforts are already heavily discounted. . . .

All this, however, does not in the least excuse the authors of this wretched and quite unnecessary chapter of the war. . . . It has phases more damning than either the tragedy of Gallipoli or the folly of the last six months' neglect of Dublin. . . .

The *Morning Post* (May 1), in the course of a leading article, says:—

By prolonging his resistance to the last possible moment General Townshend and his gallant officers and men have turned what might have been a reverse, not, indeed, into a victory, for they were compelled to capitulate, but into an achievement from which the enemy can gain little. The Turks have reduced General Townshend's force; but in so doing they have placed their own army in considerable jeopardy, and they may yet find their communications cut behind them by the advancing Russians. . . . We can also reflect that, grievous as the news from Kut must be, it imports this much—that British strategy has once again recovered the freedom which it could not possess as long as General Townshend's brave little army stood in jeopardy. The price paid for that freedom has been as heavy as it has been unnecessary; but now that it has been paid, is it too much to hope that the recovered freedom will not be once more wasted and frittered away? . . . .

The defenders of Kut, beleaguered for one hundred and forty-three days in the desert, will go down to history with the most famous among the many British soldiers who endured to the end against hopeless odds, not knowing whether their fortitude would avail, but simply doing their duty.

The *Daily Telegraph* avoids discussion for the moment, but in a leading article reviews the course of operations from the inception to the fall of Kut, and considers that, great though the sacrifice has been, it is abundantly clear that it has not been made in vain. It concludes:—

It is not too much to say that by means of the Mesopotamian campaign Egypt has been saved from all possibility of an effective invasion. German intrigues have been banished from Persia; our Indian Empire is relieved of all serious menace from Teutonic ambition. Moreover, as matters stand, the Turkish dominions in Asia are as much beleaguered by hostile forces as they ever were. The army of Sir Percy Lake, even though it did not succeed in relieving General Townshend, still holds the lower reaches of the Tigris, and our great Russian Ally in the North carries on his victorious advance. And the defence of Kut remains a glorious memory—one of the brightest pages in the heroic annals of the British Army.

The *Daily Chronicle* devotes considerable space to the task of placing all responsibility upon the shoulders of generals in field, although it admits that "nothing but credit attaches to General Townshend and his gallant troops, who had done all that men could do."

The following paragraphs are quoted from a leading article in the *Manchester Guardian*, of which they are the beginning and the end:—

One of the German papers calls the fall of Kut the heaviest blow ever struck at Great Britain. So gross an exaggeration

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is helpful, because it forces us even against our natural inclination to try to see the event in its just perspective. We are moved with deep sympathy for General Townshend and his brave army, compelled by sheer hunger to capitulate to an enemy whom they had defeated over and over again, and who could never have conquered them by arms. We might have been inclined to enlarge the disaster and cast about for scapegoats. The comments of the German press will serve as a warning that it is our first duty at such a time not to give way to personal feeling but to look at what has happened coolly and dispassionately. . . . The loss of General Townshend and his army is a bitter disappointment and wounding to our pride, which revolts at the idea of surrender to the Turks; but except for the loss of 10,000 troops it is not a serious military defeat. It does not better the Turkish position; it does not weaken ours. There have been gross mismanagement of these operations and gross improvidence in their design, and the time will come when the responsibility will have to be fixed. But for the present we shall do well to recognise that we are no worse off for the business in hand—namely, the capture of Baghdad—and to find in the tragedy of Kut the stimulus of victory.

The *Evening Standard* (May 1) comments upon the "two broad streams of Soudang" visible in the criticism evolved by the fall of Kut.

On the one side the Government is violently attacked for its alleged miscalculations and ineptitude, and even roundly charged with arranging the whole affair as a theatrical set-off to the evacuation of Gallipoli. On the other side, there is a disposition to spare the Government at the expense of its military advisers, who are saddled with the responsibility for Townshend's adventurous advance on Baghdad with a force now clearly seen to be inadequate.

We think both criticisms ill-timed, and both may be unjust. This is not a convenient moment for full investigation of the facts, and without all the facts judgment is impossible. Doubtless the Government has, here as elsewhere, been guilty of many sins of commission and omission. We have already proof of the gravest defects of organisation as regards matters of detail, and it may well be that when the matter is probed to the bottom there will be as heavy an indictment as against the moving spirits in the Gallipoli adventure.

Still, we cannot go the length of treating the whole Mesopotamian expedition as a sort of exhibition of fireworks. . . . In the absence of full information, there can only be a suspension of judgment as to policy dictating the Mesopotamian campaign. But when investigation is made it should, we think, be complete, if only in fairness to Sir John Nixon and the other military advisers.

The Dardanelles Anniversary.

Mr. Henry W. Nevinson contributes, under the above heading, a most interesting article to the *Nation* (April 29). The writer knows his subject thoroughly from experience gained at first hand, and we quote from his concluding passages, in which he deals with the evacuating of the peninsula:—

This astonishing success was due chiefly to superb organization, partly to good luck in weather, partly perhaps to a certain dulness in the enemy's brains. Since my return I have constantly heard sneering critics maintain that the Turks were bribed to let us go quietly. It is a foul libel, not only upon our own officers, but upon the Turks themselves. The skill of our departure was worthy of the courage of our landing, and the only cause for regret is that all the courage and skill displayed throughout the campaign should have ended only in failure to attain its objects, and in the loss of nearly 118,000 killed, wounded, and missing, not to mention about 100,000 sick. The campaign was an extreme disaster, but all who were actively engaged in it may remember it with pride, for the chief causes of the disaster were never near the peninsula at all.

Ireland and Egypt.

In a leading article on the Irish insurrection the *Times* (May 3) concludes with the following tribute to Sir John Maxwell, and reference to the recent conflict near the Suez Canal:—

One man, at any rate, seems to have handled the insurrection with firmness and discretion. From the moment Sir John Maxwell reached Dublin the nerveless attitude of the authorities was replaced by strong and successful measures. He appears to have performed a most difficult task with great thoroughness and restraint, and with a minimum of friction. His work during the last few days confirms the admirable reputation he gained in Cairo, where he was stationed until recently. We note, by the way, that since he left Egypt an unpleasant conflict has occurred east of the Suez Canal, which must be regarded with some misgiving. A force of Turks was able to attack the post of Duweidar, only fifteen miles from the Canal, and it was beaten back with some difficulty. Simultaneously a strong force, including a battalion of Austro-Germans, attacked the village of Katia, thirty miles from the Canal. The bulk of a Yeomanry brigade seems to have been eventually involved in the Katia action, but the village passed from our possession. As the responsibility was evidently purely local, we shall not be suspected of embarrassing the Government if we ask for further information. So many glowing statements have been made regarding our preparations on the eastern side of the Canal, that it has astonished the public to find that a brigade of cavalry, or portions thereof, can come to grief and be badly outnumbered within thirty miles of Port Said.

Mesopotamia.

The *Nation* (April 29), in an article written before the news of the fall of Kut reached England, published a long article under the heading of "Turkey, Trebizond, and Townshend." The first portion of the article is devoted to an examination of the various achievements of Russian arms. The writer continues:—

It will be interesting to see what the next step of the Russians will be. It seems hardly possible that it can redeem our own plight in Mesopotamia; but it is not improbable it may take vengeance for us. For unless the Turks can keep the Baghdad railway open, their chances of escape do not appear very bright, and no doubt the Grand Duke has before him the possibilities of cutting off the whole Mesopotamian force. We cannot estimate the immediacy of that issue until we know more of the strength of his armies in this area. But the chance is there, and the present Russian achievement would have been thought impossible at the beginning of the year.

Our own operations in Mesopotamia throw into stronger relief the Russian successes. There is no need to depreciate the gallantry and skill with which the earlier part of the campaign was conducted. Up to the capture of Kut it had been uniformly successful, a pageant in little of the resources of our Empire.

The writer urges the necessity of a thorough inquiry into the whole question of the expedition:—

When Lord Crewe said that "the plan had been carefully thought out by the Commander-in-Chief in Mesopotamia, Sir John Nixon, and the force which was set apart for it was by universal military opinion considered to be sufficient," he was plainly using ambiguous language. Does "the force" include reinforcements, and when were these supposed to arrive? It is clear that the British expected reinforcements, and unless these were included in the plans we can only regard the decision to advance as summer madness. Let it be granted that General Townshend only missed taking Baghdad by the few days required for re-watering after Ctesiphon. With little over a division of troops he could only have exchanged a siege in Baghdad for his present plight at Kut. We can only conclude that the plans must have included reinforcements; but as these came up so belatedly, what must have happened to General Townshend if he had been so much nearer the Turkish bases and so much farther from ours?

As it is, we certainly contributed to the Russian successes. We bewildered the Turkish command, and the readjusted dispositions must have helped the Grand Duke considerably.

The Death of Von der Goltz.

"A Student of War," writing on the war in the *Manchester Guardian* (April 29), makes the following assertion in regard to the death of General Von der Goltz:—

Von der Goltz did not die a natural death, but was probably assassinated by a Turk who was indignant over the defeats in Armenia, and thought that the Germans, in order to save their own interests in Mesopotamia and the Baghdad Railway, had sacrificed what the Turks with justice regard as their own far more important interests in Armenia.

Articles to Note.

"Westward of Erzeroum," by "W. J. C.," in *Blackwood* (May).

"King Constantine of Greece at Home," Illustrated Interview, by Crawfurd Price, in the *Sphere* (April 29).

"Egyptian Christianity," a Review of E. A. Wallis Bridge's "Miscellaneous Coptic Texts in the Dialect of Upper Egypt," in the *Athenæum* (April).

PARCELS FOR PRISONERS IN BULGARIA.

The Foreign Office forwards the following for publication:—

The United States Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia has recommended that all parcels and remittances intended for British prisoners of war in Bulgaria should be addressed to them "C/o Lieutenant W. E. Gilliland, Prisoner of War, Philippopolis, Bulgaria," by whom arrangements will be made for their distribution.

Parcels and letters for prisoners of war may be handed in at any post office and are forwarded free of charge. It is recommended that parcels should be very substantially and securely packed.

Roumanian resentment against the arbitrary conduct of Austro-Hungarian frontier officials has been increased by the arrest of M. Busso Siriano, a Roumanian subject, who was travelling from Paris to Mircea. M. Siriano is a well-known Roumanian publicist, and the editor of the *Revue Franco Roumaine* in Paris.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

An exceptionally interesting speech was that delivered by the chairman of the Ionian Bank last Tuesday, copious extracts from which are reproduced elsewhere. The position of the bank is a very fair one, its assets and liabilities having reached the highest level in its history, and deposits having increased by £915,300—rightly interpreted as a sign of confidence in the bank. The salient feature of the year was, of course, the opening of a branch in Salonika, which has not only been of utility to the British military authorities, but has also been of service to the French authorities, operating through the Bank of France and the London offices of the company.

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Apart from the bank's own position, the chairman's speech calls for some comment. Noteworthy was his denunciation of our currency system—which is antiquated—and his championship of the Greek Valaoritis system, which, he argued, "was applicable to all progressive States." It will be impossible to summarise here the chairman's lengthy dissertation on this subject, covering as it does the banking and financial systems of Great Britain and the United States, but the following features in the Valaoritis system may be given:—(1) The division of the home exchanges from the foreign exchanges, the instruments of the former being legal tender notes, and of the latter bills of exchange against products, cheques and the various forms of liquid wealth, including coined gold, and gold as a commodity; (2) the provision of a fund of gold or of its equivalent liquid wealth of about five millions sterling by adding an equal sum in local currency to the existing paper circulation of the country to meet any adverse balance of trade; and (3) fixing the exchange by law at or moving about par.

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It will be seen, therefore, that liquid wealth, including gold, or not, is taken as the standard of the Greek currency system, whereby gold becomes merely a commodity instead of being the standard, as in our system. The subject is an interesting one, and will have to be dealt with at greater length when the occasion arises. Incidentally it may be mentioned, as pointed out by the chairman, that this system of national credit, taking the place of a nominal gold-coin reserve, is at present the basis of the large issue of British Government legal tender notes and Treasury bills.

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Not less interesting were the chairman's remarks on Greece's position as regards the war. That this position is difficult no one will deny. "To join the Entente, with whom her sympathies sided, meant, in the case even of only temporary failure, dismemberment, if not destruction; and to join the Central Powers meant submission to Austro-German interests and the loss of Salonika, and, having regard to the increase of Bulgarian power, the probable loss of Kavalla; also liability to bombardment by the Allied fleets and capture or destruction of the mercantile marine." He added, however, that it was "unthinkable that Greece should ever assume an active opposition to the aims and interests of the Allies," but deplored the fact that she had not thrown herself, at whatever cost, into the scale on the side of humanity and civilisation, and "assumed her proper rôle of responsibility with the truly great nations of the world for the well-being of mankind. For there is a day which is 'my day' for nations as well as for individuals, and a 'night' when the opportunity has passed."

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Lord Edward Cecil's Report on the Egyptian Budget, telegraphic reference to which has reached this country, is a ray of optimism in what has, on the whole, been a clouded week. The conclusion arrived at by the Financial Adviser is particularly optimistic. "If Egypt," he asserts, according to a Reuter's message, "follows the present prudent policy, she will emerge from the war not merely without any additional burdens, but with her financial resources greatly strengthened." Incidentally it may be pointed out that in the *Times'* summary of the Report, reproduced elsewhere, an obvious error has crept into the reading of the message. It is impossible that the Financial Adviser should have pointed to "the cessation of exports" as a factor illustrating the country's remarkable recovery. I shall, however, withhold further comment until the full report reaches this country.

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Coming back again to the question of Egyptian exports, it would seem that, in reality, the Government is keenly interested in increasing them, judging by the announcement published on this page. The method of thus bringing the products of Egypt to the notice of merchants abroad is a wise one, and will, I feel sure, greatly contribute to the desired increase. Not only is information as to the nature of these products to be obtained at the Bureau of Commercial Intelligence, Cairo, but samples of produce are likewise prepared for submission to inquirers in all parts of the world. It is only by such fostering care that Egypt's export articles will become more generally known.

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The total receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the year ended March 31, 1916, amount to £E187,735. These figures are, when everything is considered, really excellent. In the previous year—that is to say, from April 1, 1914, to March 31, 1915—the receipts were £E188,992, but then the first four months of that year belonged to the pre-war period. Nevertheless, the difference between the two years is only a matter of a thousand odd pounds. Nothing could illustrate better the recuperative powers of the country, because, after all, the Delta railways benefit less from the transport of troops than the State Railways. The relative increase, therefore, is due more to the economic *essor* of the country, properly speaking, than to any extraneous circumstances, and the company is to be congratulated on its returns. Prospects for the future, moreover, are decidedly brighter, as is pointed out by the Cairo correspondent of *Railway News*. "This is more especially so," he says, "as it is reported that, owing to the strong demand for the staple, the acreage put under cotton is higher than ever this season, promising a heavy cotton traffic when the crop is gathered towards the end of the year." Incidentally, an Exchange message from Cairo on Wednesday stated that an optimistic view is taken of the coming cotton crop, an unofficial estimate placing it at eight million cantars.

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According to a correspondent, so piteous is the situation in Syria that many Syrians who have friends or relatives in America have been appealing to them for funds. It is said that in this way over a million dollars has been sent to the afflicted country. I wonder how much of this has found its way into the hands of the Turkish authorities? Perhaps, we have here a repetition of Austro-Hungarian methods in Serbia, where the peasants are forced by the authorities to write begging letters to their relations in the United States, the replies to which are, *of course*, opened by the proper—what shall we call them—censors?

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The success of the Five per Cent. Internal Loan, which has been authorised by the Roumanian Parliament, is—as predicted in these columns last week—already assured. Two hundred million lei have been earmarked for the repurchase of Roumanian rentes placed in Berlin, which is all the more astonishing, considering that Berlin, having no available gold, has been forced to pay for the grain purchased in that country by means of these self-same rentes.

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The British Buyers' Syndicate in Roumania, acting through the Chrisoveloni Bank, has scored a signal triumph in Bucharest by persuading a meeting of the Millers' Syndicate on Saturday last to accept its offer for the purchase of flour available for export, estimated at approximately 10,000 wagons. This is a smart piece of work, firstly, because it overrides a German bid, and, secondly, because it will seriously affect Turkey, which is in dire need of flour. The Syndicate is to be congratulated on its success. The results of the arrangement are approximately as follows:—The millers abstain from grinding cereals for export for a period of five months on consideration of the payment of a sum of £535,714. and we purchase all the flour in the country which is available for export.

COMMENTATOR.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, CAIRO.

With reference to the communication originally made to the Press in September, 1914, the MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, Cairo, continues to FURNISH INFORMATION connected with EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS for EXPORT, and with reference to markets for imported products, acting as an intermediary between the producer and consumer. Samples of produce are prepared for submission to inquirers in all parts of the world, and information is supplied to producers, to enable them to prepare their produce in a manner suitable for foreign markets. All correspondence should be addressed to The BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE, Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo.

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Anglo-Serbian Economic Relations.

Lecture by Dr. Svetosar Grgich.

Last Tuesday, at the London Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Svetosar Grgich read a paper on Anglo-Serbian Economic and Political Relations. The Right Hon. Lord Southwark presided during the earlier part of the proceedings and introduced the lecturer to his audience in a short speech. Later the chair was taken by Mr. C. F. Town.

Dr. Grgich said that British and Serbian interests in the Near East were absolutely identical, and it had been a great disadvantage to both parties that this fact had not always been recognised. This circumstance had been due to certain political considerations which had now been swept away by the part Bulgaria and Turkey were playing in the present war. It was now only logical to expect that England's commercial influence in Serbia should be made as strong as possible. The Serbians were very desirous of a closer economic and political co-operation with England, and a recent visit of the Crown Prince, Monsieur Pashich, and the Metropolitan of Belgrade to London was evidence of this fact. Freeing herself from the present economic control of the Central Powers would give Serbia a very difficult problem to solve, for she was a rich country, which, for the exploitation of her natural wealth needed only friendly foreign capital and assistance. Of her population 84 per cent. were engaged in agriculture, but this was not carried on according to modern methods; this backwardness being due to the unsettled political condition of the country which compelled the people to concentrate their energies on the national defence.

Pre-War Conditions.

Hitherto, England had not played the important part she ought to do in Serbian commerce, for Serbian imports from this country had never reached a higher value than 11,425,000 fr., while the corresponding figure was 16,148,000 fr. from Austria-Hungary, and 34,975,000 fr. from Germany. Austria's trade to Serbia had declined. From 1900 to 1904 she did 55 per cent., from 1905 to 1909 42 per cent., but in 1910 only 19 per cent. During the same period the proportion of the same trade done by Germany had continually grown, the figures being 5 per cent., 20 per cent., and 24 per cent. England's trade with Serbia had been in 1906 4,000,000 fr., in 1907 10,000,000 fr., in 1908 8,500,000 fr., in 1909 7,500,000 fr., and in 1910 11,000,000 fr. Among Serbia's chief articles of export were maize 21,000,000 fr., cattle, pigs, and preserved meat 16,000,000 fr., wheat 12,000,000 fr., plums 10,000,000 fr., and copper 8,000,000 fr. The good quality of Serbian plums and Serbian hams was well known. Serbia was rich in forests, though this industry had been but little exploited, and she had deposits of gold, silver, aluminium, lead, coal, and especially copper. The remarkable success of the copper mines was a guarantee of a great future for the mining industry of the country, provided it was helped by scientific prospecting, skilled labour and foreign capital. Manufacturing industries were but very little developed, though there had been considerable progress in the last fifteen years; but when Serbia's natural wealth, coal, plentiful water supply and her abundance of labour were considered, it would be seen that the conditions were favourable for the development of manufacturing industry on a great scale and in a very short time.

British Assistance Required.

In the development of her resources Serbia looked to England for assistance more than to any other power, and this co-operation would not only exercise a beneficial influence on the economic life of Serbia, but would strengthen in the highest degree England's political and commercial influence in the Balkans, while British labour and capital could be introduced into Serbia under the most advantageous conditions. Hitherto, Anglo-Serbian commercial relations had been retarded by the fact that Serbia had no outlet to the sea, but she looked forward now to having a long and well developed seaboard on the Adriatic. This, more than anything else, would enable her to have direct commercial relations with Western Europe, and to emancipate herself from Austria-Hungary and Germany. After the war England should play a very important part in Serbia's renaissance. Serbia would have a very great economic task before her. She would have to modernise her agriculture, to place her timber industry on a sound basis, to establish factories, to build roads, railways, and a mercantile fleet. To encourage Anglo-Serbian trade, commercial and industrial syndicates should be organised to work concessions which the Serbian Government would grant, and an Anglo-Serbian bank should be established.

The Chairman said the paper suggested a close co-operation between the chambers of commerce in this country and those in Serbia. He was quite sure that when the time came the London Chamber would welcome such co-operation, and would establish a Serbian section if that did not already exist. As to concessions, his experience had been that the Governments who gave them, made them as onerous as possible and put every possible difficulty in the way of the country that needed capital getting it. He hoped the Serbian Government, when the time came, would be more liberal.

Mr. C. E. Town, who moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, said that England having come too late to the assistance of Serbia, that country had practically endured a martyrdom; he was quite sure that when the war was over that fact would be remembered by England, and her influence would be used so that the legitimate aspirations of the Serbian nation might be achieved. With regard to the outlet to the sea, he had been very pleased to learn that a present of two naval units had been made by England to Serbia, and that each of the Allied nations was going to present Serbia with units, so that she might become a naval as well as a land power. For a mercantile development an opening on the Adriatic was absolutely essential. After the war, Serbia might rely on every assistance from the British Government and the British commercial community in forwarding her commercial interests. Of course, we were a nation of shopkeepers, and expected to benefit ourselves while benefiting others. Trade between Serbia and Great Britain would be to the mutual advantage of both countries.

Mr. Chapman seconded the vote of thanks, which was unanimously agreed to and briefly acknowledged by Dr. Grgich. Subsequently, in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman,

Mr. C. E. Town said that what was wanted was a Chamber of Commerce or some other semi-Governmental body, which would introduce capital into Serbia through banks or otherwise, and with that capital bring out the country's resources. As far back as 1907 he had formulated a scheme whereby that could be done; and had that scheme been adopted, Serbia would now have been turning over five millions a year with this country. Serbians must not rely too much on what other people could do for them, they must tuck up their sleeves and wire in for themselves.

The vote of thanks to the chairman was unanimously given, and this terminated the proceedings.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

Reuter's Agency reported from Cairo yesterday that the most important prosecution on a charge of trading with the enemy that has yet taken place in Egypt has just been dealt with. The firm of Schneider and Rothacker, which has been long established here, has been sentenced to pay a fine of £5,000 for trading in coffee with the enemy. One of the members of the firm, who is now in Switzerland, was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment.

THE LOCUST PLAGUE IN CYPRUS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, April 17.

The Greek Archbishop Kysikos, with M. Theodoton, a prominent member of the Legislative Council, and representatives from various villages of the central "Messoria" district, in a recent interview with the High Commissioner, made an earnest request that in the locust war, now being actively waged, the system of purchase might be adopted instead of the poison spray. His Excellency, after giving careful attention to their representations, promised that the two systems should be applied concurrently. It must be hoped that the conditions under which the two trials will be carried out will make it possible that some really useful and conclusive comparisons may be made between the two rival systems.

Thousands of okes of locusts are being collected in many places, and brought in for weighing and purchase by Government officials appointed for the purpose. In some cases village individual labourers bring in as many as forty to fifty okes. The price so far paid is 1½ piastres for the first five okes, and one piastre per oke for quantities above that figure. So that an active villager can thus earn up to nearly 5s. a day.

The discovery of a new preparation for poisoning the pest is claimed by M. Z. Solomides, entomologist of the Agricultural Department, who states that, while its effects are deadly against the locust, no injurious results can follow from vegetation which has been sprayed, when used as fodder. Experiments have been made in the garden of the Archbishop's palace at Nicosia, before his Eminence, the Bishop of Paplo and Kyrenia, the Abbot of Kykkou, some members of Council, and agriculturists, which are said to have been completely successful, the locusts dying within ten minutes after spraying. In the Agricultural Department experiments have been carried out to test the effect on plants—a lamb which had been fed for a considerable time on sprayed herbage having suffered no injurious effects. The preparation, which the inventor states is of very simple ingredients, has the merit of cheapness; as about thirty gallons of the mixture can be prepared for less than two shillings.

CYPRUS DISTRESS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, April 17.

In the reply of the High Commissioner to a petition, praying for relief measures on account of the distressed state of the peasantry, it is stated that, while the collection of taxes cannot be suspended, as proposed by the petitioners, wheat will be issued at very moderate prices, as far as circumstances may permit, from the Government tithe stores, to needy applicants.

Abundant rain has fallen most opportunely, and beyond the most sanguine hopes. The Pedias "river," which runs through the central plain, and past Nicosia, brought a full torrent, overflowing its banks in places, while other streams brought down sufficient water not only to swell the cereal crops, but also to irrigate much land for summer produce. The downpour, more like winter than spring rains, seems to have been general throughout the island between April 11 and 13. An abundant harvest is now assured. Unfortunately, in a few places hail has caused damage, and again in parts there is anxiety lest the locusts should work some havoc.

The Agricultural Department announces that a show of horses, donkeys, and cattle will be held on May 12 at Nicosia.

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Coal in Egypt?

Government Investigations Near Edfu.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 19.

It is announced that the Egyptian Government is carrying out investigations with a view to ascertaining whether there exist any workable deposits of coal in Upper Egypt. This is not the first time that such investigations have been carried out in this country; the region in which the present work is about to be carried out has always been regarded as one in which coal might quite possibly exist. It may, therefore, not be without interest if a summary of the previous attempts made to locate these mineral deposits were given.

Historical Survey.

The earliest recorded search for coal took place in 1840, when that great man, Mehemet Ali, ever keen to promote the interests of his adopted country and keep her abreast of the times, decided to prospect for coal to the east of Cairo, near what is to-day known as the Petrified Forest. He met with no success, but, nothing daunted, four years later he commissioned Figari Bey, at that time Inspector-General of the Pharmaceutical Administration, to carry out researches in the Eastern Desert.

Figari Bey worked between 1844 and 1848 at Rhodesia (Edfu East), Wadi El Araba—between the northern and southern Sellala plateau to the east of Beni-Suef—and Wadi Dakhl to the north of Gebel Um Tenasseb. The *Official Journal* of October, 1846, contains a short account of the results of the search made in the Wadi Araba, but, although in places borings were conducted to a depth of 700 feet, no carbonaceous material was found in any quantity, the substances encountered being merely in process of formation, or with but very thin veins of lignite.

At Rhodesia, Figari Bey made a bore to the depth of 865 feet, and found at 165 feet, after several alternating beds of sandstone and shale, often bituminous, a layer two feet thick of silicious limestone containing fossil oyster shells. He considered that this layer indicated that coal could not possibly exist in the region. However, later on, other operations were carried out in the district, and a Mr. Neutinger, who prospected there between 1844 and 1854, recorded his discoveries as follows:—"From surface to 47 metres, succession of alluvials, clays, and sandstones; from 47 to 92 metres, schists and sandstones in which fine coal seams were met with, and of which the lowest was 2.25 metres of good coal." The scene of these operations was Gebel Zebara, about five miles east of Edfu Station.

Ismail Pasha followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, and caused work to be continued at Rhodesia. In 1872 he sank a shaft at 600 metres distance from the old borings, and three years later Dr. Gaillardot presented to the Egyptian Institute some samples taken from this shaft and containing combustible mineral which it is thought was coal.

Nothing further seems to have been done, and the subsequent political upheaval to which the country was subjected appears to have driven the search for coal into oblivion, for the next record of any serious prospecting work is in the year 1903, when the Société Générale des Sucreries et de la Raffinerie d'Egypte got together a syndicate, which was afterwards known as the Keneh Company, for the purpose of carrying out borings in the region of Rhodesia.

The Keneh Company.

The company secured the services of eminent Belgian engineers; one of the latter gave it as his opinion that coal measures existed in the subsoil of the region, that calamites, one of the characteristics of coal flora, had been found there, and that boring, but to a great depth, ought to be undertaken. Work was started on both banks of the Nile, but at 409 metres it was suspended, as no trace of coal measures could be found, and the company was not prepared to spend any more money on the venture.

It is interesting to note that the company's report of the borings carried out states, that after 31 metres, vegetable substance was found in the sandstone, followed by blackish material and black schistous clay, which led one to expect coal schists; from 58 to 59 metres, and from 68 to 69 metres, there were small filaments of black carbonaceous matter impregnated with iron pyrite, probably a kind of lignite; between 135 and 143 metres there was blackish schistous clay with carbonaceous pieces and lignite filaments, followed by greyish sandy clay slightly micaceous; after 181 metres greyish clay, very firm and compact, was met with; between 300 and 366 metres grey clay containing several silicious, ochraceous and quartz beds was found, and at 409 metres the soil was of slight vegetable composition. It did not look as if the coal schist was very near, and operations were suspended. The depth to which boring was made was, perhaps, insufficient to give conclusive evidence of the non-existence of coal. The engineer referred to is understood to have advised going as far as 600 metres, and it is a pity that the company could not stand the additional expense of going to the full depth advised.

Recent Discoveries.

Since then there have been various discoveries which are considered to corroborate the assertions of the engineers that coal exists. The Egyptian Coal Syndicate put down a bore 100 metres deep near the above workings at Zabbara (Edfu East), and encountered the same succession of sandstones and bituminous shales. At Abu Rahel, forty-five miles to the east, the Department of Mines sank a well 247 ft. deep, and encountered three seams of bituminous shales, 17 and 27 centimetres and two metres thick respectively; all three seams contained appreciable quantities of bituminous coal in narrow seams and veins, burning brightly with a long luminous flame, but the laboratory tests showed that they did not yield sufficient oil or tar to make them of any commercial value. In the Kharga Oasis the Corporation of Western Egypt met with beds of lignite (coal) at various depths, and these beds are believed to be of the same age as those found at Edfu and Abu Rahel. In the Sinai, the Cairo Syndicate has found seams of bituminous shale, with veins of coal up to 2 ins. in thickness; the shale was similar to that found at Edfu and Abu Rahel. At Tor samples of coal-bearing shale, similar to that found at Edfu, have been encountered.

The Report of the Department of Mines, from which most of the above information is culled—additional data has been kindly furnished to me by the Société des Sucreries and by H.E. Ahmed Zaki Pasha—admitted that whilst formations carrying considerable bituminous matter do exist over a wide area in Egypt, there is nothing to prove the existence of commercially valuable beds and seams. One can only reason on somewhat meagre data.

Firstly, the Upper Cretaceous period has yielded large coalfields of both inferior and better-class lignites and coal in a great many countries; secondly, there is a very wide distribution of bituminous shales, probably of fluiro-marine age, when a great part of Egypt was low swamp lands, with conditions more or less favourable to plant growth; thirdly, nothing is known of the intervals of time that elapsed between the elevation and depression of the earth's surface in Egypt during the creation of these formations, or as to whether they were of sufficient duration to permit of any great accumulation of plant life; and fourthly, since the days of those formations, Egypt's crust has been little disturbed, so much so that rarely do formations immediately recur than Nubian sandstone (Upper Cretaceous) appear or outcrop at surface.

The great question is as to what were the conditions existing in Egypt prior to the Upper Cretaceous age, for on that hinges the possibility of the existence of coal to any commercially valuable extent.

The report pointed out that "in the Red Sea ranges the Nubian sandstone lies conformably upon the older plutonic and crystalline rocks with a basal conglomerate including many pieces of the older rocks on which they lie," and it assumes that as no violent movements supervened, these ranges existed as islands surrounded by shallow seas or swamps, which received the Central African rivers. The entrance to the valleys and the inlets amongst these islands would constitute points for the accumulation of plant life, and given subsequent favourable conditions, these accumulations would to-day exist as coal seams below the Nubian sandstone, above which no bituminous shale has as yet been noted.

The report concluded by saying that it may be argued "that the data available warrants the assumption that there is a fair prospect of discovering basins wherein accumulations of ancient plant life have been sufficient to form coal, but owing to the extraordinary evenness of the recent geological horizons their discovery can only be effected by systematically following up with the drill such data as is already available."

Appointment of Expert.

It is with the intention of systematically investigating this theory in the region that is generally agreed to be the one most fulfilling the requisite geological conditions, that the Egyptian Government has now decided itself to carry out borings and tests under the direction of Mr. J. T. Wells, formerly Inspector-General of Mines in this country. Previous prospecting ventures have failed simply because they have not been carried out on a sufficiently extensive scale, or have not had behind them sufficient capital to permit of the sacrifice of time and material involved. It is, as far as I can gather, not claimed that the present search for coal will prove successful, or that if coal seams are located they will prove commercially workable, but the data available is considered such as to warrant the theory being thoroughly put to the test and the question of the existence or not of commercially-valuable coal being settled once and for all.

BLOCKADE RUNNING IN BLACK SEA

The correspondent of the *Times* in the Balkan Peninsula, cabling from Constantza, describes how starved Constantinople obtains some food supplies (supplies from Asia Minor having practically come to an end (from Roumania viâ the port of Constantza. A fleet (he writes) of many hundred sailing vessels and some steamers is kept continually employed in accomplishing the journey of about twenty-four to thirty hours. "The cargoes, as a rule, consist of cereals, flour, groceries, and petroleum. The risks of the voyage are great, owing to the vigilance of the Russian Fleet, especially in the case of steamers, which are compelled to traverse the open sea. The small sailing vessels, which hug the coast, more frequently succeed in reaching the mouth of the Bosphorus.

"Great profits are made by Turkish captains and skippers engaged in this hazardous occupation; the crews are for the most part engaged in Constantinople at low wages, which they sometimes supplement by small trading on their own account.

"As all exportation from Roumanian ports has been prohibited for more than a year, special permits for export must be obtained from the Government by vendors of foodstuffs before they negotiate a sale to shippers. The vendors recoup themselves for the expenditure incurred in securing permits from officials by charging high prices to shippers, who willingly pay them in consideration of the immense profits made on sales in Constantinople. The shippers, further, pay large sums to the captains of ships, but after all deductions their net profits often exceed 100 per cent.

"Constantinople is thus saved from starvation.

"The departure of the little fleets is a picturesque spectacle. In fine weather some twenty to fifty vessels of all sizes may be seen putting out from the port, making their way southward. Some never return, but the shippers can afford considerable losses. Constantinople must be fed, and Germany, not bankrupt Turkey, pays the bill in the end."

The death is announced of Mr. Oswald Darke, senior partner in the firm of Temperleys, Carter, and Darke, of London, and chairman of Contomichalos, Darke, and Co., Limited, of Khartoum.

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War Hardships in Syria.

FROM A TRAVELLER.

CAIRO, April 17.

The tales of misery and distress in Syria which reach this country are unfortunately receiving confirmation from various quarters. The writer has just received a letter from a missionary in America, saying that, according to reports received, articles of food in Syria have risen 200 per cent. A few days ago a small boat arrived at Port Said from Syria with six men and two children, who tell the same tale of misery and persecution.

The oppressors themselves are, however, nearing the time when they will be in a serious plight, through the breaking down of their railway communications, because the fuel problem is getting more serious every day. Through the exhaustion of the stock of coal that was requisitioned at the outbreak of the war, the Turks have lately had to resort to firewood. But this is a poor substitute. The engine of a train making the trip from Rayak to Hama is said to consume forty tons of firewood, against five tons of coal, and even so, the engine-driver has often to stop on the way and gather up some brushwood and dry sticks to get up steam. Again, the speed on firewood seems to be considerably slackened, and trains take twenty instead of the normal nine hours for the journey from Beyrout to Damascus. Indeed, a traveller relates from personal experience that he was once fully two days on the train from Beyrout to Damascus. Of course, the sharp gradients of this cogwheel line render the problem of fuel still more serious.

The quantities of wood taken by the authorities for the railways have naturally produced an enormous rise in the price of timber, which has tripled. Owing to the prevailing poverty, many among the peasant class have even been cutting down and selling fruit trees in order to get money, thus to avoid starvation. It is feared that if this state of things is allowed to continue much longer the country will be seriously denuded of one of its principal agricultural resources.

In connection with the serious fuel problem, the Turks, under German guidance, have been exercising their ingenuity to exploit the natural resources of Syria, but so far the coal deposits susceptible of exploitation—viz., in Saleema, Mount Lebanon, and Erna, near Mount Hermon—have furnished a quality containing such a large proportion of sulphur that its trial use on the railway has led to the damaging of the locomotives, apart from the fact that the sulphurous fumes constituted a danger to the drivers and firemen. However, according to reliable information, German engineers have lately discovered in the village of Cartaba, in Northern Lebanon, coal of good calorific power, but the question of transport, which is so vital in enterprises of this kind, constitutes a serious stumbling-block, since this village lies on the heights surrounding the Cedars. At all events, the practical solution of this transport problem is not to be expected during the war, owing to the extreme difficulty, not to say impossibility, of obtaining the necessary material.

*** The *Sudan Times* of April 5 publishes the following extracts from a private letter sent from a trustworthy source in Syria, viâ America, to a gentleman in the Sudan :—

"Prices of all necessities are rising from one day to another. The Government, which had commandeered a good part of the crops, is now selling these at very high prices; notwithstanding the rise in prices the different coins in circulation have fallen in value. Gold and silver alike have shared this fall. The value of the pound sterling, which was at 136 piastres before the war, is now at 118 piastres. The Turkish pound, which was at 124, is now at 108 piastres; and the French Napoleon, which was at 109, is now at 95 piastres. The silver Mejidie, which was at 23, is now at 20, and so on."

To a sane man (comments the *Sudan Times*) who reasons about the "why" and "how" of things, this appears incomprehensible; but to those who know the Turkish Government and the ways of its men in dealing with the people, this seems to be an ordinary procedure.

GERMAN METHODS IN MOROCCO.

The Acting British Consul at Casablanca has forwarded an extract from the local Press relative to German trade methods in Morocco prior to the outbreak of the war, from which the following translation has been made :—In trading with Morocco it is of first importance to advertise those articles of which the natives have the greatest need. Exporters who wish to do business must give an exact description of the goods they wish to sell, and this can be done only by effective advertisement. The one really effective means of publicity is by catalogues, which should, as far as possible, fulfil the following conditions, viz. :—They should be clearly illustrated, and should show precisely the terms of sale, delivery, and credit; they should contain an Arabic translation; and each kind of article should be catalogued separately. Bulky catalogues, showing thousands of articles, in which it is sometimes necessary to make laborious researches, tire the natives and discourage them. In this respect German catalogues were much to be preferred to the French; except for the Arabic translation, they fulfilled perfectly the above conditions, and it should not be difficult to imitate and even to surpass them.

But advertising by means of catalogues only is not sufficient. The catalogues should be supplemented by circulars printed in French and Arabic, by typewritten letters, and by free samples, carefully marked with the precise name and characteristics of the goods.

It is usual in the German trade in piece-goods to paste on to each piece of stuff delivered an illuminated tab, bearing in Arabic or Hebrew the name and address of the customer. Occasionally this tab is replaced by the name of the customer, worked in white thread in the selvedge of the material. Often, again, in the folds of a piece of material German firms insert a long band of paper marked off in yards and inches in such a manner that in unfolding and cutting up the material a salesman always knows the length of what is left.

The profuse inscription of the name and address of the native importer, whether on the articles themselves (dials of watches and clocks, knives, razors and scissors, perfume bottles, soaps, ironmongery, fancy goods and piece-goods) or on the packing, all please and help to retain the goodwill of customers.

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(AN ANGLO-SWISS FIRM.)

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TRADE NOTES.

Egypt.

The Superintendent of Stores, Ministry of Education, invites tenders for the supply of clothing for the pupils of the Elementary Training Colleges for women teachers for the school year 1917. Date, May 27.

H.M. Consul at Cairo has forwarded conditions of contract in connection with a call for tenders by the Egyptian Ministry of Finance for the supply of stationery articles required for the use of the various Government Administrations during the year 1916-17, including pencils, penholders, pen wipers, pins, gum, paper clips, sealing wax, ink, etc. Copies of the conditions and form of tender may be obtained from the "Economat Central, Ministère des Finances," Cairo, at which address also sealed tenders, made out on the proper form and accompanied by samples (in duplicate) of the goods it is proposed to supply, will be received up to noon on June 1.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-18). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Date, June 1.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of War for the supply of (1) forty tons of coco-nut oil and (2) 100 tons arachis oil into the War Department Stores, Tura. Date, May 16.

Sudan.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on May 10, 1916, for the supply of stores and material required by the above Department during the current year. Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, the Agent, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria, or to Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, London, S.W.

Roumania.

H.M. Minister at Bucharest telegraphs that the moratorium in respect of debts due abroad has been extended for a further period of four months, as from April 23.

Morocco.

H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier has forwarded a recent issue of the Cherifian *Bulletin Officiel* containing the text of a speech by the Director-General of Public Works, in which he explained the programme of the Government :—

The port works to be undertaken at Casablanca will be constructed with funds provided by France, while the works at Rabat, Kenitra, Mazagan, Saffi, and Mogador will be dependent on the funds of the "Caisse Spéciale," assisted by local contributions. The works to be undertaken at these latter places will be on a modest scale. The plans for Mazagan and Mogador were completed some time ago and the adjudication of the contracts duly took place, but owing to the war the works have not been commenced. Saffi, the natural port for Marrakesh, so far as its geographical position is concerned, presents considerable difficulties owing to the heavy sea and strong currents prevailing there. An iron pier is all that can be provided for at present, and the construction must be postponed until after the war owing to the present prohibitive price of metal. At Rabat and Kenitra, both of them ports with bars, dredging operations are to be carried out to deepen the channel and facilitate the passage of steamers.

As to roads, it is proposed to construct the following main arteries : (1) Kenitra to Mogador, *vid* Rabat, Casablanca, Mazagan,

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and Saffi; (2) Kenitra to Fez, (*a*) *vid* Zegota and the Sebou Valley and (*b*) *vid* Mequinez; (3) Kenitra to the Spanish Zone (*a*) following the railway and (*b*) by the coast; (4) Marrakesh to (*a*) Casablanca, (*b*) Mazagan, and (*c*) Mogador; and (5) Fez to Oujda, to be constructed as the district becomes pacified.

With regard to railways, the Director-General of Public Works stated that the Government were abiding by its agreement to build the Tangier-Fez line, and the contract for its construction was already signed. Other lines contemplated are: (1) Oujda to Fez; (2) Petit-Jean to Kenitra, which will thus be connected by rail with Mequinez and Fez; (3) Kenitra to Rabat and Casablanca; and (4) Casablanca to Marrakesh. Other lines will have to be laid eventually connecting the ports with each other and with the interior, but for the present the four main lines above-mentioned and the Tangier-Mequinez-Fez line afford a sufficiently ample programme.

Greece.

The French Consul-General at Athens gives the following particulars regarding the commercial situation in Greece as far as concerns imports. Price, owing to the competition of German and Austro-Hungarian products, is an essential factor, and should be fixed at the lowest level practicable, and should embrace freight, insurance, and packing. The Greek merchant only rarely opens direct negotiations with oversea producers, and foreign exporters have more often to treat with commission agents whose standing in consequence becomes of first importance. The French Consul also advises a more extensive employment of travellers, if only to counterbalance the local activities of the numberless German travellers in Greece. Particular attention must likewise be given to the drafting of the terms of the agreements come to. The bills of lading drawn in duplicate and sent by two different routes, should be as much as possible made out in a way to lessen the risks of the misappropriation of this deed and the diversion of the goods to improper third parties. Packing should be light, but strong. Settlement is made through a bank, which hands the documents to the purchaser against payment forthwith or against an accepted bill. The French exporter is dissuaded from drawing directly on the purchaser. Credit varies from two to three and from six to twelve months, and as the renewal of bills is common throughout the Levant, exporters would commit a great error in showing themselves too strict on this head. The French Consul advises the making out and forwarding of invoices in the fullest detail, and with gross and net weights of each article; to pack goods in solid cases, banded if possible; to insure against theft and other risks, and to indicate on the invoice the name of the representative in Greece of their insurance company to whom the goods-receiver should prefer his claim for damage or loss. It is to be observed that all commercial travellers are subject to special regulations, whereby among other things they must be furnished with a letter of recommendation subscribed by a competent authority in their own country; samples which they bear are allowed duty free only on condition that they are re-exported unmutilated within from six to twelve months, and subject to fulfilling certain Customs formalities. Commercial travellers are likewise exempt from the patent tax, if Greek commercial travellers are granted a like exemption.

ENEMY FIRMS IN EGYPT.

The *Official Journal* contains the following notice :—

The following firms have been granted a licence to trade without special restrictions, in place of the restricted licence granted to them in Section B. :—

N. Huri and Co., 8, Rue de l'Eglise Debbane, Alexandria.

Ismalum, René, 73, Rue Rosette, Alexandria.

Lancaster, Sasson and Co., 16, Rue El Caied Gohar, Alexandria.

Mr. G. Brey, St. James Hotel, Assouan, has been granted a licence to trade in Egypt, with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain, in accordance with the terms stated in Section B.

Engineering Notes.

Cultivation in Egypt and India.

A paper by Mr. James MacKenna, on "Scientific Agriculture in India," which was read before the Royal Society of Arts last Thursday, was the occasion of an interesting comparison between Egypt and India made by Mr. J. S. Beresford, who has had experience of irrigation in both countries. He said he found conditions very much the same, but the results very different as regards the production of the soil and the rentals that were charged. Both these in Egypt were very much in excess of what they were in India. The reason was that the Egyptian peasant was a man of some capital, who would think nothing of spending two pounds an acre on manure—mainly imported artificial manure. In 1909 Egypt imported 21,000 tons of artificial manure, value £178,000, and that went on increasing until in 1912 the import was 770,000 tons and the value £667,000. The peasant doubly recouped his expenditure in the greater value of the crop, and it was due to the use of these manures that the value of the crops could be maintained and high rents be paid. In India, with irrigation, where there was rich land, very heavy crops were secured for a number of years. In the early days of the Chenab colony the crops were quite as heavy as anything he had ever seen in Egypt, but in time the land became exhausted because the people were not able to add manure. Even in the Sudan people could not get on without manure, and in all the estimates he made for the reclamation of land there he never allowed less than £1 an acre for artificial manures in addition to what could be had locally. It was due to the use of manure that the crops of Egypt were so much heavier than they were in India under otherwise similar conditions.

Why We Lose Trade Abroad.

In previous notes on the above subject we have pointed out that, apart from other more important reasons, want of alertness on the part of British salesmen in meeting foreign buyers was often the cause of loss of trade. Sometimes good orders are lost to the British market simply because the foreign buyer, in attempting to apply for or describe an article in English, does not make himself intelligible; in such cases the puzzled salesman, instead of grasping the opportunity to secure the buyer, neglects or discards the opportunity. The result is obvious: The buyer goes elsewhere. In a trades journal the following paragraph appeared last week: "The joys of salesmanship were increased recently by the receipt in London of the following inquiry from Greece :—'One Camion automobile for cleaning a street—to be of four cylinders and of a magnetic spark, type Bosch, of automatic greasing. To have four speeds (three front and one back) and a stopper moved by hands and feet. The wheels to be fitted with self indiarubber. The benzine deposit to contain at least 100 litres. The iron tank must be placed on it for getting the dirties, which to be of a capacity at least 3 cubic metres. To be fitted in such a way as to turn down and be empty easily. To have three lanterns and a trumpet. The necessary accessories to be given with.' "We trust," says the journal, "that if more than one maker had the same enigma to peruse all the replies would be based on common ground." The wording may be amusing to an unconcerned reader, but not enigmatic to an alert business man with the ordinary technical knowledge, who would understand that the inquirer wants an automobile road-sweeping machine with four cylinders, Bosch magneto, three speeds forward and one reverse, and a brake operated by hand or foot. By self indiarubber, he probably means solid tyres. The iron tank for the "dirties" is the body for carrying refuse, with an easily operated tipping arrangement, and the machine to be fitted with three lamps and a horn. We hope that if any manufacturers other than the gentleman who gave the above amusing item to the Press as an "enigma" received the inquiry, they were wise enough to communicate with the applicant or applicants. For we are in a position to know that two or three municipal districts in Greece are contemplating the purchase of such sweeping machines.

Great Salvage Scheme.

It is reported from New York that the Inter-Ocean Submarine Engineering Company has made all the necessary arrangements and will soon begin the work of salving the bullion and other valuable cargoes from steamers sunk during the present European war. It is estimated that over £60,000,000 worth of goods can be recovered from vessels lying at a depth of not more than 400 ft., and among the various vessels that are receiving the special attention of the company is the Lusitania, which is supposed to contain the most valuable cargo. Rear-Admiral Chester, of the United States Navy, is president of the enterprise, whilst many prominent American bankers are providing the necessary funds. The leader of the enterprise is Chief Gunner Stillson, who devised the plans for raising the American submarine F4 from Honolulu waters, and is considered quite an expert in deep-sea salvage and diving operations. It would undoubtedly be of great interest to the company, as well as to historians, if the plant of the former could be employed in the port of Navarino, at the bottom of which have lain since 1827 114 Turko-Egyptian warships, all sunk by the allied fleets of Great Britain, France, and Russia. There are "3 ships of the line, 1 Pontoon, 16 Frigates, 27 Corvettes, 27 Brigs, and 40 Transports, all armed with guns the number of which has been ascertained to be 2,158." Besides these guns and other very valuable materials, there was a great amount of money, plate, etc., of which nothing has ever been salved. The ships lie at the bottom of the sea at a depth of 15 to 25 fathoms, and in the same position as when they were at anchor. A company was once formed for salving these ships, but want of funds prevented any progress, and the concession obtained from the Government expired. Beside Navarino, one or two ships were sunk between Cape Malea and the island of Cerigo. They were carrying some of the Elgin marbles, which were allowed to be taken away by the Turks from the Acropolis of Athens in 1812. In a severe storm they sunk, while the others escaped, going through the Straits and bringing safely to England what we now see in the British Museum.

ROUMANIAN REFINING INDUSTRY.

The war affected the production of crude oil in Roumania during 1915, but the refineries did not fare badly, all things considered, says the *Financier*. The quantity of petroleum entered into the refineries for treatment during 1915 amounted to 1,580,981 tons, as against 1,680.894 tons in 1914, thus showing a decrease of 100,000 tons, with the result that 1,553,803 tons of products were obtained in 1915, as against 1,656,870 tons in 1914, showing a decrease of 103,000 tons. The stocks of various petroleum products in the refineries at the end of the year amounted to about 800,000 tons, as against 500,000 tons at the end of 1914.

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Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system)
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O. B. 117. Telg.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 738.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY.
P. O. B. 1095. Telg.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2064.

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Near East Markets.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, May 4.

Currants.

The market is quiet, and only small transactions are taking place at late firm rates. There have been no new arrivals, and it is reported from Greece that great anxiety prevails there as to the prospects of the new crop, for, apart from the fear of peronosporos, there will be a great scarcity of boxes and bags for the export of the fruit. Neither wood nor bags are allowed to be imported, and none of these articles can be obtained in the country. The approaching new season seems, therefore, very problematical, and this may explain the present firmness of the market, for, in spite of the continuous slowness, there seems to be no possibility of any decline of prices at present.

Sultanas.

The market is steady, with a very moderate demand resulting in small business, generally in Afghanistan fruit.

Figs and Dates.

Both these articles have been slow of sale this past week, but prices remained very firm.

Seeds.

Linseed is quiet but steady. London-Calcutta, spot, is quoted to-day at 75s. 6d.; afloat, 75s.; May-June, 73s. Bombay, ordinary, May-June, 75s.; small grain, ditto, 74s. Hull-La Plata, May-June, 71s. Cottonseed is quiet. London-Egyptian, loading, is quoted at £14 15s., and Sakelarides, May, £13 10s. per ton. Rapeseed is firm. Toria-Hull, April-May, offered at 67s. Canaryseed, 85s. to 110s. per 464 lb. Hemp, 100s. to 110s. per 336 lb. Mustard, 28s. to 36s. cwt. Lentils, 23s.-28s. per 100 lb. Split peas, 98s. to 110s. per 504 lb.

Oils.

Linseed, spot pipes, landed, are offered at £38 5s.; barrels, ditto, £39 5s. Rape oil is dull. Ordinary brown, naked, spot, £49; English refined, barrels, £54 to £55. Cotton oil is well maintained. Crude, spot, in pipes, quoted £46; refined, pipes, pale, £49 10s., and barrels, sweet, £54 to £55, as to make.

Oil Cakes.

Cottoncakes.—Egyptian only are offered in very limited quantites on spot, holders asking £9 10s. per ton, with sellers for April-May shipments at £9 5s., ex ship terms. English makes are at £9 15s. for Egyptian seed, and £9 10s. for Bombay seed. Linseed cakes.—Only a small quantity of foreign origin is available, whilst English manufacturers have almost retired from the market, which made values to rise 5s. to 7s. 6d. per ton. London-made is now quoted £11 17s. 6d., and £12 to £12 5s. for fine seedy Calcutta.

GREEK CURRANT CROP.

Under date of February 7, the U.S. Consul at Patras reported that the estimated total currant crop of 1915 in Greece is 132,000 tons, including about 12,000 tons carried over from the previous season. The total shipped up to January 31 was 85,430 gross tons, which, with the quantity in kind which exporters are required to turn over to the privileged company on exported fruit, accounts for some 102,000 net tons of currants removed from the local market. This left about 30,000 tons for February 1. Since that date there have been under actual shipment to world markets some 10,000 tons of fruit, including corresponding retention. This leaves in sight on the local market, according to conservative local estimates, about 20,000 tons of currants. Of this about 15,000 tons are available for actual exportation. There is no reason to believe that the vineyards will be neglected or that they will receive less attention than in other years. The crop of 1915 was far short of normal, which is about 160,000 tons of dried fruit.

Prominent Industries of India

The Announcements below are published to acquaint our readers with the opportunity India affords the keen purchaser.

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COMPANY MEETING.

ONIAN BANK.

The ordinary general meeting of the Ionian Bank, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at the offices, 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C., Mr. Falconer Larkworthy (the Chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said, *inter alia*, that although competing abroad with foreign banks whose ideas of banking, owing to their large paid-up capitals and their relatively small deposits, induced them to become sponsors for, and often to be largely interested in, commercial and industrial enterprises, this bank for many years had refused absolutely all such business as being incompatible with safeguarding the interests of their depositors. As results of this policy the directors were pleased to point out that, in the midst of very disturbing circumstances, the bank had encountered no distrust of any kind on the part of its depositors during the year under consideration, and had to record a considerable growth in its resources, and in its business generally. This was evidenced by the fact that its assets and liabilities had reached the highest level in its history, and the Court were pleased to state that the bank's strength in reserves against its liabilities on demand continued ample for every probable requirement.

The Chairman then made an interesting survey of the general situation as far as the war was concerned. He urged a reconstruction and union of economic interests, which, in his opinion, if carried out on lines he indicated, would revolutionize the existing financial and currency systems which failed to answer their purpose during the crisis which overtook the economic world on the declaration of war. The currency system which he thought promised complete success was that of Greece, which had now worked for six years and had maintained the parity of exchange between that country and England and France respectively, notwithstanding serious adverse political and financial conditions. He argued that this system was applicable to all progressive States, and, after having developed his thesis, he directed the attention of the meeting to the countries in which the bank's sphere of operation lies. To Greece, its principal sphere, the consequences of the war had been in general very serious indeed. Exhausted by two wars and burdened by debt arising out of these, her armies depleted of their experienced officers and men by death and wastage, and with additions of devastated territory, ruined populations and despoiled refugees, time was required to recuperate and to develop her latent powers, which without doubt would have been equal to the occasion, but time was not allowed her. Nevertheless, in his opinion, it was regrettable that at whatever cost, Greece did not throw herself into the scale on the side of the Entente Powers, "on the side of humanity and civilization." It was quite clear that Greece was not in a position as far as her own resources were concerned to undertake another war, but the sinews might have been found. In Greece the ordinary soldier's pay is equal to one halfpenny per day and his food, with no shelter and practically no allowance for wife or family. If she could keep free from military complications with her neighbours, her growth in the past is a guarantee of a successful future. The Customs have suffered greatly; the support of about 600,000 refugees and mobilization have imposed upon the country great expenses, for which the assistance they have received from the Allies is but small compensation; so her ordinary revenue under existing conditions does not meet her ordinary expenses. The Chairman proceeded to refer to the opening of a branch bank at Salonika, and said: "Salonika was being rapidly converted into a great military base for a probable offensive and future Balkan campaign for the re-establishment of Serbia and Montenegro. It had arrived at a complete state of defence on the landward side and was open to the sea and, therefore, capable of being defended by the Allied fleet, but its civil population, numbering about 230,000, was in great straits owing to lack of the necessaries of life. At this juncture, being urged thereto by the British authorities, and the bank's connection with Egypt facilitating the process of obtaining some kinds of provisions, your directors felt bound to respond by establishing a branch, and taking measures to meet actual and further probable requirements. It is at Salonika that the British Army has its headquarters and departmental offices, and your branch has entered into regular relations with them. You will be pleased to hear also that the French Government have opened relations, through the Bank of France, with your head office in London and the branches in Greece, including Salonika. Although there are special currency difficulties to encounter, your directors, without any immediate prospect of profit, look forward to be able to lay the foundations of a successful business at this branch. This is the first of several branches of the bank that we expect to establish in the new territories acquired by Greece as soon as the passing of war conditions enables us to take the necessary steps."

Regarding Egypt, the Chairman stated that the economic position had greatly improved and had shown an unexpected rebound, aided by the great expenditure of the British Government on their troops held there in reserve, and on the wounded in the vast depots which have been established in Alexandria. The revenue receipts on December 15 had recovered so as to exceed expenditure. The same, if not greater, prosperity has been enjoyed by the Sudan, where the exports now exceed the imports. "The transactions of the bank during the year have been on a satisfactory basis, and the position secured by the bank with the Government is shown by the fact that it was appointed by the Government in the interests of the cultivators at Fayoum and Wasta to buy their cotton at fixed prices, when the state of the market should warrant interference, with the view of maintaining prices at a remunerative level. The cotton market in the earlier part of the year was dominated day by day in this country by the politics of the moment, and in America by the fears that the United States might be involved in the general war. The movements there, especially in regard to cotton for forward delivery during the earlier part of the year, were frequent and wide. The trend was to depression not only on war considerations, but on account of larger production and more limited exports, and difficulties of transport; but the position to-day is one of confidence in the future of the article, and prices have risen recently very considerably. Egyptian early spring deliveries were quoted lately in Liverpool 421 points over American. The crop is estimated at 4,800,000 cantars only, but in money it has realised about the same figure as the crop of 1914." Proceeding, the Chairman referred to the general position of the bank. Deposits had increased during the year in London, Egypt, and Greece by £915,293. Provision has been made for all depreciation below bank value on all securities, other than the War Loan, held by the bank in its books on January 13, 1916. The question of reserves has been dealt with as follows:—

Our deposits since we last met have increased in London, Egypt and Greece by £915,293. I cannot say that this increase is a permanent one or in any way represents the savings of our customers, as we know that many of them have limited their operations and are using the bank simply as a temporary receptacle of their capital while the political conditions remain unfavourable; still, gentlemen, we accept the increase as a sign of confidence in the bank. The other items are of usual character and require no comment. The outcome of opinion has been that the depreciation below book value of ordinary interest bearing securities should be reserved for, but that the securities connected with war finance should be taken at their book value. This bank, in pursuance of this course, has made provision for all depreciations below book value on all securities, other than the War Loan, held by it in its books on January 13, 1916. The Court has dealt with the question of reserves as follows:—All known losses have been written off and a sufficient sum has been provided to cover any loss that might arise on the surplus assets of the bank which are subject to exchange. The duty on excess profits is 60 per cent. of the net profits in excess of the average of any two of the three pre-war years, or in excess of the standard rate of 6 per cent. on the employed capital of the bank. The bank's liability to this tax is being considered by legal advisers. There is, perhaps, no emergency financial legislation that has excited so much adverse criticism as this. As it is necessary under existing conditions to make ample provision for "contingencies," the Court propose that the dividend should be confined to the accustomed rate of 5 per cent.

The Chairman, in conclusion, announced the appointment of M. S. de Bilinski and M. S. Moscovic to be joint managers of the bank in Athens. M. N. P. Calogeropoulos, of the Athens Board Committee having resigned, the Board, as such, has been abolished and is replaced by an Advisory Committee with powers of the usual character. Professor A. Andreadis, member of the Athens University, well known in London and Paris as an economist and banking expert, has accepted a seat on the Advisory Committee, which includes likewise, in the capacity of a non-resident member, M. Nicolo Marchetti, a full director of the bank, and a member of the local Board in Corfu.

The dividend recommended was declared, and resolutions were passed re-electing the retiring directors, Mr. Warrington Laing, Mr. Falconer Larkworthy, and Mr. John E. Hubbard.

Notes have been exchanged between the Persian Government and the Russian and British Legations in Teheran, constituting a Mixed Financial Commission which will examine the pecuniary resources which Persia needs, will control their employ, and will draft the first real Persian Budget.

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

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CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. **RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.**

Head Office: ATHENS.

BRANCHES.

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COMPANY REPORTS.

Egyptian Delta Land and Investment.

The report of the Egyptian Delta Land and Investment for 1915 states that no purchase of land has been made since the last general meeting. The sales consist of a small property of about 2½ feddans at Deirouth. On the other hand, a few plots of land at Meadi have reverted back to the company. The loss on taking back these plots has been written off the reserve account created for this purpose. No development of the Meadi properties was possible on account of the continuation of the war. All possible economies in working have been made, and all capital expenditure has been stopped, the most essential expenses of upkeep only being maintained. The electric lighting plant continues to work satisfactorily. The supply of current to the Australian camp and also to the camps for Turkish prisoners of war at Tourah has considerably increased. To meet this demand, and in order to have a set of machinery in reserve, a new Diesel engine plant has been contracted for, and should be working soon. This extra power will enable the irrigation and filter plants to be driven by electric current and avoid the costly use of the steam engine and coal. Every economy has been effected in the staff. The directors continue to renounce a large proportion of their fees. A net profit of £E5,467 is shown on the year's working, full provision having been made for depreciation, etc. The directors, as last year, recommend to distribute the entire profits of the year to the shareholders. They, therefore, propose to pay a dividend of 4d. per share on 324,250 shares, which will absorb £5,404.

Sun Life Assurance.

The Sun Life Assurance announces that, in view of the fact that the society's dividends are paid free of income tax and of the effect of the increased rate of tax on the income of the proprietors' fund, it has been found necessary to reduce the half-yearly dividend payable on July 1 next from 4s. 9d. to 3s. 9d. per share. The half-yearly dividend (3s. 9d.) and bonus (5s. 3d.) will thus together amount to 9s. per share, free of tax, as compared with 10s. per share half-yearly for the first four years of the current quinquennium.

EGYPTIAN TRANSPORT SHARES.

For some unknown reason (says the Cairo correspondent of *Railway News*, writing on April 13), the local share market in transport receipt has become extraordinarily depressed.

"The £10 preference shares of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways Co., Limited, for instance, are quoted as low as 5⅛, a figure which there is nothing in the financial position of the company, or the political situation generally, to justify. Last year, when the Ottoman attack on the Canal at least gave cause for uneasiness, even if there was never any real danger, the shares stood at 7. This year, when the situation is appreciably ameliorated in every way, the figure is, as stated, a much lower one. Probably the true reason is that shortage of money is bringing the script on a market which is not too ready to absorb anything, and nothing but an absolute bargain will find a buyer. This very probably accounts also for the 100-franc shares of the Alexandria Tramways standing at 87. The £1 script of the Alexandria-Ramleh Railway, a concern which paid a 25 per cent. dividend last year, has fallen from 4½ to 3½. It may be mentioned *en passant*, however, that the enemy's submarine warfare in the Mediterranean does not seem to have affected market quotations for the script of local steamship companies. Thus, the ordinary £1 shares of the Levant Steamship Company are above par at 25s. 9d., and the founders' shares of the same concern stand at face value."

GREEK FINANCES.

So serious has the financial position of Greece become that radical retrenchment in various forms is of vital necessity. Unfortunately, the most serious cause of expenditure, army mobilisation, cannot in present circumstances be much diminished, though the Government is doing its utmost to lessen the daily cost by granting extended and frequent leave of absence to large numbers of officers and men with the colours. The present deficit in the National Budget is £15,200,000, and it is now increasing at the rate of £36,000 per day. According to the *Financial Times*, M. Rallis, the recently appointed Finance Minister, has proposed various methods of retrenchment which, in his opinion, would, if put into practice, bring some sort of stability into the 1916 Budget. M. Rallis does not favour the tax on war profits, and thinks that the estimates for the 1916 Budget must be entirely revised, so as to reduce the estimated deficit to practically nil. This can only be effected by increased taxation, which at present is comparatively light per head of population, and by a radical cutting down of expenditure hitherto considered as absolutely essential.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

ANGLO EGYPTIAN BANK.—The directors have declared an interim dividend of 5s. per share, less tax, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ended February 29, payable June 1.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for week, 1,032 tons (last week 387 tons); Hurgada production for week 557 tons (last week 517 tons).

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for ten days ended April 10 amount to £E4,739, as against £E3,935 for the corresponding period of last year.

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT OF PERSIA FIVE PER CENT. STERLING LOAN OF 1911.—The coupons due May 15 instant will be paid on and after that date, at the Imperial Bank of Persia, 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C., or at their bankers, Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Production for the week ended April 22, 588 tons.

THE GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY CAIRO.

The ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the above Company will be HELD in CAIRO on the 31st May next. Shareholders wishing to be represented at that Meeting should lodge their Share Warrants with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, 27, Clements Lane, E.C., not later than the 16th May.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Côtes du 20 Avril, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt		11⅜	to	11 7/16
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	86	,,	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11½	,,	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5	,,	—
priv.	L.E.	2⅜	,,	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	129	,,	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	94½	,,	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs.	46	,,	
Privilégiée	Frs.	92	,,	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	74¼	,,	75
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2 1/16	,,	—
Comptoir Financier and Commercial d'Egypte	£	11 3/16	,,	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	3/32	,,	—
Union Foncièr d'Egypte	L.E.	9/32	,,	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	3 1/32	,,	—
Bonded Warehouse	L.E.	4⅞	,,	—
Unifiée	L.E.	80	,,	80½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4⅛	,,	—
Fondateur	£	18	,,	—
Pressage et dépôts	£	27/32	,,	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	1 1/32	,,	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	4 1/16	,,	4 3/32
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3 1/16	,,	—
Ord.	£	14/6	,,	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3½	,,	—
Egypt. Delta Light Railway	£	5	,,	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£	103	,,	—
Jouissance	£	150	,,	160
Egyptian Markets		22/9	,,	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	150	,,	—
Div.	Frs.	96	,,	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	85	,,	87
Egyptian Salt and Soda		15/3	,,	15/6
Crédit Foncier d'Egypte	Frs.	572	,,	—
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	309½	,,	310
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	255½	,,	256
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	250	,,	—
Delta Land	£	3/32	,,	—
Port Said Salt		29/9	,,	30/-
Cotton Ginners	£	3/32	,,	1/16
New Egyptian	£	6/-	,,	—
United Land	P.T.	4	,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.		24/6	,,	25/-
Fondateur		85/-	,,	90/-

Marché nul.

LONDON EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	—	80
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	86	76½xd
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	64½xd
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	63xd
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	53	65
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	52½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	46½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	41
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	53	52
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	48½
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	65
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, So., £60p.	92	—	86
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	76
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	67xd
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	4½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69xd
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10¾
Bank of Abyssinia	¾	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	6	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	11½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	—
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirseus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	—	1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¾	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2½
Do. Do. Def.	⅜	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	5½
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/-
Do. Def.	¾	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	8/6
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	83½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	1/16
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
,, ,, Founders	¾	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 % Cum. Pref.	9⅞	—	6⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	70½
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	6/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	3/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	1/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/7½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	24/-
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	15/7½
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	17/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	—	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	1½

OIL.	Price on April 26.	May 3.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/6	7/6
Anglo-Persian	19/9	20/-
European Oilfields	3/9	3/9
Roumanian	13/3	13/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	April 5.	May 3.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	445	443
Canal de Suez	4035	4275
Credit Foncier Egyptien	—	—
Turkish Unified 4%	57	59.50
Egyptian Unified 4%	88.50	90
Serbian, 1895	—	—

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 262.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

In due course, we may hope, Lord Kitchener's well-deserved tribute to General Townshend and his force will reach them in their captivity. Before Kut surrendered they knew, in General Townshend's simple words, that they had done their duty, and that their situation was one of the fortunes of war. The nation is not likely to forget what Lord Kitchener termed the dogged determination and splendid courage which have earned for them so honourable a record, and will unanimously support the verdict that "they did all that was humanly possible to resist to the last, and that their surrender reflects no discredit on themselves or on the record of the British and Indian Armies." To this encomium may be added the passage in which General Nixon refers in his dispatches to General Townshend: "He was tried very highly, not only at the Battle of Ctesiphon, but more especially during the retirement that ensued. Untiring, resourceful, and even more cheerful as the outlook grew darker, he possesses, in my opinion, very special qualifications as a commander. He is imperturbable under the heaviest fire, and his judgment is undisturbed."

A message from the representative of the British Press with the Expeditionary Force in Mesopotamia gives some interesting particulars of the siege of Kut. The statement previously made in these columns that the dispatch of the relief expedition was unduly hastened in the belief that General Townshend was near the end of his resources is confirmed. But the mere advance of General Aylmer's column sufficed to relieve the pressure on Kut, and the garrison, finding that they were to be allowed to husband their ammunition resources, entertained little doubt of their ability to hold out until relief came. At that time the troops were on full rations. It was only when the difficulties of the Tigris Corps were realised that anxiety arose over the question of supplies. Shut up with the garrison in Kut was a civil population of about 6,000 inhabitants. During the first few days of the investment some of these had left the town; they were at once taken by the Turks and shot, and the remainder were given to understand that any who tried to escape would be executed. They had perforce to remain, and their presence, as the Turks intended it should be, was a serious embarrassment to the garrison. On January 24 the discovery of considerable grain stores hidden away in the houses, mostly underground, gave Kut a fresh lease of life. Supplied as he then was with provisions for some two months, General Townshend may well have felt confident of being able to hold out. But the time was not long enough to allow the relief column to overcome the adverse elements, and, in spite of provisions dropped by aeroplane, the garrison was brought to the very verge of starvation.

The Turks, it is satisfactory to be able to record, behaved with exemplary forbearance and chivalry. Khalil Pasha, the Turkish commander, displayed a genuine anxiety to have the garrison supplied with food as soon as possible, and placed no obstacles in the way of an exchange of the wounded. The request for immunity for the native population in Kut, who, General Townshend explained, had been retained there by *force majeure*, he was not prepared to grant unconditionally. He disclaimed, however, any intention of reprisals or persecution, but their future treatment would depend on their future conduct. With this assurance the British commander had to be content. He received himself every possible courtesy from his captors, and had the satisfaction of seeing supplies for the town arrive up the river in a very few days. A further point raised during the negotiations regarding prisoners was the exchange of British women and children, former residents in Baghdad, whom the Turks have kept interned at Mosul or elsewhere, for the wife and daughter of the Commissioner of Amarah and twenty-five Turkish officials. Khalil Pasha was favourable to the idea, but the question does not appear to have been finally settled. The British subjects concerned are the wives and families who were detained by the Turks in Baghdad, when the male British residents were transferred to Syria. The latter were subsequently allowed to leave the country by Jemal Pasha.

A tardy statement elicited from the Under-Secretary for War by a question in the House of Commons justifies the doubt thrown in these columns last week on the accuracy of the Turkish allegation that the aeroplanes used by the Tigris Corps were so inferior that they were easily shot down by superior machines on the enemy's side. The facts are that one British seaplane was driven down into the Turkish lines, the observer being killed and the pilot wounded; in another case the pilot was wounded, but succeeded in landing safely behind the British lines. These were the only air casualties during the operations; but between April 11 and April 29 (four days, it will be noted, after the capitulation of Kut) British aeroplanes dropped at

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Kut 18,000 lb. of food, in addition to quantities of medicines and stores and materials.

Constantinople *communiqués*, never very reliable, are now indulging, not only in exaggeration, but also in wholesale fabrications. This feature coincides with reports of significant happenings in the Turkish capital. There seems no reason to doubt the accuracy of the statement that Hairi Bey, Sheikh-ul-Islam, has now resigned. His resignation was reported as long ago as last September, and was then connected with differences of opinion between him and the Committee on the subject of the German control of Turkish affairs. As his successor is now named in a Constantinople message, it may be inferred that he has persisted in his resignation. By itself the incident may be of little moment, but it may possibly be the herald of interesting developments.

To what extent the surrender of Kut can be used by the Turkish Government to off-set the Russian successes in Armenia must remain an open question. The violence of the enemy's counter-attacks along the Russian front in this theatre betray an anxiety to forestall any further attempt on the part of the Russians to advance. But the latest reports indicate that our Allies are once more moving forward along the whole front. They are clearly near enough to Erzinjan to have given rise to a rumour in Turkey that the town had fallen, for a Turkish official statement denies its accuracy. Again, the Russians claim to have driven the Turks from the range of mountains which runs south of the region of Mush. If the ejection is complete, it will leave the further advance on Diarbekr a comparatively easy task, for the country south of this range becomes much more open. The locality of the fighting on the Persian frontier is somewhat obscure, and we cannot be sure that, with the turn which events have taken on the Tigris, our Allies will feel called upon to press on hurriedly towards Baghdad. But they must now be within twenty miles of Khanikin, from which point the road falls gradually towards Baghdad, and are still pressing on, driving the Turks before them.

A certain liveliness is reported from the "Salonika front." French troops have taken possession of Florina, some twenty-three miles south of Monastir, the Allies have bombarded the enemy's positions west of the Vardar, and the enemy have replied with a bombardment of extreme violence for several hours along the whole front. The purpose of the latter will be to discourage any attempt on the part of the Franco-British forces to advance, or to cover movements of troops behind the Bulgar-German line. A more positive achievement than these artillery duels is the destruction of a Zeppelin which passed over Salonika in the early morning of May 5. It was hit by a shell from the Fleet, and fell towards the marshes at the mouth of the Vardar, fifteen miles from the town, where a British destroyer sealed its fate. The destruction of this Zeppelin coincided with the loss on the Schleswig coast of another, which the British Navy could also claim as its victim. Three days previously a third Zeppelin, L20, had been wrecked on the Norwegian coast after a raid on England. That the Salonika force should have contributed to the destruction of three of these pests in as many days is at least a satisfactory interlude in what must be regarded as a period of lull in the Near East.

Somewhat late in the day the disadvantage of allowing the Central Powers to draw upon the large supplies of grain which Roumania has for export, and must, as a national necessity, sell, was appreciated by the Allied Governments. The first Anglo-Roumanian wheat contract was signed on January 20. An Austro-German syndicate, however, had already arranged for the delivery of half a million tons of wheat, and the British contract for 800,000 tons still left the Roumanians with a large supply on their hands. The Central Powers replied, it is understood, with an offer to purchase a million tons of various kinds of cereals, and the export of about one-third of this amount has been sanctioned in Roumania. Now the British Buyers' Syndicate has stepped in and secured a contract for the purchase of all flour available for export, a penalty of an indemnity of £60,000 attaching to the sale of any flour to any other foreign buyer for four months. Previous contracts for flour, of course, hold good, and by this means no less than 4,000 wagons go to Turkey, Austria, and Germany. Roumania has to adopt the principle that a country must live. Until the time comes for her participation in the war she requires to realise on her products. Her sales to Germany enable her to secure certain German goods of which she stands in need. Before the end of the four months specified in the last British contract, it is to be hoped that the danger of flour being exported to non-Allied countries will have been eliminated by other means.

The unique position which M. Venizelos occupies in the Hellenic nation is well exemplified by the Parliamentary situation in Greece. At the last general election he held that the Government was acting *ultra vires*, and refused to be a party to the unconstitutional proceedings. The elections took place, but much less than half the electorate went to the polls. As the Government persists in its contention that it is acting in accordance with the Constitution, and shows no disposition to mend or end itself, M. Venizelos has shifted his ground, and intends to challenge its action in the Chamber. The embargo on its members standing for Parliament has been withdrawn by the Liberal party, with the result that Venizelists are now being returned at each by-election. M. Venizelos himself has been returned unopposed for Mytilene. His reappearance in the Chamber will add interest to its debates; but the Government still controls the situation, and as M. Venizelos will have the support of only a few deputies, he cannot hope to secure an adverse vote against M. Skouloudis' Cabinet. On the other hand, the course of events in Greece generally seems likely to play into his hands, and it will make it easier for King Constantine to adjust Greek policy to the wishes of his subjects, if M. Venizelos is at the time one of the Parliamentary representatives of the people.

The visit of the Zil-es-Sultan to England has a somewhat melancholy aspect in view of the loss he has recently suffered in the death of his son, Prince Bahram, who was drowned when the Sussex was torpedoed in the English Channel. But the interests of his country, it may be presumed, have brought him to London at this time, and his presence here can hardly fail to have a bearing on the future of Persia. The Zil-es-Sultan has proved himself in the past a strong and capable administrator. The course of events in Persia has of late years curtailed his powers of usefulness, but the time would seem to have come when his services can again be utilised in the interests of Persia. One of his sons is now acting as Governor of Ispahan, and, as a correspondent reminds us, the appointment has raised the hopes of the people that the province will once more be ruled as well as it was in his father's days.

In a letter published in our last issue a correspondent challenges the contention advanced in THE NEAR EAST that the Allied Powers, as trustees of the future peace of Europe, are responsible for the settlement of the Near Eastern question. If Europe were not in the melting-pot, if Serbia's struggle had been with Bulgaria alone, and if there were no prospect of the formation of a great Southern Slav State, it would be impossible to expect Serbia to surrender even a small strip of territory to Bulgaria. But Serbia stands for Southern Slav unity on the basis of the principle of nationality, and in 1912 she recognised certain territory as legitimately Bulgarian and other territory as debatable ground. Bulgaria also accepted the arrangement, and, if the Allied Powers are satisfied that the basis was equitable, they are in a position to ignore Bulgarian "dissatisfaction," if justice has been done.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 25.

Shem-El-Nessim.

Yesterday was Shem-el-Nessim, literally "the day of the smelling of the breezes," which is always treated as a national holiday, and on which there is a general cessation of business throughout the country. This year the holiday and the feast of Easter were more universally observed than usual, owing to a coincidence in religious calendars. The Easter of the Western and Eastern Church both fell on the same day, whilst Easter Monday and Shem-el-Nessim coincided with the last day of the Jewish feast of the Passover. This falling together of these fixtures must be a distinct relief to those doing business in this part of the world, for one of the great drawbacks under which commercial men suffer in this country is the multiplicity of religious calendars, which, owing to the cosmopolitan nature of their staff and their chief clients, the financial and other establishments are forced to observe, and which at times seriously upsets and delays business arrangements and negotiations. The feasts have passed off without any untoward incidents throughout the country, which has now settled down to an unusually long period unmarked by any religious or other holiday, the next *dies non* not occurring until June 11.

The Eastern Frontier.

Whether those in command of the few scattered Turkish forces in the Sinai, being aware of the abovementioned coincidence of feasts, thought to catch our eastern frontier force napping, cannot be said, but the Easter holidays were certainly marked by unwonted activity on the part of the enemy. The most noteworthy feature was the appearance of hostile aircraft over the Canal. Fortunately, no damage was done, but this development clearly indicates the need for clearing the Peninsula of all hostile bodies, for re-establishing ourselves at the old frontier, and for driving the enemy back into Syria to such a distance as will render it impossible for him to make air raids on the Canal. It is understood that our Higher Command has decided on this course of action, and that the recent "reconnaissances" are a prelude to a more general forward movement. We may, therefore, hear interesting news from the Sinai in the very near future.

The Sultan's Household.

The new Budget provides for an assistant to the French Secretary to H.H. the Sultan—the post at present filled with dignity and success by Arekel Bey Nubar, the grandson of Egypt's great statesman and the son of the champion of Armenia at the Courts of Europe—but at the same time the post of English Secretary to his Highness has been suppressed. The English Secretaryship at the Palace of Abdin was created as a counterblast to the French Secretary, who was appointed by Abbas II. at a time when the political antagonism between our present allies and ourselves was still very acute, and when it was imperative for us that a closer watch should be kept on the ex-Khedive's movements and actions. To-day, of course, that necessity no longer exists. We are on the best of terms with our one-time rivals of Gaul, whose interests coincide now with our own, and we have on the throne of the illustrious Mohammed Ali a Prince who has shown himself in every way worthy of the high position to which he has been called, and who in thought, word, and deed is well disposed towards the Protecting Power. Whilst the disappearance of the English Secretaryship is perhaps to be regretted, no doubt the authorities had their own very good reasons for permitting it.

Egyptian Opinion on the War.

The news of the fall of Trebizond, whilst it was hailed with delight by the foreign communities, was on the whole received with little comment by the Egyptians. As I said on the occasion of the taking of Erzeroum, the names of towns, etc., in Asia Minor convey absolutely nothing to the local Moslem population, no matter how great the strategic importance of those towns may be. The only event in the campaigns in Asiatic Turkey that would impress them would be the fall of Baghdad, and even then it is doubtful whether certain sections of the "Egyptian" community would believe the news. Indeed, there are many who maintain that the Russian capture of Erzeroum and Trebizond is a pure invention on our part, and who are firmly convinced that the Germans have captured Verdun. Likewise there are many who refuse to believe the recent revelations made as to anti-Islamic propaganda on the part of the Germans in Deutsch-Ost-Afrika, and see in the publication of the details merely a natural desire on our part to discredit by every possible means the Teuton amongst the Moslems.

Anzac Day in Egypt.

Anzac Day, the anniversary of the glorious Gallipoli landing, was most fittingly celebrated wherever Australasians were gathered together to-day. At Tel-el-Kebir there were sports and other celebrations to mark the day, but the chief ceremonies took place in Cairo. A memorial service was held at the new Anzac Hostel, where the officiating clergymen included the Bishop in Jerusalem, and where a crowded congregation of officers, soldiers, and civilians was assembled. Sir Henry and Lady McMahon were represented respectively by Lieutenant-Colonel J. K. Watson and Lady Cheetham. At the service cablegrams were read from General Godley, Mr. W. M. Hughes, Mr. James Allen, and Senator G. F. Pearce, and at the conclusion thereof a procession was formed which proceeded to the British cemetery, where wreaths were placed on the graves of the "Anzacs" buried there, and the customary military honours were accorded the illustrious dead. In the afternoon a tea and concert was arranged in the Esbekia Gardens for the men by the High Commissioner, and the day closed with a grand concert in the Anzac Hostel. Nor were the men in the hospitals forgotten, every effort being made to enable them fittingly to commemorate one of the most glorious days in their country's history.

THE CAIRO BOMB OUTRAGE.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports (May 8):—The trial, before a military court, of the two men charged with complicity in the bomb outrage against the Sultan last year commenced this morning, the court and its environs being crowded. The morning was taken up with the speech of Sir William Brunyate on behalf of the prosecution. A later telegram states that Sir William concluded his speech on Tuesday, and that the taking of evidence then began.

With reference to the proposal for the erection of an Anglican Cathedral in Cairo, to which our Cairo Correspondent referred some weeks ago, it is now announced that no general appeal for public funds will be issued for the present, but any subscriptions received before the end of the war will be invested in War Loan Stock. Already £400 yearly for five years has been promised locally.

Under date May 8, Reuter's Paris correspondent reports that Italian troops have occupied Bardia, about twenty miles north of Sollum, on the Tripoli-Egyptian frontier.

In a review of events since February, 1915, and Greece's relations with the Entente Powers, the Venizelist *Kyrix* contends that M. Skouloudis, the Greek Premier, is to blame for the present sinister outlook in Greece. The Government, adds the *Kyrix*, instead of seeking to improve its relations with the Entente, made matters worse by a categorical refusal to allow the passage of Serbian troops through Greek territory.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, April 17.

Salonika Journal Suspended.

In a previous letter I made reference to the Press of Salonika, and remarked that one of our *boche* publications called *Nea Alithia* (*New Truth*) disseminated a decidedly new kind of "truth" largely concocted in Germany. It is a widely circulated evening paper (in Greek), an ardent purveyor of false news, and a bitter enemy of the Allies. Its last exploit was to announce the sinking by German submarines of two transports carrying Serbian troops from Corfu, which news was, of course, absolutely false. But the curious thing now is that it has been suspended not so much for telling its clumsy falsehoods, but for telling what is believed to be the truth about certain movements of French troops. All the local newspapers have been warned by General Sarrail that they must not make any mention whatever of the movements of the Allies within the field of operations here. The reason is obvious. Yet the *Nea Alithia* took upon itself to disregard these instructions and to print particulars of manifest use to our enemies. Retribution was swift and severe. Next morning General Sarrail sent along a dozen gendarmes, who occupied the offices, and the paper has been stopped for an indefinite period. One significant fact about this incident is that the General did not worry about the Greek authorities. With his usual decision he carried out his own sentence, and merely intimated the fact to the Prefect, who has since been telephoning and telegraphing urgent messages to Athens for instructions. But in the face of the *fait accompli* he can do nothing but protest. This seems to be the main occupation of the Greek Government at present, and they must by this time have accumulated a very complete collection of these useless documents.

Spies, Spies Everywhere.

On more than one occasion I have referred to the spy danger here; but no really effective measures have yet been taken to cope with this danger. As will be seen from what I have said above, there are spies not only among the civil population, but even among the Greek military themselves. This very day General Sarrail informed us that at a place called Cernareka, near Verria, the French had arrested a civilian and a Greek soldier, who were carrying letters to the Bulgarians, in one of which information was given to the enemy about the French camps and telephone lines. They were both tried by court-martial and condemned to death. The civilian was at once shot, but, out of respect to the Greek army, with which his relations are quite friendly, General Sarrail placed the soldier at the disposition of General Moschopoulos, in supreme command of the Greek troops here. Will this soldier be punished or will he, like the other spy, Avdis, be decorated as a reward for his treachery? What most people realise is that so long as Greek troops remain within the zone of military operations and thousands of enemy subjects are allowed to roam about here as they please, there will be no security for the Allies.

A few arrests are being made from time to time. One of these was that of a Greek who had written an objectionable postcard to a friend in Germany. The mails leaving Salonika had been examined by the Allies on board a Greek ship as she left the harbour, and this card, as well as other compromising correspondence, came to light.

"Revue Franco-Macedonienne."

Under the above title the French have just issued the first number of a new magazine, edited and written entirely by officers and men of the French army here. This number runs to sixty-four pages, and contains articles on "African Troops in the Near East," "Tiflis, the Russian Army Base," "The Deunmés," and others of interest.

Official Moving Pictures.

Another example of the thoroughness with which the French are attending to every useful detail here is the way in which they provide for the entertainment as well as the feeding and clothing of their officers and men. There is an expert cinematograph operator attached to Headquarters, who has produced some excellent official films. From time to time the French issue invitations to view these pictures at one of the cinematograph theatres here, and the privilege is greatly appreciated. Here we see views of life in the trenches and in various French and British camps, the work of the aviators, General Sarrail at Athens, a military review, and other interesting subjects. Perhaps the most entertaining were one showing a regular circus dug out at a French camp, with numerous "turns" representing trained horses, acrobats, and the inevitable clowns; and another film of a camp of Highlanders in the kilt with their reels, Highland fling, sword dances, and other interesting items.

"Out of Bounds."

As is well known, the sale of absinthe to the French troops is prohibited, yet some places of business here secretly supply it. In such cases General Sarrail promptly declares such places "out of bounds," either for a time or indefinitely. The other day the great business house of Orosdi Back (a French concern) was found to have offended, and was at once "consigné," or declared out of bounds, so that no soldier is permitted to buy anything at the establishment in question on pain of severe punishment. The general is determined to protect his men from the evil effects of this drink.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, April 22.

The Cyprus Library.

The papers publish a reply from Athens, dated March 26, from Prince Nicholas of Greece, through the Controller of the Household, M. E. Romanos, stating that the Prince warmly congratulates the Committee on the admirable idea which inspired the founding of the "Cyprus Library," and consents to take under his patronage an institution which will be of such benefit to the community.

The Greek Easter.

This festival was celebrated yesterday (April 23). The church bells were rung at 2 a.m. by order of the Archbishop, and the solemn service held at 3 a.m. Collections for the poor are made annually in advance, and the churches do what they can to relieve the poor, who this year thronged the distributing centre in much larger numbers than last year. Much regret has been expressed that the amount of the alms available has been quite inadequate to the needs of the poor people.

At the English Club at Nicosia an entertainment will be given on April 29 and May 1 on behalf of soldiers blinded during the war.

The Greek newspapers reproduce from the *Hestia*, of Athens, the long letter of Prince Nicholas of Greece to Lord Burnham of the *Daily Telegraph*.

The Holy Synod has concluded its sittings, having dealt with various matters relating to the Church and Education.

ANOTHER GERMAN LIE.

The Press Bureau announces:—The following wireless message has been addressed to the German Embassy at Washington:—

"Athens reports British and French, violating Geneva flag, exclusively effected transport of Serbs in hospital ships in order to avoid torpedoing by submarines."

The Secretary of the Admiralty states that "this is an absolute fabrication."

By order of the French Minister for Foreign Affairs the German Consul at Salonika and the *personnel* of the Consulate who were brought to Toulon and interned in a fort have been conducted to the Swiss frontier.

In order to avoid friction between Greek frontier posts in Northern Epirus and Italian patrols in territory claimed by Italy, the Greek Government has proposed that a mixed Commission shall delimit the frontier.

The *Journal des Balkans* relates that for some time past the Germans have been buying up dogs in Roumania and exporting them into Germany. They pick out the biggest animals they can find, and pay for them 50 to 60 francs a-piece. They are used in the German Army for drawing Maxims.

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 15.

German "Thoroughness."

Persons arriving from Bulgaria and Transylvania confirm the report that German emissaries are taking advantage of the present poverty-stricken state of the population in order to purchase ground wherever possible in both countries referred to, and in the more fertile regions of Macedonia. They pay with either German, Austrian, or Bulgarian paper, which is not worth much more there than elsewhere, but the unfortunate sellers, forced by hunger to dispose of their property, are obliged to receive it at its face value. The German authorities in these districts do all in their power to introduce this Teuton influence, and are offering ground free, or nearly so, to disabled German soldiers and their families, or to the relations of those killed in the war, on condition that they go immediately to their new homes, in order to help maintain German influence in the newly acquired regions. The Bulgarians do not at all relish these signs and others equally significant of the Hun having come to stay, but they are now practically helpless to oppose the arrangement.

For Prisoners of War.

The following Bill regarding the provision to be made for prisoners of war has been submitted to the Chamber:—

The law for the fixing of subsidies for the maintenance of prisoners is modified as follows:—

The sum to be granted for board and lodging to prisoners of war being doctors, sanitary officers, or army officers, is per month for generals, 120 frs.; for colonels, 100 frs.; for lieutenant-colonels, 90 frs.; for captains, 80 frs.; for doctors who are chiefs of section and of military institutions, 70 frs.; for lieutenants and sub-lieutenants, 60 frs.

The above is to be considered as dating from October 1, 1915, the day when war was declared.

In connection with this law it is interesting to note the prices which some foodstuffs, etc., are now fetching in Bulgaria. These are, for example:—Veal, 2 frs. 60 c. per kilo; pork, 3 frs.; butter, 7 frs.; lard, 5 frs.; olive oil, 7 frs.; milk, 60 centimes; rice, 1-10; white beans, 80 centimes; lentils, 1 fr.; sugar, 1 fr. 55 c.; common coffee, 8 frs.; common cheese, 4-20; potatoes, 48 centimes; petroleum, 65 centimes per litre. These are "official" prices. Those who know the actual circumstances will read not double but treble these prices; and it will thus be seen that the allowances for officers of every grade are utterly insufficient. There is little doubt that the reduction is due to Teuton influence.

The Occupied Territories.

Referring to the organisation of law courts in the occupied territories, the *Balkanska Tribuna* says:—

The reports current as to the opening of law courts in the new territories are premature. The Ministry of Justice asked for a credit with this object, hoping to see the war finished in the first quarter of the financial year, when it could have begun to organize law courts immediately the troops were liberated. However, the war goes on, and the execution of the plan is impossible, for the reason that the greater part of the judges are with the Colours, and likely to remain so.

The Bulgarian prefects appointed to the districts occupied in Old Serbia have reported to the Ministry of the Interior at Sofia that the "greater part" of the Serbian refugees from the respective districts have returned to their homes and have resumed their ordinary occupations. As to the state in which the returned refugees have found their property the reports are silent.

According to news from Monastir, signs of insubordination show themselves frequently in the Bulgarian army, and a few days ago a large body of soldiers refused to obey orders, demanding to be dismissed to their homes.

"First-class" Prisons.

The questions of prisons has been one which has troubled the authorities in Bulgaria since the comencement of the war. All the existing prisons are being improved and enlarged, whilst many new ones have been constructed. There is no need to say that they are quickly filled to repletion with the enemies of the present Government and the notables of the towns and villages of Serbia. An order of the Ministry of Justice now classifies them in a manner that would be comic if the whole business were not so terribly tragic. The prisons of Nish, Pojarevatz, Skoplje, and Monastir are "first-class" prisons; others are "second class"; whilst there is also a "third class" for the more humble boarders.

Jobbery.

Long before mobilization actually took place in Bulgaria the Bulgarian Government did everything possible to encourage immigration from Macedonia, and as soon as any Macedonians arrived they were enrolled in the special Strumnitza Corps. This corps has made a name for itself, always being where danger was thickest, and suffering enormous losses. As a result thousands of their women and children are in mourning and in poverty. Having learned that there are funds in Bulgaria for the assistance of the families of those who have fallen in battle, these poor people applied to the authorities; but though thirty million francs have been distributed to Bulgarians in want, a deaf ear has been turned to the petition of these Macedonians. It has been announced that help can only be given when committees have been formed and official lists have been submitted to the Government. But, according to persons coming from Sofia, most of the funds never reach those for whom they are intended, finding their way instead into the pockets of members of the Government and their satellites, and every possible difficulty is thrown in the way of the formation of such committees as those referred to.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN BULGARIA.

(From Our Bucharest Correspondent.)

As already announced, the American Diplomatic Agent in Sofia has visited the depot of British prisoners at Philippopolis, where about 160 are now concentrated, and we are glad to hear that he was able to distribute relief to them. Of the other British prisoners in Bulgaria about sixty are in hospital at Sofia, where, it is said, they can be freely seen; thirty are in quarantine at the railway station at Sofia, and about twenty are at hospitals at Vratza and Tatar Bazardjik. Forty are quite inaccessible at Alexandrova in the military zone, and perhaps eighty or ninety are likewise so in the mountains at Tlidéré.

Mr. Einstein has received a statement in writing from the Ministry of War that all British prisoners will be concentrated at the depot at Philippopolis, but this has not yet been done. As soon as they are there it will be quite easy to distribute relief.

It is stated (says *The Times* Athens correspondent) that the Bulgarian Minister here has requested the Greek Government to reopen the frontier at Oxilar, on the Salonika-Constantinople line, which had been closed in consequence of the exclusion of neutral travellers from Bulgarian territory. M. Skouloudis suggested a settlement on the basis of reciprocal facilities.

Mr. Alex Devine, Commissioner of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Committee of London, will, on his return, present his report as to the condition of the Montenegrin refugees in Europe, which has been the object of his investigation on the Continent during the last six weeks. Whilst he was at the island of Lipari, near Sicily, he met a large contingent of refugees of various Slavonic nationalities who are at present residing there, under the protection of the Italian Government, and at the suggestion of the Préfet of Messina, Mr. Devine addressed them at an open-air meeting in front of the British Consulate. He assured the refugees of the warm sympathy of England towards all who, having been loyal to Montenegro, had been loyal to Serbia, and the aspiration of the whole of the Jugo-Slavonic people, and, therefore, loyal to their Allies, England, Italy, France, and Russia.

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FOUNDED DECEMBER, 1914.

President, VISCOUNTESS BRYCE.

Donations are earnestly entreated for the relief of sickness and distress among 250,000 destitute Armenian refugees in the Caucasus, whose condition is "pitiable in the extreme." Relief pay is less than 4d. per head a day. Food and all necessaries of life are very dear. A copy of the Report for last year will be sent to inquirers. All work in connection with this Fund is voluntary. Contributions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Emily J. Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W. Cheques may be made payable to the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund; they should be crossed "London and South Western Bank, Holland Park Branch."

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, April 18.

Closure of Parliament.

The Roumanian Parliament was closed on April 17, a day before the date previously fixed, so that many deputies and senators who had returned to their homes for the Sunday only heard the news on arriving in the capital. An interpellation had been announced on the subject of Bulgarian machinations and espionage in the Dobruja, and, according to one version, it was with the object of avoiding this that the Government decided to anticipate by twenty-four hours the closure of the Parliamentary session.

A large number of legal measures were hurried through during the last days of the session, measures which, according to general opinion, are in many cases right in principle but calculated to prove unsatisfactory in their application because of their immaturity, which in turn is due to hasty preparation. One of these which, it is interesting to note, was voted by a considerable majority, imposes a tax of 50 per cent. on the total incomes of gaming institutions, like the casinos of Sinaia and Constantza. This is the equivalent of their closure, and the Minister of Finance admitted that he had framed the project with this end in view. M. Take Jonesco, who, of course, entirely sympathises with the principle involved, attacked the project on the ground of its being hypocritical, and urged that more direct legislation should be resorted to if the real purpose of the measure was the closure of these institutions. No one doubts that the measure will prove eminently salutary in the long run, but it is said that many shareholders meanwhile stand on the verge of ruin.

Roumanian Help for British Prisoners.

In spite of the little publicity given to the matter, the Roumanian subscription organised on behalf of the British prisoners in Bulgaria by Mrs. Take Jonesco, seconded by a few devoted helpers, has met with a warm-hearted support which has exceeded all expectations. The committee now dispose of a sum exceeding 20,000 fr., which has been collected in an extraordinarily short time. The success is due not only to the general sympathy which the lot of all prisoners in Bulgaria evokes among Roumanians, but to the quiet, business-like attitude adopted by the committee. Its members have been guided by a practical spirit which has been productive of the best results; for the most pressing needs of our prisoners, who seem to have been mostly barefoot and in rags, have already been in part relieved. The difficulties of transport are unfortunately great, and this prevents the things from reaching our men as quickly as could be desired.

More Espionage.

The espionage which is carried on in Roumania has been referred to more than once before in these letters. Another case has now become public property, and this one would seem to be of unusual gravity. It occurred at Moreni, in the Department of Prahova, where in the barn of an engineer, a German by origin, were discovered no less than seventeen staff maps relating to the frontier regions of Predeal, Bushteni, Breaza, Bratocea, and so on. The engineer was arrested without delay. The public, which was all agog to hear sensational news regarding the affair, has not been informed regarding its details.

But it is getting used to this sort of thing. At the time of the bomb affair, when Hungarian agents had plotted to blow up the houses of several public men, exactly the same thing occurred. What you hear is just sufficient to arouse your curiosity thoroughly, and then —the Prefect draws the veil of silence, and the affair is as though it had never been, except perhaps to some Teuton or Magyar gentleman who becomes the permanent guest of a certain State institution. Such cases provide food for reflection. The prompt manner, however, in which they are dealt with by the police leads one to suspect that there must be a branch of the service possessed of greater vigilance and authority than the policeman who embroils the traffic in the Calea Victoriei, or reproachfully shakes his head in contemplation of some speed-limit-exceeding car, would lead one to believe. And this were well indeed, for if every Austro-German in the country is not ticketed beforehand, the authorities may be outwitted when the critical moment comes, and the country may suffer irreparable disaster. Meanwhile it may be established as a maxim that every German, Austrian, Hungarian, and Bulgarian in the country is a potential spy and a danger to the State.

Echoes of the War.

The Commission sent to Russia for the purpose of acquiring remounts for the Roumanian artillery has now returned. Five thousand five hundred remounts have arrived in Roumania.

The Headquarters Staff have decided to exclude Bushteni from what is known as the military zone, so that this summer resort will become accessible to the public. Visitors will not be allowed in Azuga and Predeal.

It has been decided to allow the slaughter of not more than 200 head of cattle in Bucharest on five days in the week, apart from pigs and lambs. The slaughter of cattle on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the sale of meat on Wednesdays and Fridays, will be strictly prohibited. On these last-mentioned days restaurants will not be allowed to supply meat to customers.

Cattle Contraband.

M. E. Costinesco, Minister of Finance, has introduced a Bill aimed at the suppression of contraband. In expounding his motives he stated that he had estimated the number of head of cattle exported in contravention of the law at 120,000. All the cattle in the districts adjacent to the frontier will be requisitioned. The requisition will take the form of an inscription of the cattle in special registers, so that the owners, when called upon, will have to put the cattle at the disposal of the authorities.

ROUMANIA AND THE CENTRAL POWERS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, April 17.

The recent commercial arrangement into which Roumania has entered with the Central Powers has given rise to some unfriendly criticism in the Allied Press, and inexplicable joy (in large part feigned, we are sure) in that of the Central Powers. Neither attitude seems justified, and both are subject of surprise to the Roumanian public.

In order to correct any false impression which the British public may have on the matter, I have asked M. Greceanu to let The Near East have the benefit of his views. M. Greceanu, late Minister of Justice in the Conservative Government, is himself an agriculturist as well as a leading member of both Commissions for Export and Import, and therefore one of the persons who are most competent to deal with the question. The following is the outcome of the interview he has been good enough to grant me:—

We Roumanians have been painfully surprised by the false interpretation which has been given to a commercial arrangement concluded between Roumania and the Central Powers for the purpose of facilitating the importation of goods necessary to the economic life of the country. We know that this interpretation is chiefly due to the bad faith of these Powers, who, by means of numerous articles and paragraphs in the Press, have striven to invest with a political significance an arrangement which is in reality nothing more than an expedient dictated by present circumstances.

People who are capable of impartial judgment will have no difficulty in grasping the motives which led to this "arrangement," which is the outcome of our own economic needs.

Roumania is suffering greatly from the want of certain articles and wares, such as iron, steel, coal, agricultural implements and machines, locomotives, railway trucks, woollen goods, pharmaceutical products, etc., etc.; and, Roumanian commerce being cut off from all possible relations with the Quadruple Entente, these

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different goods and materials of first necessity were until recently imported into Roumania in accordance with a system of "compensations." In other words, a certain number of merchants and industrials were authorized to import these materials in exchange for cereals of equal value.

This system of importations gave rise to so much abuse and speculation on the part of importers that the Government resolved to put an end to the same by the creation of a so-called Commission of Imports, in which, as you know, I figure as representative of the Commission of Exports. This Commission has been appointed for the purpose of determining the quantity and variety of goods which are indispensable to the economic life of the country. In forming the list every branch of national commerce and industry has been consulted. In order to bring about a more ready execution of this plan, the Roumanian Government requested the Governments of the Central Powers to appoint on their part a delegation whose duty it should be to indicate the nature of the goods which they can send into Roumania, and of the articles which they ask for in exchange.

This system represents a means of bringing about a speedy importation of the goods required, and, what is perhaps no less important, assures their delivery at a price which precludes all speculation.

The Austro-Germans accordingly nominated a delegation, which arrived in Bucharest some weeks ago, and the Roumanian Commission of Imports has now sent to Berlin and Vienna a similar delegation, composed of engineers, industrials, and merchants, whose business it is to pay for and receive the goods contracted for. In this way the trucks sent by the Austro-Germans into Roumania for the export of Roumanian produce, instead of coming empty, as before, arrive laden with German and Austrian wares bought by Roumania.

As you see, this exchange is at least as much to the advantage of Roumania as of the Central Powers, *and implies no shadow of a political rapprochement with those States.*

In order to face the circumstances which she desires, and on which indeed she counts for the realization of her national ideal, Roumania must place herself in the strongest possible position. This she can do only by systematic preparation and due attention to the weak points of her internal organization. Only thus will she be able to face with sanguine confidence events which will put the utmost strain upon her resources. "Besides, we know," added M. Greceanu, in conclusion, "that a nationalist movement will shortly force the Government to adopt a firmer attitude and one in closer conformity with the country's aspirations."

THE STATE OF ISPAHAN.

(From a Correspondent.)

Ispahan, April 10.

I have nothing of importance to report since my last letter. Amin-es-Saltaneh (son of the Zil-es-Sultan) is the Governor of Ispahan, and there is every hope that he will rule the province with the same ability that his father displayed.

The British Vice-Consul arrived on the 8th inst. Russian troops patrol the town, and everything is as quiet as, if not quieter than, before the war.

News of the fall of Shiraz was received with great enthusiasm here, as it opens the road to Bushire and to India, and it is anticipated that trade will soon resume its normal state. The Governor of Shiraz, who has been obliged to stay here since December last, and has been unable to proceed to Shiraz to take charge of the province, is now preparing to leave for that town in a day or two. The telegraph line, which had been in possession of the so-called "Democrats," is now open, and the Governor of Shiraz had a long conversation with Shiraz and has appointed a Deputy-Governor pending his arrival there.

Sonorous.

FOR PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

The Postmaster-General reminds the public that the only method officially recognised by which remittances can be sent to prisoners of war in Turkey is by means of Post Office money orders, which are forwarded free of postage or commission. Persons who make use of any other method of sending money do so at their own risk.

THE ZIL-ES-SULTAN'S VISIT.

H.R.H. the Zil-es-Sultan, the great-uncle of the Shah of Persia, arrived in London from Nice on Thursday night of last week. The Prince, who is accompanied by one of his younger sons, Ismail Mirza Amir Akram, Ghulam Hussein, Mirza Mubassar-ul-Mulk, and Abbas Khan, was met at Folkestone by H.E. the Persian Minister in London, Mirza Mehdi Khan, who travelled with him to London. It is understood that he is shortly going to Ispahan as Governor-General, and the appointment is certainly one of the wisest that could be made.

The Prince, who was born in 1850, is the eldest son of Nasir-ed-Din Shah. His mother was the Iffet-ed-Dowleh, an Afshar lady, and the fact that she was not a royal princess always stood in the way of his being declared heir to the throne. He received the title of Yamin-ed-Dowleh in 1860, and his present title in 1869. At one time, when Nasir-ed-Din Shah still reigned, he held the joint governorships of Ispahan, Fars, Irak, Yezd, and Arabistan, and maintained order and discipline in a way that was almost phenomenal in Persia at that time. Unfortunately, in course of time the Shah became jealous of his son's position and reputation, and the Zil-es-Sultan was gradually deprived of his governorships, until only Ispahan remained to him. After the accession of Muzaffer-ed-Din Shah (1896) his power was still further curtailed, although he behaved in the most perfectly correct and loyal way up to the death of his father, hastening to express his allegiance to his younger brother, and maintaining good order in his province. He never identified himself with the Nationalists, and in 1909 he opposed their *coup d'état*, with the result that his residence was sacked and burned. Thereafter he withdrew from Persia, and he has since spent most of his time in Europe, at Nice and other health resorts.

His family is a large one. It will be remembered that his favourite son, Prince Bahram, was drowned in the dastardly sinking of the cross-Channel s.s. Sussex a few weeks ago. Another son, Akbar Mirza, is now Minister for Foreign Affairs in Persia; and Prince Ismail, on whom the King on Tuesday conferred the K.C.S.I., will accompany his father to Ispahan.

The Prince's time in England has thus far been fully occupied. On Friday afternoon he visited the Foreign Office; and amongst his callers the same day were Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Lord Kitchener, Lieutenant-Colonel O. A. G. Fitzgerald, Sir George Arthur, the staff of the Persian Legation, and many members of the Diplomatic Corps. On Monday he called upon Mr. Asquith and Lord Kitchener, and was entertained at luncheon by the Persian Minister at the Legation. Among the guests were Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, the Marquess of Crewe, Sir Arthur Nicolson, M. Nabokoff, M. Sablin, Ismail Mirza Amir Akram, Ghulam Hussein, Mirza Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Mohammed Ali Khan Ehtesham, and Fathullah Khan Nuri Muntazim-es-Saltaneh.

On Tuesday H.R.H., accompanied by Prince Ismail and attended by the Persian Minister, Mirza Mehdi Khan, Mushir-ul-Mulk, visited the King at Buckingham Palace. The same day he was present at a luncheon given in his honour by the chairman and directors of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, at the Ritz Hotel. It had been hoped to entertain H.R.H. at a dinner, but the recent sad loss of Prince Bahram rendered him indisposed to attend such an entertainment. At the luncheon there were present:—

H.H. Prince Ismail; H.E. Mirza Mehdi Khan Mushir-ul-Mulk, the Persian Minister; Mirza Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Councillor of the Legation; the Right Hon. Syed Ameer-Ali, P.C., C.I.E.; M. Sabline (of the Russian Embassy); Lieut.-General Sir Arthur Barrett, K.C.B., K.C.V.O.; Sir Thomas W. Holderness, K.C.S.I., K.C.B.; Sir Arthur Hirtzel, K.C.B.; Sir J. D. Rees, K.C.I.E., M.P.; Mr. Launcelot Oliphant; Lieut.-Colonel B. T. Buckley; Colonel Charles E. Yate, C.S.I., C.M.G., M.P.; Sir Hugh Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.; Sir John Biles, LL.D.; Colonel Sir Trevredyn R. Wynne, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.; Vice-Admiral Sir E. J. W. Slade, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O.; Mr. Albino; Mr. Ashton; Mr. R. C. Barker, C.I.E.; Colonel E. B. Burton, C.B.; Mr. William A. Buchanan, Mr. E. A. Cheatle, Mr. W. K. D'Arcy, Mr. D. Garrow, Mr. Charles Greenway, Mr. V. Ceasar Hawkins, Mr. H. W. Maclean, Mr. H. E. Nichol, Mr. John R. Preece, C.M.G., and Mr. Stainton

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Mr. Charles Greenway, chairman of the company, presided, and proposed the toasts of his Majesty the King-Emperor, H.I.M. the Tsar of All the Russias, and H.I.M. the Shah-in-Shah of Persia.

Sir Hugh S. Barnes then proposed the health of the guest of honour. He said:—

"It falls to my lot to propose the next toast, and it is one which I am sure you will welcome with the utmost cordiality, for I am about to ask you to drink the health of our very distinguished guest, his Royal Highness the Zil-es-Sultan.

"I could wish that the task had fallen on worthier shoulders than mine, for, unlike many of those who are gathered round this table, I have never been in Persia, nor can I claim the privilege of old acquaintance and friendship with our guest. But though my personal acquaintance and friendship with his Royal Highness is of the briefest description, my official knowledge gained as an old frontier officer and former Foreign Secretary in India is much more extensive. As far back as my official memory extends, some thirty-five or forty years, Persia and the Zil-es-Sultan are names which have seemed always to be indissolubly connected; one rarely heard of the one without hearing of the other also. The truth is, the name and reputation, the career and achievements, of the Zil-es-Sultan have won recognition far beyond the limits of his own country, and to all Englishmen with any knowledge of the East his Royal Highness is known not only as a strong and capable Governor, a great administrator—and, I may add, as a mighty sportsman—but also as a sincere and consistent well-wisher of our country, and a staunch believer in the continuance of the historic and hereditary friendship which exists between the British and Persian Governments. It is this which constitutes his chief claim on our esteem and admiration.

"There is one thing I feel I must say at this stage: it is probably in the minds of you all, and it has certainly been in my mind all the time I have been speaking. I feel you will wish me to make a respectful and sympathetic allusion to the great bereavement which his Royal Highness has suffered through the death of his son, Prince Bahram, in consequence of that appalling crime, the torpedoing of the Sussex. I had the honour of Prince Bahram's acquaintance, and it is grievous that one so young and so gifted, at the beginning of a most promising career, should have lost his life through no fault of his own, but owing to Germany's barbarous methods of warfare. I am sure you will all wish me to assure his Royal Highness of our deep sympathy with him in his sorrow

"Now one word about Persia. I am one of those who entertain high hopes of the future of that country. I do not say this merely because, as chairman of the Imperial Bank of Persia and a director of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, it is in a sense my duty to be sanguine; I say it from strong personal conviction as a student of Persian history, and because, having spent my life among the Mohammedans of the Perso-Baluch frontier, I have a sincere sympathy with the Persian people, and believe in their national spirit. Politics are, of course, out of place in a gathering of this kind, especially any reference to the internal politics of Persia; but I think I may say this—I do not believe there is any living Englishman who does not entertain feelings of the liveliest friendship for Persia, and who does not sincerely desire the maintenance of her independence and integrity and the revival of her former prosperity. I do not think I shall be far wrong if I hazard the conjecture that this desire also animates the policy of our gallant and chivalrous ally, the great Russian people; and as this war, in which we are Allies, is being fought, among other objects, to uphold the rights of the smaller nations to exist, we may reasonably hope that after the war, and with the help of her two great neighbours, Persia may set her feet once more on the path of progress, and so attain the tranquillity and prosperity we all desire for her.

"It only remains to tell his Royal Highness how gladly we welcome his visit to England, and to offer our best wishes in connection with his proposed return to his own country. I have also just heard that his Most Gracious Majesty the King has been pleased to-day to confer on Prince Ismail the honour of K.C.S.I., and you will wish to offer your felicitations both to the Prince and to his Royal Highness."

Prince Ismail, who returned thanks on behalf of his father, said:—

"My father thanks you for your kind words. It is a source of great gratification to him to be present here to-day, to see so many old acquaintances, and to meet so many distinguished gentlemen closely interested in Persia. The days that have passed since his arrival in this country are amongst the happiest of his life. The hospitality of his Majesty's Government and the kindness shown him on all sides have touched him deeply. The remembrance of these days he will treasure all his life. He sees with much gratification that his efforts in the past to co-operate with the Imperial Persian Government to maintain the closest, the most cordial relations with your country have been appreciated here. This encourages him—though encouragement is hardly necessary—to do what is within his power in future. His Royal Highness is particularly happy to have the opportunity of saying these words on this occasion, when he is the guest of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, which has been so largely instrumental in increasing the commercial relations between our two countries, and whose enterprise has been of such great benefit to both countries. He wishes to thank you, Mr. Greenway, and the directors, for your warm hospitality."

On Wednesday the Zil-es-Sultan visited Aldershot, and had an opportunity of seeing something of the British Army, made and in the making.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE REGENERATION OF FRANCE.*

Mr. Herbert Adams Gibbons is Professor of History at the Roberts College, Constantinople; but the outbreak of war found him enjoying a holiday on the Breton coast. The first alarms sent him to Paris, where he remained during the fateful months of August and September, 1914. His impressions, recorded day by day, constitute a fascinating study in the infant science of national psychology. They enable us to follow every change that swept over the soul of France; its quiet exultation when news came of Belgian staunchness, of British help, of the Russians' advance on Berlin, of the theatrical dash into Alsace and Lorraine; and the bitter disillusion bred by repeated disasters. We see the Government and banks fleeing to Bordeaux, and taking all their gold with them; over 400,000 of the wealthier residents escaping like rats from a ship which apparently was about to founder; theatres and places of public resort closing down, and the country's economic life paralysed by mobilization. But throughout the vicissitudes of that awful time Paris never despaired of the Republic; not even when, "spreading through France as gangrene spreads," the German hordes advanced to a point within twenty miles of the capital.

According to a Sanskrit proverb, "The test of gold is fire; the test of human nature is adversity." When things looked blackest, the innate chivalry of the French character shone with a pure light. Mr. Gibbons contrasts its generous appreciation of foreign help with "the self-conceit and jealousy which prevented Bulgarians, Greeks and Serbians in 1912 from seeing the importance of what other armies than their own had accomplished."

The present reviewer, too, happened to be in Paris during the earlier stages of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, and is able to bear testimony to the change in national temperament which has come within a lifetime. He is amazed to learn that initial successes in 1914 did not send processions into the streets howling "*A Berlin!*" and that news of crushing defeat did not evoke the old battle-cry, "*Nous sommes trahis!*" nor yet lead up to a suicidal change of government. Paris after Charleroi kept a heart as brave as that of Rome after Cannæ; she offers an example which Britons may well follow at the present crisis. On September 6 our author wrote:—

The soul of Paris presents a most interesting study to the psychologists. On the surface there is all the effervescence, the excitability, the fickleness, and the mad rush after pleasure. The tourist sees, and the general reader hears only of this side of Paris. But the longer one lives among Parisians the more one sees that, underneath this exterior, there is a solid substructure of purity, of industry, and of devotion to higher ideals.

It rests on foundations well and truly laid by the much-misunderstood women of France who, instead of grieving and repining, have shouldered their men-folks' work in addition to their own.

And they are doing it with a smile on their faces. If the tears were not shed at the moment of parting, they are saved for the night watches. There is no more important factor in keeping up a soldier's spirit than to have the precious knowledge that the little woman back home is attending to the business, and has brains and ability enough, not only to keep herself and the children from starving, but to protect the family's financial interests.

We are often exasperated by the Censor's vagaries, but Frenchmen have far greater reason to complain of official reticence. On August 29, public anxiety being at fever-heat, our author foregathered with a Turkish Pasha, a cavalry officer, and a lawyer. Of the first he writes:—

The mystery of a parasitical and lazy stock, like that of the landowning Turks, is that it has given to the world keen, alert men, who fail to become giants in the domain of mind only by the hopeless lack of opportunity afforded by their governmental and social system. Some pashas may be fools, but not this one.

Of course, the censorship came up for discussion, and the Turk reminded Mr. Gibbons of the *Agence Ottomane's* cryptic announcements, adding:—

Now here we are up against the same old problem in Paris. The *communiqués* do not communicate, hence rumours are breeding fast. . . . Into these long blank spaces in our journals we read far more fantastic and disquieting things than what was actually there, but was struck out by the pencil of a foolish censor, who was afraid that the truth might have "a bad effect on the public."

Mr. Gibbons and the cavalry officer agreed with him; but the lawyer countered them fiercely:—

All three of you are wrong; you assume that everybody has your brains, your training, your mental poise; you think of how you feel, and say, "I am the Public!" But you belong to an exotic one per cent., and have no more right to speak for the Public than you have to speak for the Germans. The Public is a little child, a baby in arms, and if it has developed any instincts at all, they are feminine. You protect and shield a baby from shock; anything pleasant you let the child see and share with it; if you possibly can, and to the last minute you keep evil from the infant. The Censor thinks more logically than you three; he knows full well that harm is wrought not by evil alone, but by the anticipation

* "Paris Reborn." By Herbert Adams Gibbons. (New York: The Century Co. Price $2 net.)

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of evil. As for *canards*, half the people who hear them say, "Well, they may not be true after all"; the other half would get excited no matter what happened or didn't happen. But the facts, if unfavourable, work on the Public's nerves, and when the blow falls the Public is less able to bear up than if it came unexpectedly.

This is a fair sample of the sterling common sense that pervades Mr. Gibbons' book. He has produced a most valuable human document, and its charm is enhanced by Mr. Lester G. Hornby's illustrations.

F. H. S.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The Prince of Wales's visit to the Sudan was a happy inspiration, upon which everybody concerned deserves congratulations. It enabled H.R.H. to see for himself one of the most interesting portions of the Empire; it afforded the people, natives and Europeans alike, an opportunity of manifesting their loyalty, of which they were not slow to avail themselves; and it disposed in most effective fashion of those wonderful fairy tales—made in Germany, of coursre!—about Khartoum being surrounded by vast hordes of Arabs thirsting for the end of British rule and an opportunity to welcome Hajji Wilhelm Mohammed. But I suppose we need never be surprised to learn that Teutonic emissaries have been telling those whom they would like to mislead that H.R.H. was never in Khartoum at all, being in fact a prisoner in Berlin at the time of his "reported" visit. For was not the Moslem world a year ago informed by the veracious Wolff that King George, the Tsar, and the President of the French Republic had been carried off to captivity in Berlin by a wonderful (German) aeroplane? Truly the German propagandist is not the person to be baulked by such trifles as facts.

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The Prince's visit must have afforded particular satisfaction to the British civilians in the Sudan, who make up in loyalty for their smallness in point of numbers. Ever since the war broke out—and, for that matter, before it—they have been doing their full share of work for the Empire; and it is good to think that the Prince's visit has served to some extent to make the fact more widely recognized than it was before. When the war burst upon the world the number of British civilians in the country was very small indeed, and nearly all of them held positions of responsibility, which they could not possibly have vacated without dislocating the business and trade of the Sudan entirely. That fact rendered, and still renders, their continued presence in the country essential, and though they would have preferred to join the fighting forces, they have undoubtedly been doing better service to the cause that we all have at heart by "carrying on" than they would have done by giving up their billets and joining the Colours.

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As regards civilians in Government service, owing to the nature of the work in the outlying districts most civil departments contained at the outbreak of the war—and probably still contain—a proportion of military men. From a well-informed correspondent I understand that wherever reductions in the staff have been possible the soldiers have been sent back to military duty; and that, save in very special cases, no civilian has had a chance of being permitted to offer his services, although a considerable number have been attached temporarily to the British and Allied forces in Egypt, Gallipoli, and elsewhere. That is hard luck on the civilians, no doubt; but by keeping indispensable businesses going and by helping to keep the administrative machine running smoothly and well, under extremely arduous conditions, they are doing their duty as certainly as any man can do it. Thereby they are earning the gratitude and respect of all who can appreciate what that means. And I believe the war is teaching many of us to understand better than we did formerly what it does mean.

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Apropos of doing one's duty, could anything be finer, more inspiriting, or more generous than the last message sent out of Kut by General Townshend before the place fell?—"We are pleased to know that we have done our duty, and recognize that our situation is one of the fortunes of war." That seems to me worthy of standing side by side with Nelson's famous signal before the Battle of Trafalgar. Nothing could be more simple or more stirring. And if anything could console General Gorringe and the men of the Tigris force it would be the generous thanks "for the great efforts you have made to save us." That and the King's gracious message must have robbed failure of its bitterness. Whatever happens, General Townshend is sure of his place in the affections of his countrymen. What a welcome will be his when he returns home!

The Turk is a pathetic figure, surely. He often has such excellent intentions, and yet contrives to make himself so excruciatingly funny to the West when he tries to give effect to them. The latest case in point is the story told by Mr. Morgenthau, the United States Ambassador in Constantinople, who is now on leave in America. (I hope, by the way, that the rumour about his resignation is not true!) Mr. Morgenthau told the New York Merchants' Association that just after the war broke out he was invited to join the Turkish Cabinet as Minister of Commerce and Agriculture; and that upon his replying that he thought the Ambassadorship of the United States was more important, the Turks answered: "You can keep that, too; we should not object." They were, said Mr. Morgenthau, absolutely sincere in this proposal. No wonder, he added, that they were "a remarkable people," though it must be admitted that in wishing to secure Mr. Morgenthau they were only showing very good judgment and sound sense. It seems to be the fate of Turkey to desire—and sincerely desire, as I believe—good advisers, and to be denied them; which, as I began this note by observing, makes the Turk a truly pathetic figure. And to-day, in the remorseless grip of the Teuton, he is certainly to be pitied.

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A Roumanian correspondent informs me of a piece of slimness on the part of the Bulgarians which is worth putting on record. There was held recently in Berlin (according to my correspondent) an exhibition of pictures by Bulgarian artists. Now, wherever the strength of Bulgaria may lie, it certainly does not lie in the direction of art; consequently Brother Bulgar, who, we may safely conclude, was anxious to impress his "cultured" ally, was rather puzzled to get together a good collection. Then some genius hit on a brilliant plan. Many fine pictures by Serbian artists had lately found their way into Bulgaria, thanks to the looters. What more easy than to deface the signatures and replace them by sound Bulgarian names? And so it was done, and Berlin was, perhaps, duly impressed. Unfortunately, my correspondent does not inform me whether the pictures exhibited were offered for sale.

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In a recent number of the *Egyptian Gazette* I see that an Arabic paper, in commenting upon the tercentenary of Shakespeare, laments the fact that at least until quite lately the English have made no attempt to interest the Egyptian people in British classics. Recently, it appears, a half-hearted scheme was introduced into the literary side of the secondary schools, when it was arranged that students should study some English dramatic work. But this is not enough. The move is a good one as far as it goes, but it is too vague. The Egyptian people are keenly susceptible to dramatic effect, they are usually appreciative of comedy. An extended knowledge of Shakespeare would lead them easily into knowledge of a side of the British character of which they know very little at present.

***

I do not like the news that enemy aeroplanes have dropped bombs on Port Said. No special importance, military or otherwise, attaches to the event, I suppose, but it is an impertinence which should be speedily "strafed" for all that. The very unattractiveness of Port Said is an alluring memory when one writes of it from beneath a clouded London sky. That is the worst of the East. You may suffer from every malignant ill that it holds; you may curse it daily and hourly from leave to leave, but when at last the long leave comes, its dust is hardly off your feet before your sun-drenched mind remembers nothing but its wonder and its colour and its light. And now the Huns or their satellites have dropped bombs on Port Said, where I have spent long and pleasant afternoons in being cheated out of wealth that seems fabulous in these hard days. Whom did they kill, I wonder; what did they damage? Actually, I suppose, the town has long been unrecognisable, as legions of soldiers have arrived, made it their headquarters for a time, and passed on to other theatres. But when I think of it I refuse to let my imagination run riot as a rule, for I like to picture the place as I last saw it, a peaceful blot in the distance, with the long arm of its guardian, de Lesseps, stretching out across the waters. "Strafe" the Huns; they have disturbed my memories most rudely.

CORSAIR.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. May.	1916. April.		1334. Rejeb.	5676. Iyar.
12	29	Friday	9	9
13	30	Saturday.....	10	10
	May.			
14	1	Sunday	11	11
15	2	Monday	12	12
16	3	Tuesday	13	13
17	4	Wednesday	14	14
18	5	Thursday	15	15

Monday is the birthday of the ex-Queen Natalie of Serbia, widow of King Milan.

Wednesday is the birthday of King Alphonso of Spain.

Wednesday is also the birthday of Princess Arthur of Connaught.

H.R.H. the Zil-es-Sultan, great-uncle of the Shah of Persia, is now on a visit to this country, accompanied by his son, Prince Ismail, and other distinguished Persians. An account of his reception, and of the luncheon given in his honour by Mr. Greenway and the directors of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, on Tuesday, at the Ritz Hotel, will be found on another page. The King, who received Prince Zil-es-Sultan at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, has conferred the K.C.S.I. upon Prince Ismail.

Prince and Princess Danilo of Montenegro and suite have arrived at Salzo Maggiore.

Prince Cantacuzene of Roumania arrived in London from Paris last week. It is understood that during his stay he will meet several members of the Government, but he declines to speak on Roumanian affairs at the moment.

Prince Cantacuzene is by no means with strangers in London, says the *Daily Graphic*. Although he has not been here in an official capacity, he is a frequent visitor to London, and is always warmly welcomed by a wide circle. The Prince is not, of course, a member of the House ruling at Bucharest. He is the son of the Governor of one of the provinces into which Roumania used to be divided. A soldier, and on the sunny side of forty, Prince Cantacuzene is a striking personality, impressing all who meet him. It would be indiscreet to canvass the length of his present visit, whether it will extend to other Allied capitals, and what its object is, but it is public property that the Prince is in Roumanian politics a warm admirer and a close friend of M. Take Jonesco, the ardent advocate of prompt intervention on the side of the Allies.

A Cyprus correspondent writes: The King of the Hellenes consented last year to become godfather to a certain number of infants in the case of families which exceeded seven children. The King has now been pleased, in response to another petition, to consent to become "Spiritual father" to another batch of Cypriot children, in most cases the ninth, and in one case the eleventh child of the family. The Greek Consul, M. Pareskevopoulos, who has been spending Easter at the Kykkou Monastery, in the heights of the forest, goes to Papho to represent his Majesty at the baptism of one child. The other seven will be baptised at the *Metochy* of Kykkou, at Nicosia. Male infants receive the name of Constantine, except in one case—where the father bears that name—in which the name Andreas will be given. Girls will be named Sophia. The names of the families are published and they are warmly congratulated on the honour conferred.

The *Politiken* (Copenhagen) reports that Prince George of Greece has suddenly decided to return to Greece owing to the threatening situation there. The Prince, with his family, has been staying at St. Cloud, near Paris, and had intended spending the summer at his Danish country seat at Gurrehaus, which had been prepared for his reception. H.R.H. is an Admiral in the Greek Navy.

Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne have returned to town from Castle Macgarrett, Claremorris, Ireland.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, was received in private audience by the Emperor Nicholas at Tsarskoe Selo on Thursday of last week. The following day he was entertained at luncheon by M. Sazonoff, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, when M. Stürmer, the Premier, and the Presidents of the Duma and of the Council of the Empire were also present. M. Pashitch left Petrograd on Wednesday for Moscow, whence he will go to Kieff and Odessa. It is understood that he will subsequently visit Bucharest.

The Countess of Ronaldshay gave birth to a daughter on Thursday of last week at 38, Grosvenor Street.

Lady Maxwell's condition continues to improve slowly. On Tuesday she was reported to be out of danger.

Mr. Robert L. Naville, formerly of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Beyrout, and now Director-General in Serbia of the Banque Franco-Serbe, is staying at 17, Villa Said, Avenue du Bois de Boulogne, Paris.

General Sir Charles Monro had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday, when his Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

In his despatch, published yesterday, on the operations in Mesopotamia in October, November, and December of last year, General Sir John Nixon expresses his gratitude to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir P. L. Cox "for his able co-operation and willing assistance." He adds: "The force has largely profited by his deep knowledge of local conditions and peoples, and by the tact and bold resource which he has displayed in all he has undertaken."

Amongst others mentioned in the same despatch for good services we are pleased to see the name of Captain George E. Whittall. This is the second time that Captain Whittall has been mentioned in Sir John Nixon's despatches.

Mrs. A. Van Millingen has arrived in England from Alexandria, and has taken a house at Byfleet for the summer.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place at Alexandria, between Major Brian Maitland Fuller, Dorset Regiment, youngest son of the late George Fuller, of 71, Lexham Gardens, Kensington, and Olive Phyllis, only daughter of the late Colonel and Mrs. Claude M. Haggard.

A telegram from Tabriz, received in Petrograd, states that General Yanushkevitch, who attended the opening of the Tabriz-Julfa Railway, visited the Governor-General and the Consuls at Tabriz and inspected the Persian Cossack Brigade in the presence of Mohammed Hassan Mirza, the Valiahd (heir presumptive). The Governor-General gave a lunch in honour of General Yanushkevitch.

Captain H. Crichton, M.D., of South Shields, has been gazetted to the camp at Alexandria, Egypt, says the *North Star*. His brother, Crichton Bey, of Alexandria, is one of the principal engineer inspectors of the Egyptian State Railways, while another brother is engineer and district superintendent of the Egyptian State Railways, Cairo.

Queen Alexandra, accompanied by the Princess Royal, Princess Maud, and Princess Victoria, was present at Drury Lane Theatre on Tuesday at the *matinée* organised by Lady Greville and Lady Oranmore and Browne in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund. The theatre was crowded, and the *matinée* was a great success.

Mr. Bertram Christian, chairman of the Serbian Relief Fund, writes to *The Times*:—"May I beg leave to make a brief public acknowledgment, on behalf of the Serbian Relief Fund, of our warm thanks to Lady Greville and to all those who, in so many different ways, contributed to the magnificent result of the Drury Lane *matinée* on Tuesday? I should like, if I may, to take the same opportunity of expressing our gratitude to the many thousands of your readers who, by their sympathy and generosity, have come to the aid of Serbia, and the hope that they may continue to find our work not unworthy of their support."

To-morrow afternoon at Lord's an international cricket match will be played between convalescent Anzacs and the Royal Horse Guards' Club.

The Commissioner of the Scottish Women's Hospitals makes an appeal for all kinds of games to be sent to Serbian boys in Corsica. There are between five and six hundred of these boys, who were brought away from Serbia by the Serbian Government to save them from internment in Germany. The request is made especially for footballs, hockey sticks and balls, chess, draughts, dominoes, and Indian clubs. Parcels of games should be sent to Lady Grogan, the Serbian Relief Committee, 5, Cromwell Road, S.W.

From the list issued by University College, London, of public lectures during May and June we take the following:—"Europe and the Ottoman Heritage," by Rachel R. Reid, Thursdays, May 11, 25, June 8, 22, at 5.30 p.m.; "The Historical Significance of Constantinople," by N. H. Baynes, Wednesday, May 24. The lectures are open to the public without fee.

Yesterday afternoon at a meeting of the Society of Biblical Archæology, Mr. W. L. Nash read a paper on "The Totemic Origin of the Egyptian Gods." We hope to give a report of the lecture next week.

The directors of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt, in their annual report, refer to the death of the Rt. Hon. Arnold Morley, who had been a member of the London Committee since the foundation of the bank. His place on the Board has been temporarily filled by Captain R. S. Westropp, the general manager of the bank.

Mr. Charles Lionel Sandars, of the Union Club, Trafalgar Square, Queen Anne's Mansions, S.W., and Ramleh, Egypt, late a Judge in Egypt, left property of the gross value of £25,104.

The members of the Bulgarian Sobranje, including the Vice-President Momtshiloff and General Popoff, have arrived in Berlin. On Monday they were received by the Imperial Chancellor.

The trustees of St. Mark's Church, Alexandria, Egypt, are requesting applications for the post of chaplain, in succession to the Ven. Archdeacon Ward. Applicant must be "a good Churchman of moderate views, preferably a married man. Some private income desirable."

At His Majesty's Theatre, on Sunday afternoon, Mrs. St. Clair Stobart will speak on "My Experiences with the Serbian Army in the Great Retreat."

An official decree has been published at Corfu conferring the Order of the White Eagle on the officers of the military mission which assisted in the reorganisation of the Serbian Army.

M. Hebard, an Inspector of the Egyptian Ministry of Education, who is now serving with the King's Royal Rifles, has been wounded, but is progressing favourably.

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The collection of ancient Greek coins formed by the Rev. Arthur C. Headlam, D.D., of Whorlton Hall, Barnard Castle, realized £1,756 at Messrs. Sotheby's during the three days' sale this week, excellent prices being realized. A Syracuse tetradrachm of the Geomori oligarchy, which cost £4, now produced £15 10s.; a Himera didrachm of the Tyranny of Theron, 482-472 B.C., cost £8, and sold for £26 10s.; a Messana tetradrachm, 476-422 B.C., cost £3 12s. 6d., and now brought £18 10s.; and a Metapontum didrachm, 400-350 B.C., sold for £40, as compared with the previous "record" of £22. All these were purchased by Messrs. Spink.

Musa Kaizim, the new Sheikh-ul-Islam, is a Kurd, from the Kharput district, says the *Morning Post*. He is well known to be ready to play the game of the strong Germanophil elements in Turkey, and this accounts for, as it lends significance to, his selection for the office, which he occupied once before, during a short period in 1913. It gives authority to him as their mouthpiece. The position of the Sheikh-ul-Islam, who is head of the State on the ecclesiastical side, as the Grand Vizier is on the secular, is such as can be adroitly used by the unscrupulous in playing off against each other the temporal and the spiritual powers. Unlike his predecessor, Hairi Bey, a man of repute and moderation, Musa Kaizim has only the record of having advanced himself on pretensions to religious and ecclesiastical fervour that are less well substantiated than his readiness to be a political tool.

The first annual meeting of the newly-formed Egyptian Society of East Anglia took place last week at the Castle Museum, Norwich, with the president, Mr. A. M. Blackman, in the chair. The officers were all re-elected, in accordance with the following list:—The Lord Mayor of Norwich (ex-officio), the Lord Bishop of Norwich (ex-officio), and the Dean of Norwich; president, Mr. A. M. Blackman; vice-presidents, Archdeacon Pelham, Canon F. J. Meyrick, and Sir H. Rider Haggard; hon. treasurer and lanternist, Mr. H. Brittain; hon. secretary, Miss A. M. Geldart. Miss A. M. Geldart was elected a vice-president. Miss G. V. Barnard was elected hon. librarian, and the following members were elected to serve on the committee:—Mr. F. Leney, the Rev. T. E. Plattn, Mr. W. Thouless, Dr. Margaret Boileau, Mrs. C. E. O. Griffith, and Mrs. Wheeler. The report of the hon. secretary set forth that the society, founded on March 26 last year, started with 30 members, who had now been increased to 58. At a meeting of the committee held on April 12 the suggested library of the society took shape. Hitherto books had only been lent, but now several had been given. By the invitation of Mr. Leney, this nucleus of a library would be kept at the Castle, with Miss G. V. Barnard as hon. librarian. The president said the growth of the society would have been a noteworthy event anywhere, but that it should have happened in what was practically the war zone was almost incredible.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

A Cyprus correspondent writes: Mr. Clarence Wodehouse, Commissioner of Larnaca, is to be retired at his own request, on account of age. Mr. Wodehouse came to Cyprus originally as a Commandant of Police. He was then for many years Commissioner of Papho; and was subsequently appointed to be Commissioner of Larnaca.

According to a Constantinople telegram, Musa Kiazim Bey, a member of the Turkish Senate, has been appointed Sheikh-ul-Islam in place of Hairi Bey. The latter, it will be remembered, resigned last September, ostensibly for reasons of health, but in all probability because he disapproved of the ultra pro-German policy of the Enver-Talaat clique.

Brahim Bey, former Turkish Minister of Justice, has been appointed President of the Council of State. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Halil Bey, will take charge provisionally of the Ministry of Justice.

OBITUARY.

ADMIRAL LORD JOHN HAY.

We regret to announce that Admiral of the Fleet Lord John Hay died on Thursday of last week, the 4th inst., at his residence, Fulmer, Bucks, at the age of eighty-eight. The fourth son of the eighth Marquis of Tweeddale, he entered the Navy in 1840, and had seen service in most parts of the world. In the intervals of service afloat he served his country in Parliament, and in 1866 he became Junior Naval Lord at the Admiralty. From 1868 to 1871 he was Third Naval Lord and Controller, and in 1880 he became Second Naval Lord. He received the K.C.B. in 1881, and remained in civil employment till March, 1883, when he hoisted his flag as Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean. He held this command for three years, during which he was much occupied in the organisation of the naval forces engaged in co-operating with our troops in Egypt. He received the thanks of Parliament for the support he afforded to the troops in the Sudan, was decorated in 1883 by the Sultan with the Grand Cordon of the Mejidieh, and was awarded the Egyptian Medal and the Khedive's Bronze Star. In 1884 he was advanced to the rank of Admiral, and returned home early in 1886 to take up the duties of Senior Naval Lord in the Marquis of Ripon's Administration. This, however, lasted only from February till August, and in May, 1887, Lord John Hay was appointed to be Commander-in-Chief at Devonport, where he remained until his active service was brought to an end by his promotion to be Admiral of the Fleet in December, 1888. In 1886 he was awarded the G.C.B., and in 1897, having reached the age limit, was placed on the retired list of his rank. At the funeral, which took place on Monday, at Fulmer, the King was represented by Admiral Hedworth Meux.

We regret to announce the death of Colonel Philip Edward Pope, which occurred on Wednesday at his residence, Churchmead House, Datchet, at the age of seventy-three years. He entered the Army in 1863, and served in the Egyptian Expedition in 1882, receiving the medal and bronze star. Colonel Pope was a Magistrate for the Slough Division of Bucks, a Deputy-Lieutenant of the county, and was High Sheriff in 1906. When war broke out he undertook the position of staff officer of the Special Constabulary in the district in which he lived, and was also an officer in the Bucks Volunteer Defence Corps.

We regret to learn that Captain W. L. Henderson, of the West Yorkshire Regiment, who, as already mentioned in these columns, was slightly wounded in the winter and wounded again, severely, a short time ago, died of his wounds on Tuesday of last week. Captain Henderson was one of the members of the staff of the Egyptian Ministry of Education, and volunteered for military service in August, 1914.

The Paris newspapers announce that Captain Raymound Aynard, Minister Plenipotentiary and ex-Commissioner of the Egyptian Debt, has been killed at Verdun at the head of his company.

The Rev. Dr. Allan Menzies, Professor of Divinity and Biblical Criticism, St. Mary's College, St. Andrews, died on Monday at St. Mary's, Innellan, Argyllshire, in his seventy-second year. He was a son of Professor Allan Menzies, Edinburgh University, and was a distinguished writer on Biblical criticism.

Major Percival Havelock Acheson, Army Service Corps, who is officially reported killed in the fighting in Dublin, had retired in July, 1895, but on the outbreak of war he volunteered for further service, and was gazetted to his old unit, with the rank of Major, in August, 1914. He was born in May, 1858, and entered the A.S.C. in 1878, rising to the rank of Major in 1894. Major Acheson took part in the Sudan Expeditions of 1885 and 1885-6, and was present at the action of Giniss. For his services he received the Sudan Medal and the Egyptian Bronze Star.

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FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1916.

PERSIA AND THE WAR.

Persia, it may be thought, has little claim on the world's attention at the present time. One of the lessons, however, which the war has brought home to certain Governments is the danger of allowing the major questions of the day to obscure entirely what may seem to be minor matters. Compared with the great stream of war which compels attention in other parts of the world, Persia is altogether a backwater; but it deserves more than passing notice, both for its own sake and on account of its relationship to the British Empire. Whether in the past Great Britain has lived up to her responsibilities in regard to the Persians we need not now stop to inquire. The war has created a new situation. It has added to those responsibilities, because German intrigue has led to greater interference with Persian affairs, and it has brought out, we may hope, into stronger relief the necessity of giving more heed to British interests, actual and potential, in the country. Constant reference is made to German agents in Persia and their activities since the outbreak of the European war. The popular conception of these men as emissaries dispatched on special missions from Germany or Turkey in Europe, well supplied with gold and consignments of arms and ammunition, may have some truth in it; but it is probable that the majority of them were already on the spot when war broke out, as in the case of the notorious Wassmuss, and had been for years engaged in pushing German trade and in ingratiating themselves with the Persians. Their success in stirring up the tribesmen has called attention to the extent to which the trade of Persia was in their hands, and must prompt the consideration whether in the future it will not be worth the while of the British Government to take more active steps to promote British trade in a country which has a vital interest for the Empire. For Persia virtually marches with India, and recent events have shown that it is difficult to prevent unrest within the borders of the former from affecting the tribesmen in Afghanistan and on the North-West Frontier. The British merchant is not likely to be called upon to carry out the political propaganda which seems to come naturally to the German; but there can be no harm in his realising that in promoting his own business he is promoting the interests of the Empire. There can be no surer way of fostering this spirit among British merchants in Persia and in other countries of a similar character than by allowing them to feel that they are objects of the Government's goodwill and solicitude.

The policy which these considerations foreshadow belongs to the future. For the moment other matters are more pressing. The war has been the means of bringing considerable trouble to Persia. An impartial review of the situation does not allow the Teheran Government to be greatly blamed for halting for some time between two opinions in regard to the ultimate issue of the struggle. So long as it was in that frame of mind there could be no effective check to German propaganda and intrigue up and down the country. The Government has now thrown in its lot unreservedly with the protecting Powers, Russia and Great Britain, and will give its support to the measures taken to deal with the Turco-German menace. Up to the present the work has been left almost entirely to Russia, whose troops have practically cleared north-western Persia of insurrectionary bands. Some of the agents of the Central Powers have been arrested, others will have retired into Turkish territory, but some, it is now reported, have made their way into the neutral zone or the British sphere in Persia. They will have been encouraged by the absence hitherto of any sustained military efforts on Great Britain's part in the belief that they will here be free from molestation. The problem, therefore, at once arises whether they are to be confirmed in this opinion or, if not, whether the task of dealing with them is to be left to the Russians or to be undertaken by a British force. Southern Persia has continually been the scene of disorders since the outbreak of the European war. Last July a British patrol operating from Bushire was ambushed and two British officers were killed. In November the British Consul and other British subjects at Shiraz were arrested, and have since been held prisoners by Persian insurrectionaries under German leadership. So far the only reply made by the British Government to these outrages has been the dispatch in August last of a British force to Bushire as a protest against the failure of the Persian Government to punish the tribal chiefs and against other breaches of neutrality. In due course, when the Persian Government claimed to be in a position to cope with the situation in the South, this force was withdrawn; but no effort has been made to secure the release of the Shiraz prisoners.

The arrival of prominent enemy agents upon the scene can hardly fail to bring matters to a head. Given a free hand, they will not only wage war more thoroughly upon British interests, but, with the help of the tribesmen who have become masters of Shiraz and other towns, will offer a counterblast to Russia's pacification of the north-western section. The Russians cannot wish to leave their work half undone and expose themselves to possibly organised attacks when they are directing their attention towards Baghdad. The task of restoring order in southern Persia, therefore, devolves in whole or in part upon the British or it must be entrusted entirely to the Russians, who have already penetrated south of Ispahan. There are limits to the forces which Great Britain can dispatch overseas, and there can be no question of weakening any portion of our battle front in order to restore order in Persia. But British interests in the Middle East call for a more vigorous championing than they have received in the past. The report that a small British force moved out of Bushire on April 29 and successfully attacked a hostile force, which was strongly entrenched in the vicinity, suggests that steps are now being taken to secure this end. Even if it were not possible to send out a large force to accomplish in the South what the Russians have done in the North-west, Great Britain might co-operate with her Ally in other ways. At the time of the formation of the Gendarmerie under Swedish officers it was urged in THE NEAR EAST that a wiser course to adopt in the interests of all concerned would be to employ the services of British officers of the Indian Army. If this suggestion had been acted upon, the recent history of Persia would have followed a different course. If the whole of the neglected and unpaid Gendarmerie is not now to be found among the insurrectionaries, it should still be possible to bring together the nucleus of a new force. Under the direction of British officers, with the help of civilians who have practical knowledge of the country and its inhabitants, the new Gendarmerie might soon be in a position to offer useful co-operation to the Russians. Such a course would be preferable to the *laissez faire* policy hitherto adopted. It would counteract to some extent the bad impression caused by the failure to secure the release of the British Consul at Shiraz; it would reassure the Persian Government, which, with a necessarily restricted outlook on the war, must have been puzzled by the apparent contradiction between Great Britain's position in regard to Persia and the steps taken to give effect to it. In this respect the visit of the Zil-es-Sultan to England may prove opportune. Although not a member of the Government, his rank and qualifications give him a position of mark in Persian affairs, and no one is better qualified, after acquainting himself at first hand with the real state of affairs, to interpret to the Persians the policy which Great Britain is resolved to adopt in the future.

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THE SERBIAN MISSION IN LONDON.

THE SERBIAN POINT OF VIEW.

By Professor Pavlé Popovitch.

On leaving Paris for London, the Serbian Mission—headed by the Crown Prince Alexander and supported by M. Pashitch, the Prime Minister, M. Jonovitch, Minister Plenipotentiary, and others—may have had some doubts about the welcome they might receive in England. The Mission was satisfied with its reception in Italy; in France it had been received magnificently, the indescribable enthusiasm of the people and the most cordial welcome on the part of the Government proving that the French had completely realised the importance of Serbia's rôle in this war, and the greatness of her sacrifice for the cause of the Allies. The question was, what reception the Mission would have in England. At the beginning of the war the public of this country knew only that Serbia was the cause of the world war, and the British Government only declared that direct British interests in Serbia were nil. It was, therefore, possible that the reception might not be satisfactory. If that should be so, what a misfortune for Serbia at the time when she was overrun by the enemy! It would be especially unfortunate should the reception not be favourable just where Serbia looked for the greatest support. The Serbian Crown Prince—the gallant and martyred representative of a gallant and martyred nation, the young man whom Fate condemned to pass his best years on battlefields and among the most anxious cares for his country—had had many hardships to bear already. Would his arrival in England be one more of those hardships, or would it be a consolation for past sufferings? What anxiety must he have felt when he looked on the English coast which he was approaching!

But the welcome in England was magnificent. It was as enthusiastic as in France—beyond all expectation. The Crown Prince entered a completely changed England. The twenty months of war had taught the British public that Serbia was wrongfully accused of being the cause of the trouble, and had convinced the British Government that direct British interests in Serbia are very important. English people had acquired in the meantime sincere sympathy for Serbian people, on whom they had looked before with indifference. And this change was quite manifest. Wherever they went the Crown Prince and his suite were welcomed with respect and sympathy, and they received moving proofs of an unexpected popularity of the Serbian people in England. They found them at the Court, in the Government, in the Press, in the highest circles of society, and amongst all classes of English people. And they were delighted by the discovery.

This sympathy was the first thing that delighted the Serbian Mission. The second was England's acquaintance with the Serbian cause. Serbia's aspirations and those of the Southern Slavs, whose representative she is, for which one might have been afraid before—they were *terra incognita* to the British public opinion—proved to have been justly appraised by it. Only a year ago the first representatives of the undelivered Southern Slav people, when they arrived in England with the purpose of acquainting public opinion with their keen anxiety to be united in one state with Serbia, where their brothers are living, saw that the English were scarcely familiar with the Southern Slav people. "Who are Southern Slavs?" "Is it possible that Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes are the same people?" "Is it true that the languages of Serbians and of Croatians are absolutely identical?" Such were the questions the English put to their Southern Slav visitors. They induced the latter to set down certain Serbian words and to write the same words in Croatian; and they were exceedingly astonished to find that these words were always the same in Serbian as in Croatian. Such was the English knowledge of the Southern Slavs a short time ago. To-day, however, it is very much improved. On the arrival of the Crown Prince many prominent London and provincial papers and reviews dealt with the Southern Slav question with full and almost amazing competence, and it was a very great pleasure for the Serbian Mission and for all Serbians to witness this change.

Still more important and more comforting to the Serbian Mission was it to see that England realises Serbia's rôle in the future. England is convinced of the need of the creation of a strong Southern Slav State as a bulwark against German Imperialism. Serbia, alone of all the Balkan States, was faithful to the Allies, without counting the cost. She was the gateway to the East, and she fell in defending not herself alone, but also British interests in the East. What then is the conclusion, if not that Serbia is necessary to England? She is necessary, not only as she used to be, but stronger, more fit to withstand any German aggression in the future. Nobody can twit Serbia with failing to do her utmost for the cause of the Allies; but she was obviously too weak to resist successfully the combined onslaught of three strong enemies. If, in the future, the same danger should threaten Serbia, she must undergo the same ordeal, but England herself would also feel the blow that struck Serbia. Will England allow it? No: England realises that her interest is in enlarging Serbia, in allowing the ardently desired union of the whole Serbian and Southern Slav people, in creating in the Balkans a united Southern Slav State. She realises that this State will be defending liberty and justice in Europe, at that point where late events have shown that they are vulnerable. England realises also that just as Serbia is her faithful friend, so is Bulgaria her inveterate enemy; and as her paramount interest is to strengthen Serbia, it is also to weaken Bulgaria. These are the ideas that the Serbian Mission found prevalent in England, and they were also expressed in many of the foremost London and provincial journals and periodicals. This fact was to the Serbian Mission a very welcome consolation for the severe trials their country went through during the last war.

A further pleasure—and the greatest one—was reserved to the Serbian Mission. It saw that England was determined to carry this war to a victorious finish. I will not allude to many declarations to this effect made by those best qualified to speak in this country. I content myself with mentioning only one fact. After his visit to Woolwich Arsenal the Crown Prince said to one prominent member of his suite, who had been prevented from accompanying him on the visit: "You made a mistake, you made a big mistake in not coming. I never in my life saw better technical war preparations than I saw in Woolwich. I might at one time have had doubts as to the final victory, but after seeing the splendid Woolwich Arsenal, and after witnessing the excellent valour of British troops, I have full confidence in the victory of the Allies."

HEROIC WORK BY BRITISH WOMEN IN SERBIA.

A number of British women doctors who have done excellent to the Serbian Mission. It saw that England was determined May 8, when a welcome was given to Dr. Berry and her husband on their safe return after a year of hospital work in Serbia, which included being taken prisoners because they remained at their hospital after the Serbian retreat. Mrs. Berry, in her interesting speech on the work of the hospital, laid stress on the great debt which the Allies owe to Serbia. In the struggle with the typhus epidemic from which the country suffered so grievously, the doctors insisted upon cleanliness—hot springs in the neighbourhood were invaluable—and fresh air. Mr. Berry was regarded as the apostle of hygiene, whose zeal was so great that he was given the name of "the window-smasher." Dr. Elsie Inglis, who organised the Scottish Women's Hospital units, and consequently came into close touch with many women in their work, said that she was impressed by their extraordinary cheeriness, which matched that of the British Tommy. Speaking of the fight with typhus at Krushevatz, in a hospital of 400 beds which had to accommodate 1,200 patients, she said that every five days every man, blanket, and uniform was disinfected. When a large batch of prisoners arrived the disinfected men said: "We shall all get typhus if you let these dirty men in!" A Serbian officer, she added, soon learnt to say in English: "Please, sister, shut the door." The British women soon learnt to say in Serbian: "Open the window!" Dr. Inglis was also taken prisoner with her party. They were well treated, but, she said, she could not forget the harsh treatment suffered by the Serbian prisoners; the Serbians, on the other hand, when they rolled back the tide of the Austrian invasion three times, treated their Austrian prisoners as they treated their own soldiers.

Dr. Alice Hutchison, Dr. Soltau, and other women doctors were among the guests.

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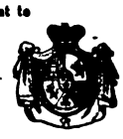

KING OF SPAIN

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Fall of Kut. May 4.

Lord BERESFORD asked for information respecting the number of British prisoners taken by the Turks at Kut-el-Amarah, and whether it was true that the Turkish Commander-in-Chief, impressed by the heroic defence of General Townshend, had allowed that officer to keep his sword.

Earl KITCHENER: I am glad that the noble and gallant Lord has afforded me this opportunity of paying a tribute to General Townshend and his troops, whose dogged determination and splendid courage have earned for them so honourable a record. It is well known how, after a series of brilliantly fought engagements, General Townshend decided to hold the strategically important position at Kut-el-Amarah, and it will not be forgotten that his dispositions for the defences of that place were so excellent and so complete that the enemy, notwithstanding large numerical superiority, was wholly unable to penetrate his lines. Noble Lords will not fail to realise how tense was the strain borne by those troops who for more than twenty weeks held to their posts under conditions of abnormal climatic difficulty, and on rations calculated for protraction to the furthest possible period until, as it proved, imminent starvation itself compelled the capitulation of this gallant garrison, which consisted of 2,970 British and some 6,000 Indian troops, including followers. General Townshend and his troops in their honourable captivity will have the satisfaction of knowing that, in the opinion of their comrades, which I think I may say this House and the country fully share, they did all that was humanly possible to resist to the last, and that their surrender reflects no discredit on themselves or on the record of the British and Indian Armies. Every effort was, of course, made to relieve the beleaguered force, and I am not travelling beyond the actual facts in saying that to the adverse elements alone was due the denial of success; the constant rain and consequent floods not only impeding the advance, but compelling—in lieu of turning movements—direct attacks on an always narrowing front. No praise would seem extravagant for the troops under Sir Percy Lake and Sir George Gorringe, and that they did not reap the fruit of their courage and devotion is solely due to the circumstances which fought against them. The last message sent by General Townshend from Kut was addressed in these terms:—

> We are pleased to know that we have done our duty, and recognise that our situation is one of the fortunes of war. We thank you and General Gorringe and all ranks of the Tigris force for the great efforts you have made to save us.

I think the House, no less than the country at large, will endorse these words, and I am sure that those who held, and those who strained every nerve to relieve, Kut have alike earned our admiration and our gratitude. I am glad to endorse Lord Beresford's words about General Townshend and the Turkish Commander-in-Chief. It is quite true that General Townshend's sword was returned to him.

Lord GRENFELL: The House will have heard with satisfaction the words of Earl Kitchener concerning General Townshend, and that satisfaction will be shared by the Army both here and in Mesopotamia. In spite of casualties and sickness in many forms, including want of food and even medical comforts, General Townshend and the Anglo-Indian Force under him held Kut in the most admirable manner—held it until their food was exhausted. Then only, in order to save the lives of his men, did General Townshend capitulate. I feel sure that the Army and the country will look back with great admiration on the defence of Kut.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Prisoners in Bulgaria and Turkey. May 5.

In the course of a written reply to a question put by Mr. G. LAMBERT regarding British and Colonial prisoners in the hands of the enemy, Mr. TENNANT stated that there were 449 such prisoners with the Bulgarians and 9,796 in the hands of the Turks, according to the latest information in possession of the War Office.

Pay of Officer Prisoners. May 9.

Mr. MALCOLM asked for information regarding the daily pay granted to British officer prisoners of war by the Bulgarian and Turkish Governments.

Sir E. GREY said: We have again pressed the Bulgarian Government, through the United States Ambassador, for a reply on this subject. With regard to the pay of British officer prisoners of war in Turkey, we addressed a Note to the United States Ambassador on July 7 last proposing the issue to them by the Ottoman Government of pay equivalent to 4s. and 4s. 6d. a day, according to rank. We renewed these proposals on December 28, adding that should they prove inadequate we were willing that the United States Ambassador at Constantinople should remit to the officers in question such sums in excess of the above rates as might be found necessary to meet their actual necessities. We have reason to believe that the British officer prisoners of war in Turkey are being paid at the above rates, and the United States Embassy at Constantinople has discretion to supplement these payments.

Visits of Inspection.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Mr. MALCOLM, who inquired whether Mr. Justice Younger's Committee on the British Red Cross Society had asked the International Red Cross Society at Geneva to pay visits of inspection to British prisoner camps in Bulgaria and Turkey, said:—It is no part of the duty of the Committee over which Mr. Justice Younger presides to suggest visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross. I am not aware whether the British Red Cross Society, which is independent of the Government, have taken any action such as he suggests. The Society will, however, notice the proposal which he has now made.

Aircraft at Kut. May 10.

Mr. JOYNSON-HICKS called attention to the German reports as to the shooting down by the Turks of old British aeroplanes endeavouring to get food into Kut, and asked whether these aeroplanes were some which did reconnaissance work in the Sinai district, but were so bad that they were transferred from there to Mesopotamia more than a month ago.

Mr. TENNANT said that a recent Turkish *communiqué* stated that the dropping of food by aeroplanes at Kut had ceased. The General Officer Commanding in Mesopotamia reported that between April 11 and 29 British aeroplanes of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Service had dropped at Kut 18,000 lb. of food, besides quantities of medicines, stores, and materials. No aeroplanes in Egypt or the Sinai district were sent to Mesopotamia, though some of the *personnel* were. During these operations there were numerous aerial combats, in one of which a British seaplane was driven down into the enemy's lines, the observer being killed and the pilot wounded. In another case the pilot was wounded, but succeeded in landing safely behind the British lines. These were the only casualties during the operations. The House would see that the reports to which attention had been drawn were characteristic German reports.

Mr. JOYNSON-HICKS: In view of these "characteristic German reports," would it not be for the benefit of the entire nation if the right hon. gentleman would make on occasion some such satisfactory statement as he has just made?

Mr. TENNANT: I will take the suggestion into consideration.

CONDITIONS IN SERBIA.

Last Friday afternoon, at the Foreign Office, Lord Robert Cecil, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, received a large and influential deputation on behalf of the Serbian Relief Fund, which laid before him evidence of the absolute destitution now existing in Serbia, and advocated the application to Serbia of principles of relief for the civil population similar to those which are now in operation in Belgium and Northern France. Lord Robert Cecil desired to have put before him a definite and adequately guaranteed scheme with a view to submitting it to the consideration of the Government.

Further instances of the reign of terror inaugurated by Germans and Bulgars in Serbia are quoted by the Serbian Press Bureau in Corfu. Murder and robbery are of daily occurrence, and the country is a prey to famine owing to the merciless requisitions which are made. The same Bureau has issued a further statement on the subject of Bulgarian terrorism in Serbian Macedonia, the latest arbitrary act being the expulsion of Serbians from Ochrida and Resna.

The Austrian military authorities in Belgrade are offering rewards for the recovery of hidden guns and munitions of war, or for information which shall lead to such discovery.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* announces that Dr. Rifaat, "the leader of the Young Egyptians," is travelling in Germany "for purposes of study," and that he will visit Berlin.

The May Day celebrations in Bucharest this year took the form of a Socialist demonstration in favour of peace and a protest against the dearness of food. There were no disturbances.

TO OUR READERS.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Russia and Britain.

In a leading article on the visit of members of the Russian Duma to England, the *Daily Telegraph* (May 8) says that the Grand Duke's success in Armenia has transformed the whole aspect of the campaign, and has palpably weakened the Central Powers, "especially in reference to their Balkan policy."

For the Teutonic "drag towards the East" depends for its proper execution on the co-operation of Constantinople quite as much as, if not more than, on the help of Tsar Ferdinand and Bulgaria. Bulgaria is of importance as a check on Greece and as a means of safeguarding the railway communications on the great Orient line to Stamboul. But unless Turkey remains an efficient ally of Berlin, what becomes of the Pan-Germanic ambition towards the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf—what, above all, becomes of the dream of a conquest of Egypt? And here the value of a close co-operation between Russian and British operations in Asia Minor comes into evidence. There are many ways in which, with the aid of our sea power acting along the coast line, we could assail the Ottoman forces from the south and the east. Sir Percy Lake's force, although it failed to relieve Kut, holds, it must be remembered, all the lower reaches of the Tigris. Meanwhile, the Russian army which captured Erzeroum, as well as that which won the fortress of Trebizond, is pressing southward; and a smaller body, which has been operating from Persia, is becoming a deadly menace to Baghdad and the Turkish communications. Thus Germany's ally is threatened on all sides, and Liman von Sanders, who succeeded Der Goltz, must be considering with no little anxiety the risks of his position. It looks as if an important battle may be fought at Erzingan, and if, as we have every reason to suppose, Russia wins, the Mesopotamian plain will be thrown open to the conqueror. In view of considerations like these, the Russian guests who are at present visiting our shores may be quite sure that we understand and appreciate all that their great country has done to forward the interests of the Entente.

A Balkan Thrust?

The special correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* in Paris, Mr. G. H. Perris, has contributed to his paper some interesting excerpts from the French Press, from which we quote below. The *Temps*, after a reference to the French occupation of Florina, on the Græco-Serbian frontier, says:—

General Sarrail's army is gradually reinforced. The moment is not far distant when the colours of nearly all the Allies will float around Salonika, and will give the signal for operations against the Bulgarians. The Balkan army does not rest idle, and the work it is doing will bear fruit. The Serbian share, to speak only of this, exceeds expectations. The army, whose chief will be Prince Alexander, is homogeneous, keen, and numerous. The soldiers are rested, and form a vigorous and well-equipped army corps.

Another article quoted by Mr. Perris is by General Malleterre in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. Mr. Perris writes:—

General Malleterre holds that the attack on the Dardanelles was logical before Bulgaria came into the war, this being the nearest way to Constantinople.

It is now necessary to enter Sofia, but the offensive from Salonika will evidently be powerfully helped by Allied advances in Asia Minor, and, ultimately, "victory in the Balkans by opening the road to Vienna for the Allied armies, the Italians included, will be as fruitful as the forcing of the German lines in France and Russia."

General Malleterre discusses at length how the Russian forces in Asia Minor and the British forces in Mesopotamia and Egypt can combine for a march upon Constantinople. He indicates Aleppo and Alexandretta as their natural meeting-points.

The consequences of a Russo-British front, from Trebizond through Sivas to Alexandretta, would be the severance from the Ottoman Empire of Mesopotamia, Syria, and Arabia, and the drawing away of the Turks from the Balkans.

The Turkish army, General Malleterre believes, does not exceed 500,000 men, and its best elements, and most of its officers, are lost. The great mass is already in Asia Minor.

"Germany will only stop the frightful slaughter when the East is definitely torn from her. We persist in our conviction that this first defeat will be the prelude to a retreat upon the Rhine and the Oder."

The Balkan Policy.

Mr. L. March Phillipps, writing in a recent number of the *New Witness*, under the heading of "The Clue to Balkan Politics," said that—

Hatred of oppression, hatred of the stationary and passive attitude of a ruled people, a determination, be the time long or short, to number themselves among the free nations of Europe—such are the unshakeable resolves of the Balkan races. A love of liberty which so prolonged a Turkish dominion could not quench may be called unquenchable, and may be specified as the essential attribute of that people. Such attributes change never. They are so much the pith of the national life that, though obscured by temporary aberrations, they never can be permanently superseded.

This is the determining factor to be borne in mind in judging of Balkan affairs. The dominant, or, if not always the dominant, the deepest and most abiding motive—deepest in historical life and deepest in the hearts of the people—is the Balkan resolve to be of the West, to enter the community of free and progressive nations.

The writer ascribes the vacillation of policy which we have witnessed in the Balkans solely to the working of Prussianism as imposed by the Hohenzollern Court influence.

Greece, least virile but cleverest of the group, inclines easily to the tyrannic on a small scale, while its army produces a diminutive breed of Prussians in considerable numbers. These only require centralising to become effective, and the work is done by the usual agent—a Court in touch with German ideas. Yet these, after all, are superficial influences, which aim at defying rather than expressing the national instinct; nor can they, whatever be their success, alter the fact that not Constantine, but Venizelos, is the real representative of the Greek people.

In regard to Roumania, Mr. Phillipps thinks that, although the Hohenzollern poison is at work in the nation, the mission of Filipescu and Take Jonescu will survive. Of Bulgaria he writes:—

Her hate of Serbia, dexterously fomented by Austria in pursuance of her usual design of Balkan disintegration, no doubt had a good deal to do with her decision. But the determining factor was the Court. The Prussianism of King Ferdinand, German prince and Austrian officer, was of the active kind which aspires to shape a policy. What he saw in the Balkan situation was an opportunity, not for a union of free states, but for the exercise of an individual ambition; nor were the affairs of a petty state beyond the handling of a spirit of intrigue which he easily mistook for genius. Yet, in spite of all this, we are not to suppose that the national instinct is extinguished even in Bulgaria. We all remember the deputations which waited on the King in the days when the issue hung in the balance, and how fiercely the representatives of the popular party protested against the contemplated decision, and even denounced the King as a traitor to the national cause. Revolts, mutinies, and stifled murmurs still suggest that, hoodwinked as they have been, the Bulgarian people are in their hearts not quite unconscious of the Balkan tradition. Even here, if we knew all, we should probably see that it is superficial and extraneous influences that have triumphed, while beneath, stifled and inarticulate, the instinct of liberty still survives.

The Serbians alone have been free of Prussian influence:—

They only have escaped that infection, and they only have acted up to the level of a common aspiration. By so doing, despite appearances, they have safeguarded their future; for they have allied themselves with what is permanent in Balkan history and character, and the end, when the end comes, will justify not only their courage but their wisdom.

The Near East.

The *Globe* (May 6) considers that the position in the Balkans is full of possibilities, and thinks it not unlikely that all the States may soon be engaged in war.

It would seem that the only encouragement wanted by the two neutral States is a manifestation that the Entente Powers are surely if slowly on the path to victory. If the Allies at Salonika are able to show that they are not to be driven out, but that they are, with the Serbian Army, powerful for the offensive; if, at the same time, the fortune of war in the West favours the Allies, it is possible that Bulgaria may see the danger of her position. At present, with the blood-lust running riot among her people, she is apparently about to challenge Roumania for the possession of Dobruja, the territory that was taken from her after the last war. Should hostilities break out between Bulgaria, who is really getting out of hand, and Roumania, a short, sharp, and decisive contest may be anticipated, for Russia has 150,000 troops ready on the frontier to help. From the south, too, the Allies would also attack. It would be the beginning of the end of Germany in the Balkans, for Turkey has not her heart in the war.

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The Inhabitants of Armenia.

Mr. George Lamley contributes an interesting article under the above head to *Country Life* (May 6). He regards the suggestion that Armenia should become an autonomous State after the present war as impracticable for two reasons, the first being that Russia will hardly abandon the province of Erivan, which she has now occupied for nearly ninety years, and the second being that the population is not wholly Armenian, and all the inhabitants of the strip of territory lying between the northern edge of the Armenian plateau and the sea are mostly Lazes, a people of Georgian stock and Mohammedan, who would be hardly likely to submit to Armenian authority. In reference to the Kurds, the writer says:—

Various travellers who have visited Kurdistan and been the guests of some of the chiefs have given them a good character for hospitality, and have spoken well of them in other respects, but the more one studies their history the more one feels that they are one of the most cruel and treacherous races in existence. Before any permanent peace can be established in that part of the world they will have to be thoroughly crushed, and then ruled for many years with a rod of iron. Those in Russian territory have mostly settled down into peaceful farmers.

The position of an independent Armenian State with such neighbours would be worse than in the past.

Mr. Lamley regards the Armenians generally as a kindly, hospitable, and intelligent race, although he admits that there is a tendency towards deceit and cowardice, but thinks that, considering all the trials through which they have passed, it speaks well for the character of the race that they have not deteriorated to a much greater extent. He continues:—

With local self-government, under the suzerainty of a Power capable of protecting them from their neighbours, they would probably outgrow any such defects of character in a generation or two, and attain that standing in the world to which their intellectual gifts entitle them. It is only fair to the Armenians to mention that Mr. Lynch, who visited every part of Russian and Turkish Armenia, and is one of the greatest authorities on the subject, formed a very high opinion of them, and on the subject of cowardice, which is commonly attributed to them, expresses his firm conviction that it is quite unjustified, and the reasons adduced by him in support of his contention must go far to convince those who bring an impartial mind to the study of this question.

The writer concludes with praise for the genuine lower-class Turk and blame for the Turkish official. Never again, in his opinion, should Armenia fall under Turkish rule.

Articles to Note.

"Diversion at Salonika" (Illustrated), in the *Field* (May 6).

"The Fate of Kut-el-Amara" (Illustrated), in the *Sphere* (May 6).

"Who is Responsible?" in the *Morning Post* (May 11).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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I am pleased to see that M. Greceanu, the able Roumanian economist, has granted an interview to our Correspondent (see page ???), in which he explains the true nature of the economic compromise between his country and the Central Powers, and emphatically asserts that it "implies no shadow of a political rapprochement with those States." This is a direct confirmation of the attitude I have always taken on this subject in these columns. Never for a moment have I judged the arrangement from any but an economic standpoint. The enemy Press has certainly attempted to make capital out of the new modus vivendi, but they will be no more successful in this, their latest enterprise, than they were when predicting the disrupture of the British Empire. By all means let them think that they have bound Roumania hand and foot to their blood-smeared chariot. We know better, and predict a rude "day" for them when the time comes. The German ploughshares now bought by the Roumanians in Austria and Germany—because they cannot be bought elsewhere—will not be turned towards the rising sun; they will point in the direction of tyrannised, persecuted Transylvania.

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As it is, Germany's joy has been short-lived and, after having patted Roumania on the back for what they chose to look upon as her subservience to Berlin, the Huns are upbraiding her for having sold all her flour available now and during the next four months for export to the British Syndicate—as referred to in these columns last week. This is certainly a more important operation than the commercial exchange arrangement concluded between Roumania and the Central Powers, and I can quite well understand the *furor teutonicus*. For they cannot obtain in Roumania—at least not for the next four months—the flour so essential to the very life of their Turkish ally. It is estimated that the mills in Roumania are now producing daily a total of 3,500 tons of flour, and that the millers who have signed the agreement with the British Syndicate represent a daily output of 2,800 tons. Consequently only 20 per cent. of the total output remains outside the convention. Naturally, the Germanophile newspapers published in Roumania are furiously attacking the Government for not intervening; but the Government, replying to these unworthy attacks, points out that the British contracts were concluded before the establishment of the Central Export Committee, and must be considered as of a purely private character.

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The Turks, also, are incensed at the British Syndicate's smart piece of work. According to Reuter's Bucharest correspondent, Ottoman agents who arrived in the hope of obtaining flour are blaming the German consortium for not having taken measures to prevent the British deal! They even go so far as to declare that the Germans have assumed the monopoly of revictualling Turkey, and that the Turks cannot obtain the smallest amount of goods. In other words, they have been left in the lurch by their dear friends and protectors. The German consortium alluded to established, it will be remembered, an office in Constantinople, which monopolises the sale of the city food supplies, thus preventing Ottoman tradesmen from doing any business. From all accounts, its principal *raison d'être* consists in commandeering all available foodstuffs for the Germans and letting the native population starve.

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The German papers are devoting considerable space, I understand, to the new Turkish import tariff. According to the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, two-thirds of Turkey's import articles will be unaffected by the new tariff, considering that the duty has been raised on an average from between 10 to 15 per cent. all round. There are exceptions, however, and it is curious to note that these exceptions are divided helter-skelter into thirty chapters, embracing no fewer than 772 classes. No general information is available as to the composition of these classes, except in some cases. Thus we read that ten classes are admitted duty free: they include, among other things, school books and artificial manure. As the school books are likely to come from Leipzig, I can understand that the Turks, being naïve in their ways, should class them with "artificial manure." Again, I see that jewellery is to pay only a nominal import tariff, because, as the Turks point out, jewellery is so easily smuggled into the country that there is no use in trying to tax it. Surely a wise procedure to follow.

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Speaking to an Armenian yesterday on the subject of the Turko-German combine, I was surprised at the shrewdness of his views. "Germany," he said, "having a sublime disregard for Turkish arms, never looked to Turkey to help her in her battles. What the Kaiser wanted was that Turkey should be drawn into the war on Germany's side in order that, afterwards, she might foot the bill. Germany and Austria, if beaten, as they no doubt will be, will do anything in their power to prevent losing any of their own territory; they will ask the Allies to indemnify themselves in Turkey by breaking up the Ottoman Empire and taking slices of her territory by way of indemnity. For this, and for no other reasons, have the Huns bought the Young Turk leaders." I do not pretend to know the inner mechanism of German intrigue, but my friend's argument, in view of Germany's proverbial treachery and duplicity, is extremely plausible, and it behoves us to take care, when peace terms come to be discussed, that Turkey, the dupe, does *not* "foot the bill." I am sure that all my readers will agree with me in saying that Germany and not Turkey must pay the indemnity which the Huns expect the Turks to pay.

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Considerable importance is attached to the resolution adopted by the board of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and the subsequent circular sent out to the members of the Chamber for confirmation. The resolution, reported elsewhere, clearly defines what, in the opinion of the board, should be the war and after-the-war policy of the Chamber. It does not mince words nor subjects, but plainly and concisely expresses what trade reforms are necessary in this country if we are to emerge triumphant from the ensuing trade war. The suggestions put forward are those which I have insisted on again and again in these columns, and include: the reform of the consular service; improvements of transport and greater banking facilities; more adequate technical education; organisation of individual industries; the appointment of a Minister of Commerce; and, above all, the introduction of a trade tariff in order to prevent the dumping of enemy goods in this country, and to offer reciprocal preference to our Dominions, colonies, and Allies. In the circumstances I cannot but hope that the members of the Chamber will approve of the board's circular, and that all other chambers of commerce in the United Kingdom will adopt a similar platform, thus convincing the Government that the time has come for the introduction of reforms vital to our trade interests. It is only by bringing a tremendous pressure to bear on the Government that it can be expected to move in the matter.

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The subscription lists for the Roumanian internal loan of 150,000,000 lei were opened on May 4, and, as was foreseen, met with great success, being "fully covered in the course of the day." The lists, however, remained open. It is of interest to note that a report is current in Roumanian financial circles to the effect that the National Bank of Roumania will shortly reduce its rate of discount to 5½ per cent., and place its rate of interest on deposits at 6 per cent.

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In the report of the Director of the Imperial Institute, published on Tuesday, mention is made of the successful efforts which have been made by the Institute to create a market in the United Kingdom for a number of important Egypto-Sudanese drugs, the trade of which had been allowed to drift into the hands of German merchants before the war. Among these are senna and Egyptian henbane; from the latter the alkaloids atropine and hyoscyamine are prepared. I am pleased to see that the immediate result of the Institute's efforts is that British chemical manufacturerers have now been placed in touch with Egyptian exporters of henbane, and it is anticipated that the manufacture of these alkaloids, hitherto mostly carried on in Germany, will be extended in the United Kingdom.

COMMENTATOR.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, CAIRO.

With reference to the communication originally made to the Press in September, 1914, the MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, Cairo, continues to FURNISH INFORMATION connected with EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS for EXPORT, and with reference to markets for imported products, acting as an intermediary between the producer and consumer. Samples of produce are prepared for submission to inquirers in all parts of the world, and information is supplied to producers, to enable them to prepare their produce in a manner suitable for foreign markets. All correspondence should be addressed to The BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE, Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo.

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Egypt's Economic Recovery.

The Financial Adviser's Report.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 27.

The report of the Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government on the Budget of 1916-17, which had been delayed owing to his illness, has now been published. This year Lord Edward Cecil has a very different situation to deal with, and, as a result, his present report is much more optimistic than was that of last year.

After pointing out that Egypt has been subjected to the vicissitudes arising out of the war, and must continue so to be subjected even after the cessation of hostilities, he puts on record the fact that "the accidents of war, which at the outset had such an adverse influence on the welfare of the country by rendering its staple product almost unmarketable, have since taken an unexpected turn in its favour." The world's demand for cotton, stimulated by war requirements, is fast absorbing the supply, and has produced a rise in price above that at which it stood previous to the war, while the presence of British troops in large numbers and the undertaking of military works necessitated by the geographical position of Egypt have benefited the whole country—and even the Sudan. So that "the recovery from the initial depression is marked in every department of economic activity," as is indicated by the steady increase, to the levels at which they stood previous to the war, of imports and of the postal and railway traffic, the great expansion in the circulation of paper and silver currency, the large addition to the banks' deposits, the drop to an insignificant figure of the export of hoarded gold in the shape of bullion, the increase in the receipts of the Assay Office, and, more satisfactory still, "the substantial improvement which has taken place in the recovery of debts." Whilst the collections of the mortgage institutions have been effected on a scale far offsetting the arrears of the previous season, outstanding commercial debts have been largely liquidated, and "the restriction of credit has had the result of enforcing punctuality in payment and of placing the import trade on a sounder and healthier basis than has been the case for many years past."

The Balance of Trade.

The improvement in the situation of the country is also reflected in the balance of trade, which during the agricultural year (September to August) swung over in its favour to the tune of nearly three millions if one takes merchandise alone, or to over 4½ millions if one takes specie also into account. There was a decline of ten millions in exports, due almost entirely to the fall in the price of cotton, and one of thirteen millions in imports, due partly to the diminution in the country's purchasing power, partly to the closing of sources of supply, partly to the existence of local stocks (which have been drawn upon), and partly to the excellent cereal crops, which have met the requirements of the country in this respect. The specie imports declined from £E1,729,000 to practically nil owing to the introduction of forced paper currency.

In reckoning the true balance of trade in favour of the country, however, certain important undisclosed factors have to be taken into account. There are the drafts of the British military authorities, which have exceeded those of the previous year by about 5½ millions, to which must be added the considerable sums received by individual members of the forces from abroad. There would, moreover, have been further gold imports to meet the demand for extra currency, which has been satisfied by an expansion of the paper circulation. Again, whilst the country may not have benefited by the usual tourist traffic, the Egyptian population has economised on its annual visits to Europe. The Financial Adviser reckons, on the whole, that the balance available for the payment of foreign obligations should be set at between eleven and twelve millions, which would leave a considerable margin over and above interest charges, etc., for the repayment of capital borrowed abroad. There is direct evidence available to bear out this conclusion, and "for the first time, therefore, in recent history Egypt has found herself able not only to meet her foreign charges in full, but to repay—or, at least, lend back—to Europe a portion of the capital which she has borrowed so lavishly in the past."

A Note of Warning.

Whilst there is no doubt that this achievement has only been rendered possible by the accidental aids created by the war, Lord Edward regards the fact that the reduction in imports has been one of the chief contributory factors as "of the most hopeful augury in view of the renewed dislocation of conditions which must take place on the termination of the war, when adventitious aids will be removed," and as "affording evidence of the power of the country to diminish its consumption considerably in the face of adverse conditions without catastrophic effects on its internal economy." Even the recent substantial increase in the imports does not disquieten him, for he considers it by no means inconsistent with the improved situation generally, with the need for the replenishment of stocks, and with the additional requirements of the large British forces now in the country. He points to the continuation of the repayment of indebtedness as proof that the present rate of consumption is not unwarranted, and that the country is not living beyond its income. Nevertheless, he breathes a warning lest the improved conditions may tempt a return to previous practices, and considers that "it is earnestly to be desired that the present exceptional circumstances should operate on all sides as an incentive to continued economics and liquidation of debt."

Turning to the agricultural situation, Lord Edward, after drawing attention to the success achieved by the Irrigation Service, despite low and late flood tides, endorses Sir Murdoch Macdonald's opinion that there is "necessity for a further control of the river." He adds that successful efforts have been made to place Egyptian products abroad, wheat, maize, beans and lentils having been exported for a value of about a million pounds to Great Britain, France, and Italy, whilst new outlets for sugar have been found in Morocco, Tunis, and Italy.

As regards supplies, the machinery set up by the Government on the outbreak of war to safeguard the provision of foodstuffs and articles of first necessity and to prevent illegitimate inflation of prices, although still in existence, is now almost unnecessary owing to the resumption of trade and the satisfactory harvests. At no time has there been any scarcity of foodstuffs. The high price of imported flour has led, on the part of a considerable portion of the population, to the substitution of maize, of which there was a record crop; the cessation of the large meat imports from Syria has been counterbalanced by diminished consumption and by imports from the Sudan. As for prices, the general level is not more than ten to twenty per cent. higher than that ruling prior to the war, whilst in several instances, notably sugar, the prices are sensibly lower than those in other countries.

Imported articles have suffered from the enormous rise in freights against which the country is powerless to contend. The greatest offender in this respect has been coal. The Adviser admits that the present price of £E7 per ton is a prohibitive one to many cultivators and that there is a fear that the cultivation of large areas may be neglected or temporarily abandoned unless relief is afforded; but whilst the Government is making every effort to assist, "it must be recognised that the requirements of shipping by the Allied Governments for military purposes are of paramount importance," and he expresses the hope that Egypt will therefore bear with patience and fortitude whatever sacrifice may hereby be imposed upon her. As regards petroleum, Lord Edward replies to recent criticisms, and states that although the Government has taken measures to prevent undue inflation of prices, nevertheless, in view of the fact that the "Egyptian" supply is far from adequate to meet local demands, these prices "cannot be reduced below the level at which it pays the merchants to import without discouraging, if not cutting off, supplies from outside sources."

Turning to the question of forced currency, which was introduced at the outbreak of war, and which has been maintained, the Adviser says that it has proved adequate to meet the considerable demand for currency without the import of gold. The note circulation, which stood at two millions in July, 1914, rose last winter to eleven and a-half millions, as compared with the rise to eight millions in the previous winter, and, as it did not fall below five and a-half millions in the summer of 1915, there is every reason to expect that, when the usual contraction takes place in the course of the next few months, a substantial amount will again be retained by the public. The issue is amply secured. Sixty-two per cent. of the actual circulation is covered by gold, about half of which is deposited in London. The balance is secured by first-class securities at market value, including some Egyptian Government Treasury bonds, whose redemption in gold is provided for by credits in London. Thanks to this solid backing and to the care taken to expand the issue only in response to legitimate trade demands, the notes have been maintained on a parity with gold, whilst the absence of gold shipments has caused the rate of exchange to fluctuate within much closer limits than formerly—the margin above or below par has never exceeded three sixteenths per cent. "By the substitution of notes for gold the country has thus effected a saving of the whole cost of transmission of gold to and fro, for purposes of temporary circulation and of the interest on so much of the additional circulation as is not represented by gold." In view of this one wonders whether, when a return to normal takes place, some arrangement cannot be made whereby at the time when more currency is required to move the cotton crop, instead of bringing gold out from home, as has been done hitherto, the note issue can be expanded and gold be placed as security for the extra issue in London.

State Finances.

The finances of the State have benefited appreciably from the general improvement in the economic condition of the country. Many of the heads of revenue will exceed the estimates whilst the expenditure has been kept down to such good purpose that it will show a large margin of economy. In this connection the Adviser pays a warm tribute to the Government officials. "The efforts made by the custodians of the public purse . . . . would indeed have met with far less success but for the cordial co-operation which has been rendered to them in a greater or less degree throughout the Services." Officials of all ranks have recognised "cheerfully that such sacrifices as they are called upon to make are general in all countries involved in this great struggle."

As a result of the increase in revenue and the decrease in expenditure the deficit of £E1,144,000 estimated for 1915-16 will be replaced by a surplus. But the Adviser gives a warning that "the additional stability, which recent events have thus conferred on Egyptian finances, must by no means be considered as an indication that the period of strain is finally terminated, that the future is assured, and that the efforts made to improve the financial position may now be relaxed," and he proceeds to indicate why those efforts are hardly less necessary to-day and in the immediate future. To begin with, "the revenue for 1915 has benefited by several additions of a more or less transitory character," such as the sale of the Domains crop of 1914 and the profit on the cotton purchased from cultivators by the Government in the early days of the war; the profit on the excess note issue, which depends on the maintenance of forced currency; the seigniorage on silver coinage, which has increased owing to the expansion of the local demand, but which will become a dead loss in the event of a

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great contraction of the circulation. Secondly, much of the economy in expenditure must be regarded as exceptional, as it has been effected not merely by the suspension of works of development and extension, but also "by a sacrifice of efficiency and a restriction of necessary outlay on maintenance, repairs, and replacements of public works and railways." All this economy is really merely a postponement of expenditure, which will some day or other have to be shouldered and which will become heavier in proportion as it is put off, and Lord Edward is of opinion that "the present equilibrium of the Budget must then be looked upon as rather apparent than real."

Reserve Fund.

Further, although the drain on the Reserve Fund has been arrested, the deficit of 1914-15, which reduced that fund to 3½ millions, has not been made good. The securities, in which the Reserve is invested, have undergone considerable depreciation, which to-day amounts to £E1,200,000. It is proposed to write off this depreciation by means of the surplus from 1915-16, which is expected to attain about two millions, and to pass the balance to the Reserve. As the deficit of 1914-15 was £E1,468,659, it follows that the fund will not, after all, be re-established at its pre-war figure, which itself was not considered sufficiently large. The Adviser is of the opinion—and everyone will be in agreement with him—that "it is of the highest importance that the Fund should be built up again as soon as possible to its former figure or more in order that it may not only help to meet the charges, which will fall on the Government after the war, but may adequately fulfil its vital function as a reserve against unforeseen emergencies." Recent events have abundantly shown its utility in this respect. But this utility has not been limited to guaranteeing deficits. The securities, in which it is invested, have served to create credits abroad whenever a crisis arose and ordinary methods for meeting obligations or providing money failed. "A strong Reserve Fund has, in fact, been proved to be an indispensable part under existing conditions of the financial machinery of the country."

Expenditure and Revenue.

Under expenditure only new works of urgent public necessity have been undertaken, vacant posts have been left unfilled, and only the lowest grades of employees have received increases of pay. Under revenue much consideration has been given to new taxation. The import dues on tobacco and timber and alcohol have been raised. The former will bring in an estimated additional annual revenue of £E360,000, whilst the other two items will, as soon as trade resumes its normal course, return as much as £E50,000 extra. The quay dues at Alexandria have been increased by 1 per cent., and Port Said, which has hitherto been free, has now been brought into line with the former port. The extra revenue is expected to come to £E250,000, but the higher rate will lapse at the end of the war. Various other measures have been introduced to obtain increased revenue, and a small tax on cotton futures is about to be enacted. Other measures, designed either to augment the revenue or to improve the present fiscal system, are under consideration, but the Government has "found itself hampered at many points by the existing restrictions with regard to foreigners in its endeavours to adjust the burden of taxation more fairly between the different classes of the population." In addition to a more equal adjustment of this burden, the scheme of reform would, *inter alia*, involve a system of local taxation for local benefits and a reform of Customs duties and of judicial fees. "The delay imposed by the present political conditions on the adoption of desirable changes may have its compensations if with fuller powers the Government is eventually able to contemplate a more thorough revision of the system than would now be possible."

The concluding portion of the Note deals more particularly with the Budget for 1916-17. The Financial Adviser points out, with regard to the revenue, which is fixed at £E1,774,000 more than in the preceding estimate, that, although the greatest care has been taken in the framing of the estimate, the figures "are naturally subject to vitiation, according to possible changes in the present unstable situation." The expenditure, which is fixed at £E730,000 more than in 1915-16, shows an expansion in administrative expenditure of £E696,030, the balance being on new works, which are consequently very little higher than in the previous year. This expansion in administrative expenditure is due to a great extent to the rise in the cost of stores, principally coal, and is partly entailed by the same causes which produce an increase in revenue.

CYPRUS TRADE IN 1915.

The following trade returns for Cyprus imports and exports for the year ended December 31, 1915, are published in the *Cyprus Gazette* of April 7:—

Imports.

Total imports for the year amounted to £611,918 (including specie to the value of £23,899), as against £569,216 (specie £72,472) in 1914. Principal articles of import were:—

Articles.	Year ended 31st December, 1914.		Year ended 31st December, 1915.	
	Quantity	Value.	Quantity	Value.
		£		£
Beans and Peas cwt.	7,296	5,097	6,723	5,453
Beer and Ale, in wood .... gal.	14,478	1,603	5,329	468
Beer and Ale, in bottle.... doz.	5,468	1,361	5,674	1,632
Butter, including Butterine, etc. cwt.	1,852	7,727	1,963	7,756
Coffee, raw ....cwt.	3,287	9,638	6,207	17,875
Vetches.....kile	6,319	945	—	—
Wheat .....kile	4,962	1,159	160,444	48,050
Bran .....cwt.	1,075	245	—	—
Flour.....cwt.	17,145	9,668	54,426	47,035
Fish, dried, etc. cwt.	2,922	3,822	1,477	2,903
Olive Oil .....cwt.	2,197	4,837	6,003	15,146
Provisions, tinned, dried, etc.....	—	9,556	—	9,245
Rice .....cwt.	17,894	9,037	26,888	17,158
Sesame.....cwt.	855	868	2,325	2,431
Spirits of all sorts .....gal.	1,347	778	1,706	941
Sugar .....cwt.	25,398	19,331	27,870	36,232
Tea .....oke	6,045	845	6,126	1,058
Tobacco in leaf oke	189,845	23,422	214,058	24,589
Tumbeki or Persian Tobacco.....oke	9,218	922	17,587	2,315
Coal .....tons	2,918	5,282	418	1,613
Copper .....cwt.	605	3,022	326	1,585
Iron .....cwt.	17,097	6,574	6,781	3,934
Lime .....cwt.	525	31	1,605	115
Chemical manure cwt.	6,371	3,325	8,446	3,451
Gum mastic and Gum bark ..cwt.	40	376	43	397
Hides and skins No.	13,436	3,175	1,995	844
Mineral oil....cwt.	1,273	1,385	1,484	1,736
Petroleum ....gal.	610,559	20,706	385,736	21,850
Silkworm eggs..oz.	7,146	1,472	6,203	1,251
Timber	—	20,497	—	650
Hardware and cutlery	—	3,219	—	1,525
Iron and steel manufactures....	—	11,931	—	5,753
Jewellery	—	2,729	—	567
Machinery, parts, fittings, etc.....	—	17,076	—	4,818
Cotton yarn and thread .....oke	229,261	25,002	308,817	31,614
Cotton piece goods cwt.	—	54,789	—	56,833
Haberdashery and millinery	—	11,020	—	6,742
Hemp manufactures	—	1,384	—	1,556
Linen manufactures	—	1,041	—	1,056
Sacks.....No.	204,091	8,903	110,056	4,948
Silk manufactures	—	5,668	—	4,150
Woollen manufactures	—	19,910	—	17,657
Candles .....cwt.	951	1,745	1,007	1,813
Cards, playing, dos.	4,398	261	4,009	227
Carriages .....No.	202	1,522	128	2,677
Cement .....cwt.	14,576	1,175	10,602	1,315
Tiles.....No.	1,656,444	7,596	147,588	799
Furniture	—	2,972	—	1,643
Glassware	—	4,571	—	1,163
Implements of agriculture	—	674	—	206
Indigo .....oke	3,560	1,442	3,031	2,524
Leather manufactures	—	10,717	—	12,534
Leather, sole..cwt.	2,537	18,204	2,799	21,292
Matches.....gross	51,031	2,592	64,014	5,287
Soap .....cwt.	10,427	17,271	8,762	15,009
Stationery	—	2,722	—	2,758
Stores, Government and military	—	24,445	—	42,870
Straw manufactures.....	—	4,456	—	2,511

Exports.

Total exports for the year amounted to £661,397 (including specie valued at £10,907), as against £550,239 (specie £53,463) for 1914. Principal articles of export were:—

Article.	Year ended. Dec. 31, 1914.		Year ended. Dec. 31, 1915.	
	Q'ntity.	Value.	Q'ntity.	Value.
		£		£
Goats.....No.	2,341	1,705	332	242
Mules.....No.	676	10,164	887	15,789
Oxen .....No.	1,994	13,844	3,443	30,072
Poultry .....No.	3,454	261	2,353	177
Sheep.....No.	2,699	2,044	939	843
Swine.....No.	1,749	5,003	—	—
Wheat .....kile	11,391	2,494	1,931	4,458
Barley .....kile	442,745	48,124	120	42
Oats .....kile	156,177	7,315	466,436	68,371
Grapes.....cwt.	14,887	2,184	58,535	6,425
Lemons and Oranges No.	10,902,375	9,784	13,795	2,675
Pomegranates cwt.	106,663	13,748	14,852,906	13,235
Raisins.....cwt.	16,395	7,419	117,130	20,250
Other.....cwt.	4,341	1,058	54,189	34,468
Spirits .....gal.	41,542	4,396	6,440	1,773
Commandaria..gal.	15,412	1,100	46,968	5,431
Other .....gal.	900,784	28,305	9,832	654
Cheese .....cwt.	4,582	10,132	1,303,778	37,504
Eggs .....No.	123,438	190	2,836	6,607
Potatoes .....cwt.	54,203	11,741	54,485	88
Onions .....cwt.	35,264	5,329	82,302	28,513
Vinegar .....gal.	219,770	3,517	28,942	5,390
Beans and Peascwt.	11,289	4,671	119,651	1,697
Carobs .....ton	46,861	182,454	6,902	5,062
Cotton .....cwt.	9,366	27,605	47,249	203,162
Cotton seed....cwt.	11,337	2,788	6,251	16,306
Silk cocoons....oke	9,954	6,446	12,891	2,841
Wool .....cwt.	5,243	15,064	57,830	37,299
Linseed.....cwt.	5,746	2,898	5,493	14,523
Hides and skins cwt.	1,327	7,966	3,868	3,089
Sponges .....oke	1,419	2,332	913	4,686
Straw .....cwt.	12,490	698	4,122	7,937
Sumac .....cwt.	7,011	1,595	2,240	193
Asbestos .....cwt.	4,925	1,913	6,733	1,476
Terra Umbra ..tons	4,819	5,370	21,979	9,509
Cordage and twine .....cwt.	612	1,179	3,890	4,591
Cotton manufactures.....	—	2,207	2,033	4,805
Earthenware	—	1,896	—	14,300
Gypsum .....tons	4,251	2,420	2,635	1,575
Total exports.	—	550,239	—	661,397

MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, held on Wednesday, it was resolved that the following statement should be printed and circulated to each member of the Chamber, a reply being requested as to whether the member assented to it or otherwise:—

"That this Chamber is convinced of the need for improved scientific education, especially in its highest branches, better organization of individual industries, general amendments of the patent laws, improvements of transport and banking facilities, the appointment of a Minister of Commerce, the extension of the system of trade commissioners, and a thorough reorganization of Consular service.

"But exceeding in urgency any of these desirable reforms, the Chamber considers it to be essential that after the war the same facilities for trading with the British Empire shall not be allowed to our enemies as those granted to our Allies and to neutral nations, and, particularly, that steps shall be taken not only to render dumping and a return to pre-war conditions impossible, but also effectually to eliminate enemy influences so actively in operation prior to the war."

The Chamber also urged that immediate consideration should be given by the Government to the desirability of preferential reciprocal trading relations between all parts of the British Empire, and, so far as possible, with our Allies.

Marcos Semeika Pasha, member of the Egyptian Legislative Assembly, has had an interview with Lord Edward Cecil, the Financial Adviser, and communicated to him the unanimous complaints of cultivators whom he had met in his recent trip in Upper Egypt with regard to the high prices of coal ruling in the country and the disastrous effects it will have on the economic situation of Egypt. According to the *Egyptian Gazette*, Lord Edward Cecil informed him that during his recent visit to England, he discussed the question with the authorities there, and they agreed to treat Egypt with regard to coal as one of the colonies.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

H.M. Consul at Cairo has forwarded a copy of the *cahier des charges* in connection with a call for tenders by the Egyptian Ministry of Education, for the supply and delivery of clothing for the pupils of the Bulac Elementary Training College for Women Teachers, viz.:—4,060 metres of flannelette, 6,090 metres of printed calico, 3,480 metres of coloured zephyr, 2,320 metres of veil muslin, 1,740 dozens of white press buttons, and 870 pairs of girls' shoes. Samples may be inspected, and specifications and forms of tender obtained, at the Central Stores, Ministry of Education, Darb el Gamamiz, Cairo. Sealed tenders, accompanied by a deposit of 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent., of the value of the offer, will be received at the Central Stores of the Ministry of Education, as above, up to May 27.

The *Official Journal* for April 3 contains certain tariff valuations for hides, skins, sesame, flax, wool, ivory, wax, onions, eggs, cotton seed oil, caustic soda, and various other products exported from Egypt, which are to remain in operation from April 1 to June 30, 1916. The list of valuations may be seen by British traders interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The Superintendent of Stores, Ministry of Education, invites tenders for the supply of clothing for the pupils of the Elementary Training Colleges for women teachers for the school year 1917. Date, May 27.

H.M. Consul at Cairo has forwarded conditions of contract in connection with a call for tenders by the Egyptian Ministry of Finance for the supply of stationery articles required for the use of the various Government Administrations during the year 1916-17, including pencils, penholders, pen wipers, pins, gum, paper clips, sealing wax, ink, etc. Copies of the conditions and form of tender may be obtained from the "Economat Central, Ministère des Finances," Cairo, at which address also sealed tenders, made out on the proper form and accompanied by samples (in duplicate) of the goods it is proposed to supply, will be received up to noon on June 1.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-18). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Date, June 1.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of War for the supply of (1) forty tons of cocoanut oil and (2) 100 tons arachis oil into the War Department Stores, Tura. Date, May 16.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

With reference to the communication originally made to the Press in September, 1914, the Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo, continues to furnish information connected with Egyptian agricultural products for export, and, with reference to markets for imported products, acts as an intermediary between the producer and consumer. Samples of produce are prepared for submission to inquirers in all parts of the world, and information is supplied to producers, to enable them to prepare their produce in a manner suitable for foreign markets. All correspondence should be addressed to the Bureau of Commercial Intelligence, Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo.

Morocco.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Saffi reports that the total foreign trade of the port during 1915 amounted in value to £767,285, as compared with £537,823 in 1914. The increase was chiefly due to a welcome improvement in the export trade resulting from a good average harvest, which would probably have been very large, and would have compensated for the two bad seasons of 1913 and 1914 had it not been damaged by locusts. The value of the imports declined from £469,796 in 1914 to £441,105 in 1915. Practically all articles showed a considerable falling-off, and it was only increased prices which made the value of the total imports almost equal to that of 1914.

The United Kingdom, whilst slightly increasing her share in the import trade of Saffi from 31 per cent. to 32 per cent., ceded the first place amongst importing countries to France, whose percentage rose from 24 per cent. to 43 per cent., this latter figure exactly representing the combined shares of France and Germany in 1914.

A slight decline in the amount of sugar imported, namely, 6,685 tons, as compared with 6,858 tons in 1914, was accompanied by a very heavy rise in price, the imports in 1915 and 1914 being valued at 5,340,463 fr. and 2,885,264 fr., respectively. The deficit in the sugar supply occasioned by the absence of German and Austrian sugar was more than made up by imports from France and Egypt. The imports from the Netherlands dropped from 1,294 to 874 tons. The present stocks of sugar are heavy, and, taking into account the diminished imports, there can be no doubt that a decrease in consumption has taken place.

The amount of tea imported during 1915 was 253 tons, as compared with 286 tons in 1914, whilst a rise in price took place. In view of the fact that the tea imports in 1914 were only about half of those of 1913, it is obvious that a marked falling-off in consumption has occurred.

Imports of all building materials with one exception fell to almost negligible quantities, the depression in private building enterprise which followed the outbreak of war having continued. Imports of cement, however, increased from 902 tons in 1914 to 2,370 tons in 1915, due to the activities of the Public Works Department of the Protectorate, the department being engaged upon port improvements and the construction of a lighthouse at Cape Cantin. Public works at Marrakesh were also partly responsible for the increase in the amount of cement imported into Saffi. Hardware and machinery imports also declined.

The importation of petroleum and petrol more than doubled in 1915 as a consequence of increased motor traffic resulting from the rapid construction or improvement of roads by the Protectorate authorities.

Imports of candles increased from 476 to 681 tons in 1915, due to the normal 1914 stock not having been brought in before the close of the year, owing to disorganisation of trade, shipping facilities, etc., and a rise in prices of these goods of about 14 per cent. has taken place. The United Kingdom's share in the increased imports of candles rose from 190 tons to 330 tons. It should be noted, however, that French imports rose from forty-four to 342 tons. This large rise in the French figures is partly due to lack of shipping facilities between the United Kingdom and Morocco.

A considerable drop in the imports of cotton goods occurred, namely, from 868 to 696 tons in 1915. Prices, however, showed only a slight rise. Decreasing consumption accounts for the falling-off in the imports of these goods.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copies of Orders of the General Commanding-in-Chief in the French Zone in Morocco, dated April 1, laying down the following provisions (with effect as from April 5) respecting the exportation of maize and goat skins from the French Zone in Morocco:—

Maize.—Quantities of maize which have not been retained by the "Service l'Intendance" may be exported, under licence to be issued by the Director of the Service, to French, Allied or neutral ports, under the conditions laid down by Article 5 of the Decree of October 18, 1915 (see the notice at pages 705-706 of the *Board of Trade Journal* for December 9, 1915).

Goat Skins.—The exportation and re-exportation from the French Zone of goat skins in the hair is prohibited, but quantities of such skins which are not required by the "Service de l'Intendance" may be exported, under licence to be issued by the Director of the Service, to French, Allied or neutral ports, under the conditions laid down by Article 5 of the Decree of October 18, 1915.

Abyssinia.

Our local agent informs us (says *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review*) that with the completion of the Adis-Abeba railway there will be an enormous increase in the demand for many articles of trade such as soap, hardware, cutlery, hollow-ware, cooking utensils, matches, sewing machines, stationery, cotton prints for women, etc. Without the slightest doubt Abyssinia may soon be reckoned with as the important place for many articles such as the above and kindred goods, and manufacturers could do worse than establish agents at two or three of the more important points through which the new railway will run. It must not be overlooked, however, that all goods must be such as to retail cheaply, the question of price being of greater importance than the question of quality.

Persia.

The Acting British Vice-Consul at Resht reports that a local merchant wishes to import boots, shoes, cotton goods, and cloth by parcel post, and would be glad to receive catalogues from United Kingdom manufacturers of those goods.

United Kingdom manufacturers of the goods mentioned, and exporters of U.K. goods desirous of doing business in Persia, may obtain the name and address of the inquirer on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. In making application the reference number (156) should be quoted.

The importance of Ispahan as a commercial centre is emphasised by *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review*, which says that although it has not the commercial importance to-day it had some one hundred years ago, it is an important point in the trade-route towards the Far East, and British merchants should do well by establishing depôts or commercial representatives here, when the war is over.

The same journal adds that there appears to be a demand in Teheran for boots and shoes. The "American style" seems to meet with favour.

Greece.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that a Greek Ministerial Order, published in the *Official Gazette* of April 6, prohibited the exportation from Greece of: Capsicums and peppers; emery, corundum, natural and artificial, alundum and carborundum of all kinds; rattans; and searchlights and parts thereof.

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EGYPT'S TRADE DURING MARCH.

CAIRO, April 24.

The Customs returns for March show a continuation in the trade revival already recorded during the preceding months. Imports amounted to £E2,469,781, as against £E1,332,390 in March, 1915, and exports to £E3,249,688, as against £E2,703,708 in the same month. For comparisons' sake it is interesting to note that this year's figures are better than those of March, 1914 and 1913, and that the total imports for this year so far are only half a-million below the figure at the end of March, 1914, whilst the total exports are one and three-quarter millions better.

The chief increases in imports during the month were, salted fish, £E33,787; flour, £E12,718; jams and preserves, £E41,075, mostly from Great Britain and British Possessions in the East; beer, £E33,319; petroleum, £E89,858; stationery, £E26,654; furniture, £E148,330, practically all of which came from England; coal, £E223,736, the quantity was 16,045 tons less; natural indigo, £E16,983, all from India; chemical manures, £E99,351, all from Chili; textiles, £E223,762, one half of the total came from England, and all the sacks, amounting to £E70,060, from India, which supplied 60 per cent. of the cotton threads. The only items which showed any falling off were frozen meat by £E68,433, rice by £E17,661, and coffee by £E44,892.

Under exports, cereals jumped from £E84,775 to £E202,058. and sugar doubled to £E170,931. Onions increased by £E28,413 to £E121,470, almost all of which went to England, and cotton by £E461,758 to £E2,312,823; the rise in price is noticeable from the fact that the quantity was 290,762 cantars less. Wool also doubled, the entire export being taken by England. On the other hand, eggs fell off by £E38,676, or one-third, the quantity also being reduced owing to the drop in prices, cotton seed by £E48,240—the rise in price compensating for the large shrinkage in quantity—and gold and silver bullion by £E79,930 per 90 per cent. The cigarette trade remained to all intents and purposes stationary. Specie movements were very slight. There was practically no export, and under imports appeared £E29,300, new Egyptian silver and nickel, and £E97,535, part of the rupees put recently into local circulation.

As regards the share taken by the various countries trading with Egypt, Great Britain's was just about half the imports and one-third of the exports, whilst the other parts of the Empire progressed very well under imports from £E173,513 to £E230,123, India taking the lion's share. America improved her sales to Egypt by 200 per cent.—she again provided all the petroleum; Spain hers to £E50,909 from £E3,252; Italy hers by 45 per cent. to £E145,255—she sent 35 per cent. of the stationery; Holland hers by £E22,938; Japan hers to £E23,006 from £E3,382, and Switzerland hers by 50 per cent. to £E21,841. Under exports the United States progressed to £E603,396, Spain to £E85,141, Japan to £E95,566, Russia to £E164,091—all of these were cotton, which also represented the whole of the purchases of Switzerland, whose imports from this country fell off by £E57,046 to £E240,873. France made a welcome improvement in her purchases, which rose from £E183,886 to £E536,680; of this, 60 per cent. was cotton, 30 per cent. cereals, and 10 per cent. sugar. Exports to Italy fell off slightly, but that country took 40 per cent. of the sugar exports.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan improved during March, exports to the former rising from £E39,776 to £E112,081, and traffic the other way by £E3,819 to £E74,896. The chief imports into Egypt from the Sudan were, livestock, £E29,049, of which £E25,960 was camels; maize, £E12,258; sesame, £E33,297; charcoal, £E3,744; and cotton, £E3,699. Exports from Egypt to the Sudan were, skins, £E2,159; refined sugar, £12,305; coffee, £E8,328; and cotton tissues, £E17,718.

Engineering Notes.

Public Works in Morocco.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Saffi reports that considerable activity has been shown by the Protectorate authorities in carrying out improvements at the port of Saffi during 1915. A large new stone warehouse, now almost completed, will double the storage accommodation. In front of the warehouses a large "terre-plein" is being constructed, which will do away with the necessity, when the warehouses are full, of having to dump goods on the sand, thus exposing them to damage by water. A small stone jetty is also being built alongside of which lighters can lie; it will carry two electric cranes for the purpose of lifting from the lighters heavy articles which under present conditions have to be carried by hand through the surf. A lighthouse has also been in course of construction at Cape Cantin, and is now rapidly nearing completion. The light is a first-class one and its beam will be visible at a distance of some forty-five miles; this addition to the lights of the West African coast should be of great benefit to South American shipping, which frequently makes landfall at Cape Cantin.

Farm Implements for Greece.

Supplementary to our previous notes on the above subject, *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review* says that the Royal Agricultural Society has established extensive offices at the Zappion—Official Exposition Buildings—Athens, and modern agricultural machinery can here be seen and studied by interested parties. An interesting point in connection with the activity of the society is its system, not only to advise a farmer in regard to purchases, but to examine his farm, crops, soil, etc., to be able to issue really practical advice. British firms interested in promoting their sales in Greece should write to the society with their catalogues and further information of interest. Letters to be addressed to La Société Royale d'Agriculture, Maison Zappion, Athènes, Greece.

The Baghdad Railway.

According to the *Hamburger Nachrichten* the Baghdad railway is now completed, except for the stretch of 633 kilometres (393 miles) which will not be completed till after the war. The stretch from Islahie to Mamure has been completed in spite of the war, and was opened to traffic in February last. Of the 2,435 kilometres (1,512 miles) from the Haida Pasha station in Constantinople to Baghdad, 1,802 kilometres (1,119 miles) are completed; the portions to be completed are 42 kilometres (26 miles) from Darak to Karabuna (between Haida Pasha and Aleppo) and 591 kilometres (367 miles) on the Aleppo-Baghdad stretch, of which only the Ras-el-tin-Samar portion is completed. These gaps, it is stated, do not cause great difficulty, as their place is taken by unusually good roads.

An Exhaust Silencer.

A new and much-needed device has been patented which will be of much interest to owners who require an efficient (yet simple) exhaust silencer. The object of the invention is to provide a compact and effective exhaust silencer which will cause the stream of exhaust gases to be split up and then diffused and filtered. The silencer consists of a perforated tubular chamber, subdivided by longitudinal and transverse gauze partitions into compartments, which are filled with diffusing material, such as asbestos-fibre or wire-wool. This may be enclosed in an outer casing perforated at each end, and, if desired, it can be used along the sides of the silencer.

Constructing a Submarine in Two Weeks.

At a Congress meeting held recently at Washington, Mr. Edison stated that with the standardization of parts and the co-operation of private industry he believed that a submarine could be constructed in two weeks! The famous inventor is apparently becoming very bold in his belief, and it is said that some of his ideas, reported as wonderful in recent years, were not supported by the scientific and technical experts whom he employs. It is not known how the latter regard the possibility of building and completing a modern and efficient submarine in a fortnight, even if the standardization of parts was on the principle of the American cheap clocks or cheap motor cars. However, Mr. Edison's remarks at the same meeting with reference to the laboratory contained sound good advice. He expressed the opinion that the laboratory's functions should be to bring to the final stages of perfection various ideas and machines suggested to it; and he suggested a State grant of 1,500,000 dollars for a Government laboratory, where the mysteries of making new weapons for warfare could be looked into and the inventive genius of the country mobilized, as it were, in the interest of national defence.

Protection of Propeller Shaft.

One of the most important, as well as the most troublesome, duties of marine engineers lies in the attention that must be paid to the propeller shaft. The majority of steamships depend on water for the lubrication and cooling of their stern bushes and propeller shaft. Many serious accidents have been caused by breakdowns consequent upon faulty lubrication, or inattention on the part of the engineers. It is, therefore, interesting to hear that the new Vickers patent tail-shaft appliance is giving every satisfaction. This appliance consists of two or more glands fixed at the after end of the stern bush, the glands containing one or more specially-made floating packing rings, which are so fitted to the shaft that they prevent any leakage of oil, and also prevent any water from entering the tube. In the after gland are fitted two elastic washers which act as brushes, and brush away all sand and grit which might otherwise enter into the stern bush and score the shaft. This appliance is extremely simple, and can be fitted to almost any vessel, providing there are 2 ins. between the propeller boss and the end of the stern bush.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The barley harvest began by April 20 in parts of the "Mesaoria," including the neighbourhood of Nicosia and the more forward districts. Generally speaking, the hopes of a plentiful yield will be realised. Prospects for wheat are also good. Hail-storms have caused considerable damage in several places to vines and fruit trees. The former almost invariably suffer from hail in the spring. Fresh, dense swarms of locusts have appeared at many points. In some parts crops stand in the way of poison spraying. It is reported that the supply of the chemical used for spraying will give out in about a week, and, if so, collection of the pest by hand will consequently become general. In the vine lands sulphuring against *oïdium* is being carried out; but the application of the remedy by cultivators is far less systematic and general than it should be. Of carob and vine prospects it is too early to speak.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, May 11.

Currants.

There has been a very good demand this past week for medium qualities with business done at hardening prices. The reports from Greece as to the condition and prospects of the new crop are unfavourable, and holders are very firm in their quotations, being certain of a further advance. The stock of currants in London at the end of April was 8,192 tons, against 4,491 tons the same period last year. But it is asserted that a considerable part of this stock is fruit unsuitable for grocery purposes and may be used only for manufacturing. Provincial is quoted 41s. to 43s. 6d.; Amalias, 44s. to 46s.; Patras, 46s. to 52s.; Gulf, 48s. to 54s.; Vostizza, 48s. to 56s.; Smalls, 44s. to 55s.; and Island, 45s. to 49s.

Sultanas.

The market for all kinds has been very quiet, with only small sales taking place at late rates. The stock of sultanas in London at the end of April was 2,173 tons, against 2,811 tons the same period last year.

Figs.

There has been a fair demand, resulting in only small sales at unchanged prices.

Dates.

There was no demand this past week, but prices continue very firm.

Seeds.

Linseed declined during the week, but improved again. London-Calcutta, spot, offered at 74s.; afloat, 73s.; May-June and June-July, 72s. 6d. Bombay ordinary, May-June, 74s. 9d.; small ditto, 73s. 9d. Rapeseed is firmer:—Toria, April-May, 69s. 6d. is asked for Hull. Cottonseed is quiet:—London-Egyptian loading is quoted £13 17s. 6d., and Sakelarides, May, £13 7s. 6d. per ton. Canary, hemp, and mustard seeds are quiet and unchanged.

Oils.

Linseed oil is easier this week. Spot pipes quoted £37, and barrels £38, landed terms. Rape oil is slow: ordinary brown, naked spot, remains at £49; and English refined, barrels, £54 to £55. Cotton oil is firm. Crude, spot, pipes, £46; refined pipes, pale, £49 10s.; and barrels, sweet, £54 to £55, as to make.

Oil Cakes.

Cotton cakes are scarce and dearer; Egyptian, of what is available on spot, command £9 17s. 6d., whilst for May shipment there are sellers at £9 12s. 6d. ex ship. English cake is offered, sparingly, at £9 17s. 6d. to £10 per ton. Linseed cake is somewhat quieter after the recent activity, and prices are hardly firm. Best London sells at £12 5s. to £12 10s.; and East Indian pures at about the same figure.

Egyptian Onions.

Larger quantities are now available, and the improved condition of recent arrivals is responsible for the good sales that have taken place during the week.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 28.

Practically the whole of the 50,000 wagons of cereals, constituting Roumania's first sale to Germany, have now been exported, and the Central Commission of Exports, in its meeting on April 12, discussed the proportions of the different varieties of grains which it is advisable to export in connection with the second Roumano-German contract of 100,000 wagons.

The meeting was presided over by M. Constantinesen, Minister of Agriculture. M. Manissalian, President of the Association of Grain Merchants, presented the list of offers of grain.

The following are the quantities offered for sale:—

Maize (old)	28,462	wagons
Maize (new)	10,067	,,
Barley	20,898	,,
Rye	13,150	,,
Peas	70	,,

After a lengthy debate, it was decided to authorise the export of rye and peas offered, plus one-third of the quantity of barley. No immediate decision was taken regarding the maize.

The question arose as to what was to be done with the wheat considered inacceptable by the British Bureau. Farmers whose lease expires in 1916, and whose wheat has been refused by the British Bureau, will be authorised to export their wheat. It will, without a doubt, find its way into Germany and Austria.

The Shopkeepers' Lot.

Commercially speaking, Roumania is largely dependent on the foreign industrial market, her home manufactures being very limited. Many materials of first importance have to be extensively imported. In the majority of cases they can only be obtained in Germany at the present moment, and where there is only one market, prices are apt to be high. In other words, what Germany gives with one hand she takes away with the other. Only to-day I asked a shop owner who sells surgical instruments, apparatus, and rubber wares how he had fared since the war began. He replied that the goods which he had in stock he had been able to sell at satisfactory prices, but that he had ordered (and paid for) goods to the value of £4,000 in Berlin some eighteen months ago, and that leave for their exportation had not as yet been obtained. He will eventually get his goods, I suppose, but not before the war is over. Meanwhile the Germans have his money, and his present stock is so deplorably meagre that he can scarcely carry on his business.

It may be argued that this case is not typical, because surgical instruments are articles which cannot be exported from a belligerent state; but, as a matter of fact, there is an infinity of articles which the Roumanian merchant has to do without. As long as the stock of which he disposes holds out, the shopkeeper realises very high prices, and then he has to put up his shutters. Needless to say, more and more shutters will be put up as time passes.

ROUMANIAN WHEAT EXPORTS.

According to the *Curierul Financiar*, the export of cereal from Roumania in January, 1916, was higher than at any time since the war began. In January, 1916, 13,154 wagons (of 10 metric tons) of cereals were exported as compared with 13,246 wagons in January, 1914, and 4,918 wagons in the corresponding month last year. In November and December, 1915, 9,579 wagons and 8,394 wagons of cereals respectively were exported. The month of January, 1916, also exceeded the previous record for exports from Roumania of wheat-flour, being 2,459 wagons, as against 1,335 in the previous month.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN TRANSPORT.

The Germanophile newspapers in Bucharest announced recently that goods purchased by Roumania from England would not reach their destination, because of a decision taken at the Allies' Conference in Paris that England should exercise economic and financial pressure on neutrals. The British Legation immediately published a communiqué categorically denying this statement, and showing that England, on the contrary, is doing everything possible to facilitate the transport of goods to Roumania by the route which is open. The communiqué points out that if the despatch of all the goods destined for Roumania viâ Archangel and Norway has not been able to be expedited, the reason is that England desires to avoid obstructing these routes in order to be able to send her Russian Allies materials which are absolutely necessary.

GREEK FINANCES.

To ameliorate the financial situation in Greece an internal loan of £2,800,000 is proposed to be issued (says an Athens telegram) through the National Bank with the participation of other banks.

Reuter's agent adds that it is proposed to issue the loan at 87½ with 5½ per cent. interest. Half and, perhaps more, of the entire loan will be taken up by the National Bank and the remainder by other banks and companies. Nothing positive is known regarding the details of the agreement and what arrangements it is proposed to make to prevent a financial combination from influencing the rate of exchange. The International Financial Commission has unanimously agreed to make no concession.

The Government is also considering the conclusion of another loan abroad, but for the time being, at least, the chances of success seem very remote. According to an Athens newspaper, Greece is negotiating this latter loan in Paris through the Greek Minister, and naively suggests that "the solution of the passage of the Serbian Army will depend on the result of the negotiations."

News received in London yesterday from Athens in connection with the above loan continues contradictory. Reuter's agent reported (May 10) that negotiations with the National Bank for an internal loan had apparently been concluded, but that nothing definite was known as to the rate of issue or interest. It was, moreover, stated on good authority that the Government had again approached the international financial control with a view to obtaining assistance, but without success.

The *Times* reports, on the other hand, that Greek Government journals state that the loan of 100,000,000 fr. (£4,000,000) has already been concluded. The bonds will be for 500 fr., bearing interest at 6 per cent., and the issue will be made at 87.

FINANCIER'S FAILURE.

At the London Bankruptcy Court, on Wednesday, Herbert Ernest Crabbe, who will be remembered in connection with several flotations during the Egyptian land "boom," attended before Mr. Registrar Hope for public examination upon a statement of affairs showing liabilities £26,336, of which £13,376 were expected to rank, and assets £5,585.

The debtor stated that he was formerly engaged in financial business in Egypt, London, and elsewhere, but has had no occupation since Christmas, 1910, except for three months, when he was engaged by a firm of London stockbrokers at a remuneration of £100 a month. He attributes his failure to the loss of £2,500 owing to the default of certain brokers.

Mr. Hansell, on behalf of the debtor, said that, as a result of interpleader proceedings, Mrs. Crabbe had handed over to the trustee bonds, and there was a reasonable prospect of paying everybody in full.

POOHOOMUL BROS. VERSUS MENA HOUSE HOTEL.

The Mixed Court of Appeal at Alexandria delivered judgment on April 11 in the appeal brought by the George Nungovitch Egyptian Hotels Company against the decision of the Cairo Mixed Court in the action brought against the company by Messrs. Poohoomul Brothers for damages in respect of the Mena House Hotel, which the firm rented from the company, and were unable to occupy owing to the premises being taken over by the military authorities.

The Appeal Court reversed the decision of the lower Court in favour of the company on the ground that if Poohoomul Brothers were entitled to an indemnity their claim should be brought against the Australian military authorities, who took over their premises, and that the firm could not sue the hotel company unless the statement of accounts which will probably be made between the company and the military authorities included also an allowance to the tenants for the wrong they may have suffered in fact.

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COMPANY REPORT.

Agricultural Bank of Egypt.

The directors have to report that the net profits of the Bank for the financial year 1915-16 in accordance with Articles 40 and 41 of the Statutes, amount to £E701,943.110. From this amount there has to be deducted: (I.) the repayment, under Article 41 of the Statutes, of liabilities incurred in 1914 as explained on the following page (£E182,056.178); (II.) the service of the debentures (£E234,202.891); (III.) the provision for the reserve fund (£E37,150.464); (IV.) the provision for the special reserve fund as per Article 40 of the Statutes (£E6,777.808), or a total of £E460,187.341, leaving £E241,755.769. There has to be further deducted: (V.) dividend on £E1,250,000 stg., preferred shares (£E48,750); (VI.) commission to the National Bank of Egypt (£E9,700.144), or £E58,450.144, leaving £E183,305,625 available for distribution as dividend on ordinary and deferred shares.

The ordinary shares have to receive, in the first instance, dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, £E120,900. The balance of £E62,405.625 is available to the extent of one-half, or £E31,202.813 for the ordinary shares and to the extent of one-half, or £31,202.812 for the deferred shares.

The amounts therefore available for dividend on the ordinary shares are as follows:—Balance from the period ending January 31, 1915, £E5,241.521; for dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, £E120,900; further amount available, £E31,202.813; or a total of £E157,344.334. The directors propose to pay a dividend at the rate of 6s. per annum for the financial year 1915-16 amounting to £E145,080, and to carry forward the balance of £E12,264.334.

The amounts available for dividend on the deferred shares are as follows:—Balance from the period ending January 31, 1915, £E492.057; further amount available, £E31,202.812, or a total of £E31,694.869. The directors propose to pay a dividend of £15 per share, amounting to £E29,250, and to carry forward the balance of £E2,444.869.

It will be remembered that in the profit and loss account of January 31, 1915, £E484,352 were charged as to £E472,700 to the general reserve fund and as to £E11,652 to the Egyptian Government, to complete the 3 per cent. guarantee. We are glad to be able to report that out of the encashment of capital in arrears due in 1914 we have been able, in accordance with the statutes to recredit the Egyptian Government and to repass £E170,404 to the general reserve fund. That fund now amounts to £E211,657, and has been reinvested to the extent of £E160,822 in securities at cost price taken from the £E461,769 of securities which were transferred on January 31, 1915, to the ordinary investment account from the general reserve investment account. The Egyptian Government has renewed its undertaking to pay to the Bank—subject to the terms of their guarantee as defined by the Statutes—any difference between the cost price and the proceeds of realisation of the above securities still remaining in the ordinary investment account, should they be realised during the current year. Such a realisation actually took place during the past year when the Bank converted its holding of Consols into War Loan, and resulted in a diminution of the reserve fund by £E10,340. Similarly any further loss on realisation of those securities which were originally in the general reserve investment account would be borne by the general reserve fund. Such loss if the securities were sold at mean market price on January 31, 1916, would amount to £E42,000. In the event of our having to realise our other investments the loss would have to be borne by the profit and loss account. The loss on ordinary investments in Government securities if they were sold at mean market price on January 31, 1916, would amount to £E54,000. We have therefore thought it advisable to set aside out of this year's profit £E20,000 as provision for depreciation on investments. The depreciation of £E44,000 on securities now forming the investment of the general reserve fund account would fall on the general reserve fund.

On January 31, 1916, the total arrears outstanding were £E1,209,186, against £E1,394,546 on January 31, 1915, as shown by the following table:—

	Capital. £E.	Interest. £E.	Total. £E
Accrued during 1914-1915 ..	876,003	518,543	1,394,546
Of which collected from Feb. 1, 1915, to Jan. 31, 1916.....	268,067	176,211	444,278
Leaving	607,936	342,332	950,268
To which have to be added the arrears of 1915-16	164,163	94,755	258,918
Making a total on Jan. 31, 1916, of	£E772,099	£E437,087	£E1,209,186

Of the sum of £E1,209,186 in arrears shown above, £E437,087 represent interest, and have been entirely set aside, since, in accordance with the Statutes, only interest actually encashed can be included in the profits. The remainder, viz., £E772,099 representing capital overdue, has, as required by the Statutes, been entirely deducted from the profit and loss account before arriving at the balance available for distribution. Consequently any encashments made on account of the sum of £E1,209,186 will go entirely to the profit of the year in which they are effected, except in so far as—in accordance with Article 41 of the Statutes—the sums still due to the general reserve fund must be repaid. Up to March 31 the encashments since February 1, 1915, on account of the arrears of £E1,209,186 amount to £E44,000.

The following tables give details of annual collections, of arrears and of output, as regards "A" and "B" loans:—

ARREARS ON ANNUAL INSTALMENTS.

Year.	Annuity Due. £E.	Amount of Annuity in Arrears at end of Year. £E.	Percentage of Arrears to Annuity.
1904	917,942	27,718	3·0
1905	1,415,547	94,633	6·7
1906	1,740,117	54,332	3·1
1907	1,855,751	113,128	6·1
1908	1,886,046	263,758	14·0
1909/10	1,804,141	319,408	17·7
1910/11	1,750,616	329,805	18·8
1911/12	1,587,634	247,558	15·6
1912/13	1,507,841	337,356	22·3
1913/14	1,392,255	367,756	26·4
1914/15	1,212,087	902,138	74·4
1915/16	1,001,304	258,918	25·8
1916/17	816,691	—	—

COLLECTION OF ARREARS.

Year.	Arrears brought forward at beginning of year. £E.	Sums recovered during year. £E.	Percentage
1904	6,676	5,333	76·5
1905	29,352	26,236	89·4
1906	97,729	89,395	91·4
1907	62,666	50,118	79·9
1908	125,676	93,293	74·2
1909/10	296,141	198,663	67·0
1910/11	416,887	244,110	58·5
1911/12	502,582	234,420	46·6
1912/13	515,720	199,742	38·7
1913/14	653,334	316,263	48·4
1914/15	701,977	212,569	30·1
1915/16	1,394,546	444,278	31·9
1916/17	1,209,186	—	—

Seeing that we are passing through a time of war, and consequently with a restriction of agricultural credit, the sums collected during the year may be considered as satisfactory. £E742,386 were collected out of the annual instalment of £E1,001,304, and £E444,278 from arrears of past years, giving a total collection of £E1,186,664. The clients of the Bank therefore repaid, in addition to a full instalment, a sum of £E185,360, the majority of them thus showing their willingness and ability to settle their debts to the Bank. There seems good grounds to hope that the crops during this year will enable them to decrease further the total of outstanding arrears. We also hope that it may be possible, if the Egyptian Government extends the limits of time imposed by the 5 feddan law for the settlement of debts, to renew in many cases loans to clients in arrears in such a manner that they will be relieved from the burden of being in arrears and will not be liable to pay, from the crops of one year, both the annual instalment and a portion of overdue instalments. The details of the loans made are as follows:—

"A" LOANS: SECURED BY SIGNATURE ONLY.

	No.	Amount. £E.	
500mm. to £E1....	—	—	
£E1.500mm. to £E5..	—	—	
£E5.500mm. to £E20	131	2,165	
£E20.500mm. to £E100	18	841	
£E100 to £E200.....	5	850	
Total	154	3,856	Average, £E25

"B" LOANS: SECURED BY MORTGAGE.

£E	No.	Amount. £E	
10 to 50	3	140	
51 to 100	8	705	
101 to 150	22	3,010	
151 to 300	98	22,060	
301 to 500	34	14,380	
501 to 1000	32	28,200	
Total.....	197	68,495	Average. £E347.7

Making a total of 351 loans for £E72,351 compared with 1,432 loans for £E250,605 last year. It will be recognised that it was advisable to restrict the output of loans in the country during the last twelve months, without at the same time depriving good clients of all credit in cases where it appeared the money would be wisely employed. This policy accounts for the small output of "A" and "B" loans. During the year the Bank has made five loans on mortgage in sums exceeding £E1,000 each for a total of £E19,700 bringing, with some supplements made to existing loans, the total of these loans to £E61,563 on January 31, 1916.

AGRICULTURAL SYNDICATES AND COLLECTIVE LOANS.

	Falling due in 1915-16. No.	Amount. £E.	Balance Remaining Overdue at 31/1/16. No.	Amount. £E.
Agricultural Syndicate Loans	5	3,171	2	1,028
Collective Loans	32	3,249	15	1,087

Of the above the following sums have since been paid:—

Agricultural Syndicate Loans	£E200
Collective Loans	£E444

These loans can be considered as merely in the experimental stage, and their development in the future will chiefly depend upon whether the Egyptian Government decide to encourage this form of credit and under what regulations.

LOANS OUTSTANDING ON JANUARY 31ST, 1916.

	Number.	Amount. £E.	Average. £E.
"A" Loans	67	1,721	25.6
"B" Loans	122,632	4,933,297	40.2
Total.....	122,699	4,935,018	
Compared with previous year	159,342	5,491,941	

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

Head Office: ATHENS.

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LOANS REPAID BEFORE DUE DATE BY CASH.

Year.	£E10 to 300		£E301 to 500.		Total.	
	No.	Amt. £E.	No.	Amt. £E.	No.	Amt. £E.
1909/10	1,462	88,572	294	104,756	1,756	193,328
1910 11	2,491	163,884	199	76,221	2,690	240,105
1911/12	1,968	83,876	226	60,588	2,194	144,464
1912/13	1,510	75,249	198	52,390	1,708	127,639
1913/14	1,059	53,524	148	43,579	1,207	97,103
1914/15	449	23,899	75	21,241	524	45,140
1915/16	349	12,792	19	4,966	368	17,758

The still further decrease of repayments before maturity is due, as in last year, to the restriction of agricultural credit in the country.

The following table shows the position of land acquired by foreclosure:—

	Feddan.	Kirat.	Sahm.	Cost. £E.	Sale Price. £E.
Land in hand on 31/1/15	2,992	1	4	84,934	
Acquired during 1915-16	3,125	22	4	83,563	
Total	6,117	23	8	168,497	
Less sales during 1915-16	1,078	16	17	30,077	30,955
Balance in hand 31/1/16	5,039	6	15	138,420	

It will be seen, therefore, that we have sold land costing us £E30,077 for £E30,955; of which sum £E16,644 was paid in cash, the balance being payable by instalments guaranteed by a privileged charge on the land. The large increase in the land acquired by the Bank is due to various causes: firstly, the increased number of expropriation cases begun by the Bank in 1913 and 1914 which reached their final stage during the past year; secondly, a similar increase of expropriations by third parties, in which cases the Bank as first mortgagee had to buy in the land to protect itself; and lastly, owing to the general financial situation, the considerable diminution in the proportion of cases where third parties bought the land, when put up for sale at the Tribunals. The cost of the remaining feddan 5,039 kirat 6 sahm 15, viz.. £E138,420, includes the debt and the many legal expenses of expropriation. This land has been carefully valued in detail for a sum approximately equal to the cost, and we hope to sell it gradually at some such prices. But the stagnation in land sales foreseen in our last report still remains, and we do not consider it advisable to press forward sales except when a reasonable price can be obtained. The number of expropriations made by the Bank during the year are as follows:—Number of cases in hand February 1, 1915, 2,466; number of new cases begun during 1915-16, 1,945; or a total of 4,411; of which cases settled, 727, leaving a balance of 3,684. Cases brought to expropriation number 655, or a balance pending of 3,029. In 497 of these cases of expropriation 2,576 feddans were bought in by the Bank, and in 158 remaining cases 984 feddans were bought in by third parties.

The total amount advanced to the Mortgage Company of Egypt on January 31, 1916, was £E1,009,125 secured by the deposit of registered scrip of their 4½ per cent. first mortgage debentures, to an amount of £stg.1,250,000. During the last year we have not encashed a dividend on our holding of shares in the Mortgage Company of Egypt; like other similar institutions the present circumstances have led to a considerable falling off in the amount of annuities encashed. The loans outstanding on the London Stock Exchange at January 31, 1916, amounted to £stg.20,165 (£E19,660), against £E63,850 on January 31, 1915.

The directors have to announce with deep regret the death of one of their colleagues, the Right Hon. Arnold Morley, who has been a member of the London Committee since the foundation of the Bank. In accordance with the Statutes, the Board has temporarily elected as a director Captain R. G. Westropp, the General Manager of the Bank, and this nomination is submitted to the shareholders at this general meeting.

The newly-elected officers of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce for the ensuing year are the following:—President, Mr. Law; Vice-President, Mr. Norton; Secretary, Mr. G. Dello Strologo; Treasurer, Mr. G. A. Contomichalos.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY.—The thirty-eighth ordinary general meeting will be held at Alexandria on 5th proximo at 4 p.m.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN.—Gemsah, week, 637 tons (previous week 1,032 tons); Hurgada, 577 tons, against 557 tons.

BANK OF ABYSSINIA.—The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders will be held on Wednesday, May 31, at 4 p.m., at the offices of the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo.

BANK OF ROUMANIA.—The Board recommends a dividend of 8s. per share, free of British income-tax, for 1915.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.—Week ended May 4, £866; decrease, £196. Aggregate, £22,559; increase, £1,698.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.—The Board recommends a final dividend of 6 per cent. for 1915 on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the year, and a dividend at the rate of £6 2s. 5d. per share on the deferred shares.

EUROPEAN OILFIELDS.—Week ended 7th instant, 110,300 poods.

LAND AND MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.—Debenture interest coupons and debenture bonds (drawn for redemption) due 15th inst., will be paid by Messrs. Barclay and Co., Limited, 54, Lombard Street, E.C., on and after that date.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED.—Week ended April 29, 562 tons.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED.—Week ended May 6, 562 tons. Month of April, 2,770 tons.

ROYAL INSURANCE.—The Board recommends a final dividend of 14s. per share, less tax, payable 23rd instant, making 28s. per share, less tax, for 1915.

SUEZ CANAL.—Traffic receipts on May 8 were 280,000 fr., as against 120,000 fr. last year.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Crude opium was exported from Salonika during 1915 in very large quantities.

Twenty-eight varieties of Australian wheat have been cultivated in Egypt at the Government's Nursery at Gizeh.

The s.s. Figa, one of the steamers recently reported to have been torpedoed, was bound for Alexandria with 9,500 sacks of coffee and a large cargo of provisions for Egypt.

A telegram received in Petrograd from Tabriz states that the formal opening of the railway line between Tabriz and Julfa took place to-day. There will be a regular passenger and goods service on the line.

ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

Notice is Hereby Given that the thirty-eighth Ordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders will be held at the Company's offices, Alexandria, on Monday, the 5th June, 1916, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Company, also to confirm the nomination of Mr. A. G. M. Dickson as a Director of the Company, and further to elect Mr. H. R. C. Blagden, the Manager of the Company, as a director of the Company, and for that purpose to declare Article 106 (a) of the Articles of Association suspended in his favour in accordance with the terms of the said Article.

Holders of share warrants to bearer desiring to attend or to be represented at the Meeting must deposit their share warrants in London before the 22nd May, 1916, or in Alexandria before the 2nd June, 1916, until after the Meeting, at Messrs. Barclay and Co., Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, Alexandria, or at some other approved bank in London or Alexandria.

Dated, Alexandria, the 3rd April, 1916.

By order of the Board,
H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Manager.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909..	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909 ..	99	—	80
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan ..	93½	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	76½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	65½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	63xd
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	52	55
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	52	52½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	46½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	41
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	52	52
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	48½
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902 ..	77	—	65
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.....	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855..	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94¼	—	76
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	67xd
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	64
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4½	—	4⅛
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6⅜
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69xd
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red...	83	—	71xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	—	10½
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens.....	£2	—	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅛	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited.....	3⅛	—	3⅛
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅛	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13⅛	—	11⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	—
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	4⅞
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅜	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅛	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅞
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb. ..	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb...	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirsus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds..	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1⅛	—	1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	⅛	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2⅛
Do. Do. Def.	⅛	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8⅛	—	5½
Do. Pref.	4⅛	—	3⅛
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/-
Do. Def.	⅜	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	8/6
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	83⅞
Do and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	—	4/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1⅛
" " Founders	⅛	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	72½
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	6/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅜	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅞	—	1/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/7½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1⅛	—	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	23,9
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99⅛	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/8	—	16/-
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	19/6
Do. do. Prefs.....	3⅜	—	3⅛
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2⅛	—	1⅛

OIL.	Price on May 3.	May 10.
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	7/-	7/-
Anglo-Persian	20/-	20/-
European Oilfields	3/9	3/9
Roumanian.....	13/-	13/-

PARIS BOURSE.	May 3.	May 10.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	443	442
Canal de Suez	4275	4305
Credit Foncier Egyptien	—	614
Turkish Unified 4%	59.50	59 05
Egyptian Unified 4%	90	90
Serbian, 1895	—	66.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 263.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Russian advance in the direction of Mosul is an important development in the situation in the Middle East. For reasons that are set forth elsewhere in this issue, the thrust at this point does not bring the Russians nearer to Baghdad, because it is hardly conceivable that, with other forces within approximately a hundred miles of the latter city, the Russians near Khanikin, and the British below Kut, our Allies should wish to bring up another column which has still two or three hundred miles to traverse. But the Russians at Mosul would effectively cut the lines of communication of the Baghdad command, and ought to enable the latter to be disposed of before further reinforcements can reach it. This result will depend on the strength of the Russian force which has been operating on the western borders of Persia, and on the intentions of the British General Staff in regard to the Mesopotamian Expedition. In view of all that has happened, the attempt to capture Baghdad, its failure, the investment and capitulation of Kut, it is difficult to believe that the Allies will not take advantage of the success of Russia's middle army in Asiatic Turkey to reverse what has hitherto been the verdict of the struggle between Turkey and Great Britain.

The unexpected appearance of the Russians so far south as Rowandiz and the fact that they are still advancing justify the hope that the Turks have been entirely taken by surprise. From the course of the recent fighting, it is safe to infer that the enemy's main effort has been directed towards stopping the Russian advance at its centre west of Erzeroum. The left of the Russian line, based on Mush and Bitlis, had developed a south-westerly line of advance, and will have forced the Turks to concentrate at Diarbekr and to the north-east for the protection of that town and of the railway running to the south of it, with railhead at Nisibin or beyond. If, as is probable, all the troops that could be spared from Baghdad and Mosul were sent northwards to Diarbekr when the seriousness of the menace in Armenia was appreciated in Constantinople, then the Russians have a good chance of reaching Mosul before many of those troops can return to it. Navigation on the Tigris between Diarbekr and Mosul has hitherto been restricted to rafts of inflated goatskins, a not very suitable method of transporting bodies of troops and artillery. The distance, however, can be covered by this means in four or five days, and the importance of holding Mosul may prompt the Turks, under German supervision, to make a determined effort to arrest the Russian advance, if they can arrive in time.

The concentration of their main forces in the neighbourhood of Erzinjan has enabled the Turks to deliver a series of counter-attacks on the Russians west of Erzeroum. The accounts of the fighting are not explicit, but it is to be inferred that the Russians have been forced back in the region between Mamakhatun and Ashkala. As the main purpose of our Allies at this stage of the operations in Armenia must be to occupy the attention of as many Turks as possible, the set-back is not serious. The enemy's success appears to have been achieved at the cost of heavy casualties, and, by the admission of the Turkish *communiqué*, the Russian "retreat" was stopped. Further to the south, the Russian force operating in Western Persia reached Kasr-i-Shirin, and has crossed the frontier into Turkey. Khanikin is immediately in front of it; but between that town and Baghdad there will be little to stop a Russian advance. We shall do well, however, not to build too extravagant hopes on the rate of progress recently maintained by this Russian column. It has not been called upon to meet any force that can be compared with the strength of the Turks in Baghdad, and it would be courting a repetition of General Townshend's mishap to advance without adequate preparations. An attempt will also be made, we may hope, to co-ordinate the operations of General Lake to the south and General Baratoff to the north-east of Baghdad before an advance by either is undertaken alone.

If straws are a trustworthy indication of the way the wind blows, we are glad to find the well-informed military correspondent of *The Times* abandoning the attitude towards military operations in the East which he has maintained for so long. He does not abjure his original belief that it was wrong to disseminate our resources in distant fields; "but," he continues, "there is this difference between last year and the present date—namely, that, in view of the policy of some of our Allies and our failure to change this policy, try as we might, we have reluctantly come to the conclusion that

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we must make the best of a bad job, and no longer press for the return of certain of our errant armies to the principal theatre. It therefore only remains for us to urge that, the policy being what it is, and the dispositions being what they are, all our troops east of Malta should be actively and usefully employed, and not condemned to unfruitful inactivity any longer." This is the policy which has long been urged in these pages, and we welcome the tardy conversion of the *Times'* Military Correspondent, not for the satisfaction of having our own point of view shared in a distinguished quarter, but as an indication that there is at last a likelihood of something happening in the East. The passivity and uneconomical use of force of which the correspondent complains have undoubtedly been due to divided counsels among the Allies. Now that the views which he has so aggressively championed in the past have been given their quietus, we may look to a new plan of campaign based, as he expresses it, upon the elementary consideration that war is an act of violence and nothing else.

It is satisfactory to learn that the full statement of the attitude and aims of the Allies given by Sir Edward Grey to an American correspondent is being published in neutral countries. Both in Roumania and Greece there are many people who still accept unquestioningly the garbled accounts for which German shrewdness secured so long a start. The course of events is beginning to shake their early beliefs, and their minds may have acquired by now sufficient receptivity to make such a statement particularly useful at this juncture. What we and our Allies are fighting for, said Sir Edward Grey, is a free Europe. We want a Europe free, not only from the domination of one nationality by another, but from hectoring diplomacy and the peril of war, free from the constant rattling of the sword in the scabbard, from perpetual talk of shining armour and warlords. In fact, he added, we feel we are fighting for equal rights; for law, justice, peace; for civilization throughout the world, as against brute force, which knows no restraint and no mercy. We are not only fighting Prussia's attempt to do, in this instance, to all of Europe what she did to non-Prussian Germany, but fighting the German idea of the wholesomeness, almost the desirability, of ever recurrent war. For British readers the whole statement has a special interest, as it shows how far the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has moved from the time when, four days before the outbreak of the war, he could assure the British Ambassador in Berlin that, if the then crisis were to be safely passed, he was hopeful that the relief and reaction which would follow might make possible "some more definite *rapprochement* between the Powers" than had been possible up till then.

Speaking last week to the members of the Russian Duma and Council of the Empire who are on a visit to England, Mr. Asquith said: "One of the most gratifying results of our alliance is the complete agreement which has been established between the British and Russian Governments in regard to Eastern affairs. I remember, as do many here, the days when in that quarter, whether in Europe or in Asia, the interests of the two Empires were supposed in both countries to be irreconcilably antagonistic. . . . Those days of misunderstandings are happily over, and whether it be in Turkey or in Persia, or wherever British and Russian interests come into contact with one another, we have arrived at a common policy, which we are both determined loyally and in concert to pursue." The special reference to Persia justifies the hope that, as soon as the war is over, the affairs of that unfortunate country will enter upon a happier phase. The war has revealed the selfish nature of German propaganda, which would merely exploit the Persians in Germany's interests and leave them to their fate. Its failure has at least disillusioned those Persians who relied on playing off the Germans against Russia and Great Britain, and should encourage the country as a whole to make the best of the opportunities given them. The new "common policy" to be pursued loyally and in concert by the two Powers will, we trust, do more for Persia's interests than the perfunctory and one-sided arrangement reached in 1907.

The landing of Italian troops at Musa Moresa and the occupation by them the next day of the port of Bardia, both in the Bay of Sollum, mark a further stage in the Allies' attempts to deal with the submarine menace in the Mediterranean. For some time now shipping has escaped the attentions of these pirates, but its immunity, it is understood, has been due rather to the careful policing of the Mediterranean route than to the total elimination of submarines. Whether their use of the African coast as a supply base was due to Greek waters having become unsafe or less hospitable is a matter for conjecture; but their connection with the Bay of Sollum served the double purpose of replenishing the submarines and supplying war munitions to the Arabs. The Italian landing was effected without incident. The fact that a brother of the Chief of the Senussi and some of the principal chiefs of Marmarica voluntarily joined the expedition suggests that the recent chastisement of the rebels within the Egyptian border has had a salutary effect on native opinion in these regions. Germany's promise to America in regard to submarine warfare, if faithfully carried out, must rob a number of these craft of their occupation; but shipping will doubtless feel safer, if they continue to be harried from pillar to post and deprived of their bases, until they are either accounted for or are unable to leave their ports of origin.

The public controversy between the two most popular men in Greece continues. King Constantine has fallen back on Greek newspaper representatives as his medium of publicity; M. Venizelos replies in the columns of his own organ, the *Herald*. It was for occasions such as these that Cleisthenes introduced the principle of ostracism, and if the controversy continues much longer, not only his shade, but a number of living Greek patriots as well, will regret that Greece's modern Constitution does not contain a similar provision. The system, it will be remembered, carried no stigma with it. Some of the most distinguished men at Athens were removed by ostracism, and were recalled when their services were judged to be indispensable. So subtly does the spirit of ancient Greece survive in part in the country to-day that King Constantine himself as Crown Prince has had experience of banishment, when the Military League recorded its adverse verdict against him. He was brought back by the instrumentality of M. Venizelos, and the old goddess of Fate must have been in a particularly malevolent mood to drive these two strong men into collision. Time is in all probability working for M. Venizelos, but not, in his opinion, for Greece; and to this latter fact we must attribute the persistency with which this shrewd statesman prejudices his own position in the endeavour to win back his King and country to the only policy consonant with Greece's interests.

The order which prohibited all women, except those engaged in military service, from landing in Egypt, it will be seen from regulations printed on another page, has at last been modified in favour of bona-fide residents. Reference has been made more than once in these columns to the arbitrary nature of a regulation which compelled the wives and daughters of civil servants and others domiciled in Egypt either to remain there the whole year round or, if they had left the country on the usual and necessary holiday, to remain indefinitely away from their homes. But the prohibition was persisted in long enough to cause the maximum resentment and inconvenience among a section of the population who had done yeoman service as emergency nurses and in other voluntary work at a time when the military authorities had failed to make adequate provision for wounded soldiers in Egypt. The new regulations make departure from and entry into Egypt a matter of permits, to which no exception can be taken, provided the movements of desirable residents are not interfered with unduly by red-tape delays.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 2.

The Katia Affair.

The recent affair on the Canal has come as an unpleasant surprise to everyone out here, and it has made a very bad impression in local Egyptian circles. It seems incredible that at this late date in the campaign such a large hostile body as that which attacked Katia should have been able to get so near to our front posts without being detected in time to permit of reinforcements being brought up, or that 500 of the enemy should have succeeded in getting through to Bir Duweidar, which is, after all, west of Kati and therefore on our lines of communication. Fortunately the gallantry of our men, as usual, eventually saved the situation, but it is a thousand pities that the heroic defenders of Katia should not have been succoured in time.

Every arm of the Service engaged in the fight or present in the area behaved admirably. The Camel Corps is said to have done fine work in bringing in wounded, and even the Redifs (Egyptian reservists) came up to the scratch. In connection with the latter, one instance in particular has come to my notice, though I am told that it was typical of their conduct at other points. The officer in charge of a detachment of Redifs who were doing "labour work" right forward got wind that something was up, and sent to ask what he was to do. The reply was that he was to carry on, and that if a retirement had to be made by the troops he would be warned in time. So he sat tight. Later on he saw camels, mules, etc., streaming across the desert; but he had his orders, and remained at his post with his Redifs. Next morning he sent again to ascertain how things were going on, and to his horror his messenger returned to say that the post had been evacuated. He heard firing all round and decided that, as he and his party were unarmed, the best thing to do was to beat a retreat. So he ordered his men to trek towards the Canal. All day long they marched without water; it was not until late that evening that they struck the railway, and only after they had followed it for some distance did they come upon an engine and manage to get some water out of the tank. The officer in charge reported that the Redifs maintained perfect discipline and behaved splendidly throughout, notwithstanding the strain they were put to by the lack of water and by the fact that they were for some time in the firing zone and had no arms wherewith to defend themselves. As a matter of fact, the only murmur he heard was at their being unable to stick to and, if necessary, defend their post, owing to the lack of weapons of any description.

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales took a brief holiday from his duties on the Canal this week, and spent a day in Cairo. He arrived early in the morning, and, accompanied by Lieut.-Colonel J. K. Watson, Military Secretary to the High Commissioner, and Mr. R. Storrs, Oriental Secretary to the Residency, paid a long visit to the bazaars. His Royal Highness lunched at the Residency and visited the Sultan, afterwards going for a walk through Gezira, and returning the same evening to Ismailia.

The Mystery of Mohammed Bey Zaki.

Recent reports from Constantinople have contained references to the activities of a certain Mohammed Bey Zaki, who is said to be deep in the counsels of the Committee of Union and Progress. *Al Mokattam* has now discovered that this person is an old Cairo acquaintance—none other than "Captain" Jorge Neykon Waldberg, who came to this country in 1905 and disappeared again in 1908. Prior to his arrival in Egypt "Captain" Waldberg had had a chequered career in South America and Southern Europe. He engaged in white slave traffic in the Argentine, whence he was expelled by the Austrian Consulate. At that time he claimed Austrian nationality; but when he next came before the public—in Athens—he had become an American citizen. In the Greek capital he married the daughter of a rich officer, but after various "financial" operations had to retire precipitately across the border. In Stambul he became one of the secret service agents of Fahim Pasha, the then Prefect of Police; but he made things too hot for himself, and once more had to retire—this time to Egypt, where the financial boom was then at its height.

In Cairo his activities were carried on under the cloak of journalism. He founded first of all *La Verité Orientale*, then *La Bourse* (no connection with the dignified *Bourse Egyptienne*), and finally *Le Petit Journal*. These organs were remarkable for the violent attacks made in them on prominent persons, and for the gross caricatures that periodically appeared in them. Waldberg used them to extort money from those he attacked, or from interested parties, and also resorted to all manner of other expedients for raising the wind. His operations at last became such a public scandal that the American Agency disowned him—strange to relate he had up to then succeeded in claiming American protection—and he had to stand his trial for swindling and blackmail. Sentenced to a period of imprisonment, he made good his escape to Constantinople, where he was received with open arms.

In the Turkish capital he became a member of the "Black Band," consisting of long-firm swindlers of the first water, and at the same time received an appointment as official spy to the Union and Progress Committee. To ingratiate himself with the latter he embraced Islam, taking the name of Mohammed Bey Zaki, and married the daughter of a rich Anatolian notable, having in the meantime divorced his Greek wife. He founded the *Mohafaza Millet*, an anti-Entente and pro-German organ, and on behalf of the Young Turks violently attacked the Arabs and the Armenians. After the assassination of Nazim Pasha, Waldberg pretended to espouse the Arab cause, and on more than one occasion he betrayed the Arab officers into the Committee's hands. Throughout, he was in close touch with the German Embassy, and was at the bottom of all the intrigues and dirty work that have been carried on in Stambul during the past few years. To-day "Captain" Waldberg, alias Mohammed Bey Zaki, arch swindler, blackmailer, white slave trader, is in receipt of an annual retaining fee of £T2,000 from Berlin, and is one of the mainstays of Enver and Co., who find him a man after their own heart. When one reads that the Young Turks have such a person as their boon companion and their most cherished assistant, one can credit all the stories of infamy that are attributed to them, though one cannot help feeling sorry for the people whose fate is in the hands of such villains.

Shakespeare's Tercentenary.

The British colony in Egypt did not organize any celebration of Shakespeare's Tercentenary, but the event did not pass entirely unnoticed; for in the churches most of the preachers made reference to our greatest poet, the masters in the Government schools gave addresses on the subject, whilst in Alexandria part of the programme at No. 15 General Hospital was given up to the performance of the Clown's Play, from

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"A Midsummer Night's Dream," a performance which, executed in true Shakespearean style, without properties or scenery, was a complete success.

In Egyptian circles somewhat more prominence was given to the event. Excellent leading articles explaining the position that the poet holds not only amongst the English-speaking peoples, but amongst all the civilized nations of the world, were published by *Al Mokattem* and *Al Ahram*, and a special meeting was held at the Egyptian University, under the presidency of H.E. Ismail Pasha Hassanein, Under-Secretary of State for Education. The principal speakers were Mr. Percy White and M. Clèment, Professors of English and French Literature respectively at the University, and the meeting was concluded by a recitation of Mark Antony's famous speech, given in excellent style by a young Egyptian, Tewfik Eff. Diàb.

The "great poet of humanity," as Mr. Percy White called him in his eloquent address, is by no means unknown to—though he is as yet far from being appreciated by—the Egyptians. The younger generation who attend the State schools study certain of his plays in the literature course, and until quite recently one of the secondary schools acted a play at the close of or in the course of every scholastic year. "Romeo and Juliet" and "Hamlet" used to be given in the Arab theatres, notably by the celebrated veteran Egyptian actor and singer, Sheikh Salama; and a number of other Shakespearean works have been published in Arabic. But those who periodically attended these performances bear testimony to the fact that the representation was in almost every detail a travesty of the great poet's masterpieces, whilst a perusal of the translations reveals glaring omissions of important passages and a gross misrendering of others. Educated Egyptians themselves admit that these translations leave a good deal to be desired. These shortcomings are due to the fact that in practically every case the translation has been made, not from the original, but from a French version by men who, albeit they knew the language well enough to speak and read it, had not an adequate literary knowledge of French even to catch the meaning of the translator, and facilitated their own task by calmly leaving out passages that presented any difficulties to them. Considering that our occupation of Egypt has extended over thirty-four years, during which the English language has steadily made its way in the country, until to-day it is, in obedience to the demands of the Egyptians themselves, to all intents and purposes the only foreign linguistic medium of instruction in the Government schools, there must be something wrong somewhere if the younger generation cannot tackle the task of translating Shakespeare direct from English into Arabic. In justice to the system which they have introduced and fostered, our education authorities should encourage as much as possible the study of the master poet and the idea of direct translation: and at the same time it is for Young Egypt to show by its practical appreciation of the world-acclaimed poet some more tangible evidence than is forthcoming at present of the intellectual development which it claims to have undergone. Until Young Egypt can demonstrate by translation and dramatic representation that it has entered into the grand thoughts inspired and perpetuated by the "great poet of humanity" it will never realize its aspirations to be counted amongst the cultured peoples of the universe.

BRITISH SUBJECTS IN EGYPT.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of May 3 announces: The General Officer Commanding in Chief in Egypt has just published a notice which seems to indicate that Great Britain is seriously considering the question of a military census of all its subjects.

In accordance with the terms of this notice, all British subjects from the age of eighteen to forty-one years are obliged to answer certain questions which will have to be sent to Headquarters before the 15th inst.

This notice must be considered as a military order. Persons concerned must give their name, their postal address, the place of their birth, with the date of their birth, whether married or single and their occupation, with the name and address of their employer if necessary.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, May 2.

Pancypriot Sports.

Athletic meetings have been held at Larnaca, Limassol, and Papho, to be followed by one at the capital. Greeks have recognised the value of athletic and gymnastic exercises, and have even recently established football clubs, which have kept the game going with commendable zeal. In ordinary times Pancypriot Athletic Gatherings are held every third year in the chief towns in turn. They have been made a meeting-ground, not only for athletic contests, but also for the advancement of political ideas and aspirations, for "patriotic" speeches, and the strengthening of local ethnic societies. At Limassol and Larnaca small regattas are also held, prizes being given for sailing, rowing, and swimming.

A Turkish Florist.

The first and only florist's shop in Cyprus has been opened in Nicosia by a Turk, named Said Bey. The flowers are cultivated in the garden of his own house from seeds imported from England. The shop is near the Ottoman Bank. Said Bey, whose enterprise meets a real need, receives visitors to his garden and greenhouses daily, including Sundays. The establishment deserves, and will no doubt receive, encouragement.

The Island and the War.

The need of the Censor's vigilance is recalled by frequent gaps in the Greek newspapers, which follow closely the war and the fortunes of Greece. A gloomy view is taken of the situation at Athens; but trust is expressed that, happen what may, events will end happily for the future of Hellenism.

Greeks arriving at Famagusta on April 25 brought rumours of disorder and bloodshed in Athens and the Piræus, in connection with quarrels between Venizelist and anti-Venizelist factions. Great anxiety is felt on account of the political divisions and animosities.

Quiet reigns throughout the island, but it is felt that at any moment it might, owing to its geographical position, become a scene of activity and usefulness.

NEW EGYPTIAN PASSPORT REGULATIONS.

The following is a translation (taken from the *Egyptian Gazette*) of a Press Bureau communication on the subject of the entry and departure of persons to and from Egypt:—

Everybody desirous of obtaining a permit to quit Egypt with or without the intention of returning must send his request to the Permit Bureau at the Cairo, Alexandria, or Port Said Governorate, according to the place of residence. These requests must be presented at least fourteen days before the proposed date of embarkation. As regards entry to Egypt, the request must be as follows:—

If the petitioner resides in Great Britain the request must be sent to the Military Permit Office, 19, Bedford Square, London.

As regards other parts of the Empire or possessions of the Allies, the requests must be addressed to the nearest Passport Office. If the petitioner is outside the British Empire the request must be addressed to the British Consulate which is the nearest to the place where he resides at the moment of presenting his request.

In all cases the request must be presented to the above-mentioned authorities after taking into account the time necessary for them to arrive in Egypt at least before the proposed date of embarkation. In urgent cases requests can be made by cable in the way mentioned above at the expense of the petitioner.

As one can see by the foregoing, the principle to be followed is most rigorous. At the same time, it has been decided to lighten these measures to a certain limit for persons of British or Allied nationality who have actually their residence in Egypt.

As regards these, the permit to return to Egypt or to leave it and to a return there later cannot naturally be considered as a definite engagement on the part of the Egyptian authorities. If, meantime, the situation changes in consequence of unforeseen circumstances, and although it is to be hoped that there will be no need to annul permits already granted, it is the duty of the petitioners to take careful note of the above-mentioned conditions.

Such persons can now know that the permit to leave Egypt includes, as regards the Egyptian authorities, the authorisation to return to Egypt on condition, first, that no unforeseen circumstances of a character to change the situation have taken place in Egypt, and, secondly, that during their residence in Egypt or elsewhere these persons have not given grounds to the authorities of the countries where they have sojourned for doubts and suspicions. In order to conform to this last condition, such persons must fulfil the aforementioned formalities.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, May 2.

The Liberals and the Government.

The increasing activity of the Venizelist party—which is constantly getting into closer touch with the people, as recorded in my last letter, by means of its official publications, by public meetings in the principal towns, and by participating in the by-elections at Chios and Mytilene—is causing more and more anxiety to the Government and in high military circles. Realising that it is losing ground, the Government has been doing everything in its power to put a stop to this state of affairs.

It is the public meetings, by means of which the Liberal party is seeking to enlighten public opinion regarding the dangers of the country's present foreign policy, that have chiefly alarmed the Government, which fears the light as a certain unmentionable person is said to fear the Cross. But these meetings, which are all held behind closed doors, are expressly allowed by the Constitution as a public right, and nothing could be done to put an end to them. Therefore, other means had to be devised to undermine the popularity of the Liberal party; thus we have had invented the danger of allowing Serbian troops to pass through Greek territory, referred to in my previous letter, and M. Venizelos has been represented by the Governmental Press as plotting with the Entente Powers, who would restore him to power so soon as they—with the help of the Serbian army—had swept away the present Government and deposed the King! Every morning the Government's journals sounded the alarm about the "grave internal dangers threatening the country," which "the leader of the Liberals wishes to hand over to the enemies of Greece." Such was the language of the journals that published daily telegrams from supporters of the Gounarist party living in villages along the railway, who threatened to oppose the passage of Serbian troops.

The Military Agitation.

This "internal danger" having been created, and the enemy having been denounced, it was necessary to bring about a rising against him—a rising that should make it necessary for the Government to take vigorous action, by which it might rid itself of any danger from the Liberals. Accordingly two Ministerial evening papers—one of which, the *Neon*, is regarded as the organ of M. Gounaris, the Minister of the Interior—threw the country into a state of ferment by announcing that a fresh military revolution was imminent. According to these journals, the army officers, unable to remain inactive in face of the dangers threatening the country and the dynasty, had been taking counsel together, and had determined to mark openly their disapproval of the attitude of certain people, who, by their intrigues, favoured the passage of the Serbian troops across Greece. It was even stated that the officers considered that the incident of the bomb being thrown at the Bulgarian Legation was not unconnected with the Liberals' agitation, and that proofs of the resolution arrived at would be forthcoming, probably on that day (April 14/27). The second paper referred to—the *Hesperini*—had also been publishing a series of articles, attributed to an officer of the league that was supposed to be in course of formation, who represented that the whole army, for which he claimed to speak, was on the point of rising against those who threatened the country's independence.

The impression caused by these alarmist statements was all the more marked, and the uneasiness all the greater, because no official denial of them was forthcoming the next day either from the Press Bureau or from the Ministry of War. This led to the belief that the agitation, if not actually engineered by the Government, was at least tolerated by it. Be that as it may, it appears that it was got up by a number of infantry and cavalry officers, but that their initiative met with no encouragement from the other officers, who failed to see any necessity to reaffirm their loyalty to the dynasty and the country, or to embark upon counterplots against dangers and enemies that existed only in the morbid imaginations of certain interested parties. Thus, the movement has been disapproved by the great majority of the officers. Moreover, the Greek Army, which fraternizes with the people, has never embarked upon any movement without the co-operation and approval of the people, who, far from regarding M. Venizelos as a traitor and an enemy to his country, entertain for him the same devotion as for the King. So the *coup* has fallen through; and there was no public manifestation, no procession of officers through the streets of Athens, either on the day mentioned or the next.

Two days later the commander of the First Army Corps issued a somewhat enigmatical *communiqué*, stating merely that the rumours regarding the formation of military leagues and other manifestations had no *raison d'être*, since the officers are faithful to their oath, and fully conscious of their duty towards their King and country. So the curtain is rung down on the little comedy.

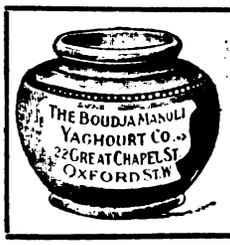
M. Venizelos on the Transport Question.

In last Sunday's *Kyrix* M. Venizelos published an important article on the passage of Serbian troops through Greek territory. In this article—which the Censor has strictly forbidden to be telegraphed abroad—the leader of the Liberals sets out to prove that the Government's intransigent attitude on this question may cause serious danger to the country in the future by alienating Serbia, her only ally in the Balkans. He also makes an important revelation; stating that in the treaty between the two countries, which, having never been denounced, is still in operation, there is a condition that if one of the contracting parties is at war with another State, and the other contracting party is not bound to participate in such war, the latter must nevertheless maintain an attitude of benevolent neutrality towards its ally, and must mobilize a force of fifty thousand men to assist its ally's operations.

This revelation has greatly exercised official circles, for it reveals the fact that in refusing to allow passage to the Serbian troops Greece is practically violating the treaty. M. Venizelos also remarks that since Greece, without having any treaty with Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria, has allowed their troops to invade Macedonia in order to attack the Franco-British forces, she can hardly refuse the latter permission to bring up reinforcements through southern Greece without being charged with partiality towards the Bulgaro-Germans at the expense of the Serbians. Finally, to avoid all difficulties, the *Kyrix* suggests that the Serbians should be asked to pass through without their arms, which should be sent round to them by sea.

The Cabinet and the Entente.

Rumours of the fall or of the reconstitution of the Cabinet crop up each week. However, it still survives. In order to avoid any appearance of exaggerating, I will confine myself to quoting the following description of the state of the Cabinet from the *Embros*, one of the principal organs of the Gounarists:—"It is certain that the Government is not equal to grappling with the events which it is called upon to face. The difficulties increase every day, and the King will soon have to consider—if he has not already considered—that he requires a Government. The policy of the present Government is a mass of weaknesses, vacillations, hesitations, contradictions. Certainly from the moment it was called to power this Government was not destined to be agreeable to the Quadruple Entente. Nevertheless, it might have avoided giving such an impression of opposition and personal pique in regard to the questions which have brought it into conflict with the Entente."



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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, April 23.

Greek Easter.

In consequence of the Greek Easter the people of Salonika have had more holidays than working days during the past week. As I pointed out in a previous letter, Saturday is the Salonika Sabbath, when all Jews close their places of business, while on the Christian Sunday they usually do a larger trade than on any other day; but on this Easter Sunday they have followed the example of their Christian friends and made it another day of rest. All shops are shut, but, of course, the cafés and restaurants continue open. As regards the observance of our Sunday, Athens forms a complete contrast to Salonika. In the capital the shops are always closed on that day, and things are almost as dull as in the streets of London.

Fighting on the Frontier.

Although the Allies are in touch with the enemy almost daily, the fighting has hitherto been confined to artillery duels, or skirmishes between patrols. On the other hand, the aviators on both sides have been exceptionally active during the past week. The Germans have repeatedly bombed Karasouli and other positions held by the French, without, however, causing appreciable damage; while the French airmen have made frequent visits to Doiran, Ghevgeli, Strumnitza, and other enemy positions near the frontier. But the finest feat of the week was a flight to Sofia by one of our daring aviators, who dropped several bombs in the Bulgarian capital. We all heard some months ago that King Ferdinand was so much afraid of hostile aircraft that he had a double roof constructed over his palace to protect himself from their possible attentions. It is said that on this occasion the efficacy of this extra roof was put to the test, but, of course, the French aviator was not able to observe the damage he had caused. He himself returned safely to his base here.

Several attempts have been made by enemy airmen to re-visit Salonika. Twice during the past week alarms were given, and the electric light was suddenly switched off, but so far no bombs have fallen here since the great raid of March 27. We may, however, be "strafed" any night by our savage foes; and we must just take our chance. As I have already recorded, there has been a considerable exodus of Greeks from Salonika, but not many persons of other nationalities have followed their example.

Russian Troops for Salonika.

The unexpected arrival of Russian troops at Marseilles has aroused much interest here, and everyone is hoping that they will come to Salonika. The Serbians would be only too glad to fight side by side with their Slav brethren; while the Bulgarian soldiers, it is believed, would be most averse from fighting against their liberators. If the Russians come they will certainly be sent against the Bulgarians, who will probably desert in large numbers, for from all accounts they are at present very discontented with their lot.

I had a conversation with General Sarrail a few nights ago on the subject of the Russian troops and their ultimate destination. Whilst confirming the news that a large body of our Russian friends had arrived in France, he would not say definitely whether or not they were intended for Salonika. All he said was that their presence here would have an excellent effect, and that if it was decided to use them at Salonika he would be delighted to have them. From the General's manner, however, it seemed to me that he had no doubt on the subject, and that we may very soon expect to welcome our brave Allies from the East.

Suspended Newspaper Reappears.

The *Nea Alithia* (*New Truth*), which had been suspended by General Sarrail, as recorded in my last letter, has now been allowed to reappear. Although a *Boche* production, its tone is gradually becoming milder.

A telegram received from Athens last Saturday reported that a squadron of Allied aeroplanes from Mytilene had raided the environs of Smyrna. The German official *communiqué* issued on Sunday reported that Allied aviators had dropped bombs on Mitrovitza and Doiran, but had been driven off by anti-aircraft guns.

STATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

By the kindness of a correspondent, we are able to reproduce the following extracts from letters written from Constantinople. The news they give is somewhat belated, but it may be regarded as quite trustworthy, and is of value for checking previous reports:—

March 13.

Things are getting warmer here every day. Many Austrians are here and are quartered in Stambul and also in Taxim Barracks. They are the men who manned the heavy guns at the Dardanelles, and are soon to go to the Caucasus. . . . . Bread is sold now to the people, one loaf to five people. The price is kept down, but at a great loss to the Government, who are losing money by selling at the price, 5 piastres. Coffee cannot be bought, the supply is finished. Sugar, when you get it, costs a medjedie a pound; fish, five piastres per pound; beef, and mighty tough at that, 8 piastres the pound; pork, 12 piastres the pound. Coal (very poor Black Sea stuff) is 40 medjedies per ton. Electric light is double what it was before the war—the trams stop running at 10 p.m., and some of the lines are out of use entirely. The "morale," as they term the spirit of the fighting men, is poor here. The Germans are getting sore at the Kaiser; the Austrians hate the Germans; and the Turks also hate the Germans—and the hate is reciprocated. Some of the Austrians are very good fellows and mostly express their opinion openly in regard to the Kaiser and the Germans.

In regard to our old friend (the Heir Apparent). His baggage was at the Sirkeji station, and he was to leave the same day as the American Ambassador and on the same train, and was supposed to be going either to Germany or Switzerland for his health. His father met his death in similar manner. . . . Other reports claim that he shot at Enver Bey some time ago and then Enver arranged to finish him off. The story here is that the Prince's throat was cut. You can suit yourself and believe what you like about it. My idea is that anything can happen and nothing ever is out of reason in this city.

You probably heard of an explosion at one of the powder magazines and factories some time ago. According to the local papers there were a "few casualties," but the number of killed and wounded was over 2,000.

There was a fire here last Thursday afternoon—a hospital at Chichli, near Bomontis—it burned also three buildings. Fifty wounded soldiers were burnt (Turks). There was no water available. The rumour or report is that the Germans wanted the Turkish doctors to let the Austrians have charge and management of the hospital, *so the fire* prevented the change in management.

A German professor is here who is to work out an economical plan for the distribution of food. I hear that the butchers' shops are closing to-day, that the supply of wheat from Roumania is stopped, and that the bread will now run out.

March 18.

Things look very serious over here now; yesterday I saw several horses, such as they are, drop in the street from hunger. One was lying dead, and you could see that it was a case of starvation. There are about 1,200 (twelve hundred) soldiers here who were taken prisoners by the Germans. They are the Morrocans, and . . . come from the French colonies in North Africa. . . .

There is an expert here on economy. He is a German professor, and has a whole lot of land under cultivation in the interior, and claims that if it rains he will have plenty of food for Constantinople and some to sell! . . . . All foodstuff is still up high, and although the papers say sugar is at 10 piastres the pound, or about 40 piastres the oke, it costs 50 or, say, 75 piastres the oke *when* you are fortunate enough to find it.

What is going on in Asiatic Turkey we don't know. All the hospitals that were American Red Cross are now taken over by the Turks. The reason for this was that the American Red Cross said they could not stay and nurse sick people, but wanted wounded ones, so the Turks said they would attend to it themselves. About 12,000, it is said, cavalry (Turkish) leave the Scutari barracks this week for Baghdad or that vicinity.

ARMENIAN RED CROSS & REFUGEE FUND

FOUNDED DECEMBER, 1914.

President, VISCOUNTESS BRYCE.

Donations are earnestly entreated for the relief of sickness and distress among 250,000 destitute Armenian refugees in the Caucasus, whose condition is "pitiable in the extreme." Relief pay is less than 4d. per head a day. Food and all necessaries of life are very dear. A copy of the Report for last year will be sent to inquirers. All work in connection with this Fund is voluntary. Contributions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Emily J. Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W. Cheques may be made payable to the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund; they should be crossed "London and South Western Bank, Holland Park Branch."

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THE AUSTRIANS IN BELGRADE.

(From a Correspondent.)

The truth about the conditions now prevailing in Belgrade may easily be gathered even from the Austrian papers or those papers in neutral countries whose reports are framed in accordance with the news provided by the Austrian Press. From stray items of news, from the official notifications and orders, and from isolated phrases, anyone reading what these papers have to say will readily understand the miserable state of things in that unfortunate city. The harsh and absurd behaviour of the enemy is affecting every branch of public life.

Austria's notorious partiality in matters religious is abundantly illustrated by the following instance. The Swiss papers of April 3 contain the following information, transmitted by the Vienna Press Bureau:—

The War Press Bureau reports as follows: Although there were about 8,000 Roman Catholics in Belgrade before the war, Belgrade possessed only one small Roman Catholic church, i.e., the small Chapel of the Legation. It has been one of the first cares of our administration to find suitable temporary premises, so that the numerous Roman Catholics in the Army and the civil population might be able to attend divine service. After making the necessary alterations, the Throne Room of the ruined Royal Palace was chosen for this purpose. The chaplain to the forces, Bishop Bjelik (who arrived in Belgrade in March) held the first service there on April 2, in the presence of the Military Governor, the garrison and a devout congregation numbering many thousands.

It is obvious from this piece of news that Catholicism is enjoying special protection, in spite of the fact that Græco-Orthodoxy is the State religion in Serbia. For the sake of accuracy, it may be added that the number of Roman Catholics mentioned as being in Belgrade (8,000) is greatly exaggerated. It is also very significant that it is the Throne Room of the Royal palace which has been turned into the Roman Catholic chapel, and not some other hall in another building.

From the financial point of view the enemy is squeezing the country in every possible way. We have a plain proof of this in the Vienna papers, which report the following notification of the Austro-Hungarian High Command:—

The Serbian provinces occupied by the Austro-Hungarians must bear the cost of all their requirements. Consequently all taxes levied must be handed over to the administrative authorities. If the military command should be compelled to defray expenses owing to a deficit in the revenue, then such financial assistance on the part of the authorities will constitute the "debt of the occupied provinces."

We are also furnished with further news of what Austrian banks and financial institutions are doing in Serbia. The *Pesti Hirlap* of April 8 writes as follows:—

The latest ambition of the Austro-Hungarian banks is to open branches in occupied Belgrade, where there are already seven branches. Before the war only the Commercial Bank and the Magyar Bank had branches in Belgrade; to-day every bank is endeavouring to establish a branch in Belgrade. We understand that three banks have newly established themselves there: the Anglo-Austrian Bank, the Union Bank, and the Czech Industrial Bank. In Belgrade there is already keen competition between these banks.

The eagerness of commercial agents, etc., to fill their pockets with Serbian money may be seen from the following extract from the *Neue Freie Presse* of April 8:—

During the last few days Belgrade has been *simply overrun* with all sorts of agents and commercial travellers from Austria Hungary, whose business *is often out of keeping* with the prevailing conditions.

Positive news enables us to gain an insight into the civil administration. The *Beogradske Novine* of March 21 announces that in virtue of an order by the Chief of Police citizens are permitted to go out of their houses during the morning. The inference is obvious: up to that date the unfortunate citizens of Belgrade had not been allowed to leave the house during the morning! On March 22 the same paper points out to the inhabitants of Belgrade the necessity of providing themselves with permits and always carrying these, because the police have been frequently compelled to arrest persons who could not identify themselves. In issue No. 45 of the *Beogradske Novine* we find the following:—"For the spreading of false and unfounded reports, calculated to cause uneasiness among the population, the police have arrested a lady." Similar items of news are of frequent occurrence in the papers.

It is also worth while to mention the absurd prohibition of the use of the "Cyrillic," or Serbian, alphabet. As your readers are probably aware, there is only one Serbian paper—the *Beogradske Novine*—at present published in Belgrade, and this is printed in Latin type, and not in the Cyrillic. But to what extent the repression of the Cyrillic alphabet is being carried may be gathered from the *Beogradske Novine*, No. 52, which reports as follows:—"A few days ago began the removal of all *inscriptions on public buildings*, and of the names of streets in Cyrillic lettering. All inscriptions on electric trams in Cyrillic lettering will be replaced by others in Latin characters."

Such are the conditions in Belgrade only according to the reports of the Austrian Press. Austrians themselves, therefore—as is obvious from the above items—admit that the national Serbian Church is intentionally neglected; that the Serbian alphabet is publicly suppressed; that the enemy is squeezing the country in every possible way, and filling his own pockets with the money of the poor people of Serbia; that the citizens of Belgrade were not allowed to leave their houses in the morning; that they are molested in every manner by the police when going out; that ladies themselves are arrested for (as we may suppose) their quite innocent talk; and so on.

What evils, then, are the Austrians perpetrating in Serbia to which no reference is made in their papers? The worst evils, no doubt. The latest information from a most trustworthy source as to the state of the unfortunate people of Serbia is the following:—

The population is simply starving. After the many epidemics that the Serbian population has endured up to date, a new illness has broken out. In consequence of starvation and other exceedingly bad conditions, consumption has become the prevailing disease in the country. Thousands are suffering from it, and almost every house in Belgrade and other towns in Serbia has one or more consumptive inmates.

SAITE TOMBS DISCOVERED.

In a letter to the *Morning Post* Mr. George Fraser announces that an ancient tomb was discovered lately in the private grounds of the ostrich farm at Mataria, a suburb of Cairo. The clearing of this tomb led to the discovery of another adjacent tomb in Government land. The tombs are of the Saite period, or XXVIth Dynasty, dating about 600 B.C. The chief one was constructed for a high priest of Heliopolis, the ancient On of the Bible. The tombs had been robbed in ancient times, but the Museum authorities have recovered some sculptured blocks, the scenes on which are imitations of Old Kingdom work. It is hoped to find more tombs and to recover more sculptured blocks when the water level falls in the low Nile season in June. There are many Saite tombs in this district which were built in ashlar in a great pit or excavation, and were then filled in and over with sand. Fine examples of Saite tombs exist at Sakhara and near the Pyramid of Hawara.

TO OUR READERS.

THE NEAR EAST is published on Friday, and copies are obtainable at any London bookstall early in the morning, and in the Provinces in the afternoon, of that day. To prevent disappointment, readers would assist us very much if they would place a standing order with their newsagent or railway bookstall for the supply of the paper every week. Any newsagent or railway bookstall clerk can, however, obtain copies at a few hours' notice if they have temporarily run out of stock; or we will post THE NEAR EAST for delivery on Friday morning, to any address, on the following terms, post free:—

12 MONTHS, £1; 6 MONTHS, 11s.; 3 MONTHS, 6s.

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PORT SAID. Charles Evans, and on board vessels in the harbour.

KHARTOUM. Sudan Stationery and Bookstore.

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BUCHAREST. No. 1, Strada Academiei, and Socec and Company, Calea Victoria.

CALCUTTA. 1, Royal Exchange Place.

NEW YORK. Office of "The New Armenia." Flat Iron Building.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Under the effectively simple heading "Balkan Verses," the usually staid *Oxford Magazine* publishes some rhymes which I have read with admiration. One of them runs:

A Bulgar of Dedeagátch
Got a sitting of hens' eggs to hatch.
These he put on a chair,
But forgot they were there;
And so parts of his trousers don't match.

A second, which is provided with a footnote, explaining that "han" is Balkanesque for "inn," is as follows:

There was an old lady of Yánina,
Who looked on the wine in a *han* in a
Town where, 'tis said,
The wine's very red,
So the local police promptly ran in her.

This effort lacks the tragic note of No. 1, perhaps, but as a courageous attempt to grapple with difficulties in the way of finding rhymes it is not without merit. I had always understood, however, that Yanina was pronounced another way. If I am right I would suggest as a substitute:

An old lady who dwelt in Yanina
(A town some way south of Florina)
Never washed. Any way,
It is quite safe to say,
She could easily, quite, have been cleaner.

That gives, I venture to think, the high moral tone which is so desirable in poems of this class, combined, be it observed, with geographical information of some value in these days.

***

The desirability of thus combining instruction with mere beauty of wording was clearly not entirely absent from the mind of my brother bard. For a third of his lyrical gems contains a graphic touch, which will, I trust, prove sufficient warrant for its inclusion in this collection:

A quiet old person of Trikkala
Disliked locomotion vehicular;
For going the pace
Is quite out of place
In a land in the main perpendicular.

That last line certainly describes a good deal of South-Eastern Europe.

***

The late Sir Eldon Gorst, after a tour of inspection to the Sudan, declared in his report of 1909: "I do not suppose there is any part of the world in which the mass of the population have fewer unsatisfied wants." That was seven years ago. I wonder what, in this respect, are the conditions of the country to-day. It is not seven years since I was in the Sudan, and on the occasion of my last visit I found the people happy, strong, and contented, but wanting perhaps a trifle more than when I had previously known them. "The little more—how much it is!" and human nature is human nature in the Sudan, as in other parts of the world. How very desirable is the "little more" that lies just beyond our reach. In the matter of mere contentment the savage is probably easily first among the human race. He takes what he can and the rest does not trouble him; for one thing, he knows so very little of the things that might, in other circumstances, be his. But when we take a people out of savagery and place them firmly on the road to knowledge, we give them, among other things, ambition, and we all know how thorny is the road by which it leads to success. If the conditions described by Sir Eldon in 1909 had held good in the Sudan we should not see the country in its high state of prosperity now. When all desire is satisfied there remains no incentive to strive, and progress ceases. It is not thus in the Sudan; the grip of education is tightening upon its people, and they must go on and on, alternately developing new wants and the methods of satisfying them.

***

I know that it is well that this should be so, and yet sometimes it is not easy to look upon progress with a sympathetic eye. Especially is this the case now, when the Eastern world is busy gathering the fruits of a hardly won civilisation. But I only think these things when depression has, for some reason, gripped me and I crave for the sun-swathed peace of the Sudan as I first knew it. In my heart I know that the old Adam is at work in all climes and among all peoples. It is but in the magnitude of the struggle that there is any difference between this European War and the tribal squabbles of Central Africa. We shall come to lasting peace only when ambition is dead; and from that day heaven defend us!

***

I read the little paragraph in last week's NEAR EAST (p. 28), about the Germans buying up dogs in Roumania, with much interest—as was natural. For did I not in these columns, a few weeks ago, reproduce some remarks from a correspondent who suggested that the name "Dogeaters" was suitable in every way as a substitute for "Huns," and in no respect more so than in being true? Well, I have my suspicions about the dogs referred to by the *Journal des Balkans* as being "used in the German Army for drawing Maxims." "Sausage dogs"—dachshunds, I mean, of course—have always been popular in Deutschland, and, having regard to the shortage of meat in that country just now, I should not be surprised if "dog sausages" were quite esteemed; though in all likelihood they are served under some other name. Yes: I am very sorry for those exported Roumanian bow-wows. It looks like a case of dogs going to the dogs, in more senses than one.

***

So, after all, it seems that Serbia is not to have a navy of her own just yet. I am not surprised; for until they have a port of their own it is rather hard to see what our brave Allies would do with warships, which would, in fact, be likely to turn out a kind of maritime white elephants. Moreover, when first they get back their own country—with a tidy slice of the enemy's territory added on, I hope—the Serbs are sure to find their hands quite full enough without taking on any naval problems. That they will set to work to acquire a mercantile marine of their own is possible, and even probable, for we all hope that they will develop the natural resources of their land as rapidly and as fully as possible; and to do that they will have to build up an export trade. But their Allies will be quite willing and able to look after their interests if any "naval demonstrations" should be required in the near future. The friendships formed by this war are surely not going to be forgotten or allowed to cool in a hurry; and Serbia will have plenty of time to think about buying, or building, her Navy. I hope, however, that it will not be very long before a British squadron will be paying a friendly call at Serbian ports. Perhaps the advocates of a Serbian Navy are thinking about return visits?

***

Recent events in Armenia have had a rather astonishing effect upon some non-resident Armenians and their sympathisers. The mid-April number of a paper called *The New Armenia*, which is published in New York, gives evidence of this. The greater part of the number referred to is devoted in the usual manner to subjects likely to enlist sympathy for the downtrodden country, and to articles by which renewed hope and courage may be imparted to her people. I was quite unprepared for humour when, in glancing over the paper the other day, I came upon a dialogue entitled "The Stalker and the Oracle." It began:

Stalker: I say! Can you tell me why the newspapers publish Armenian victories in Armenia as "Russian Victories"

Oracle: Because big bees fly high; and little bees make the honey.

Stalker: I say! Can you tell me how Great Britain has won her victories in this war?

Oracle: Utilising printer's ink in the British Press; and invoking the shades of Nelson and Wellington.

Further down the page is a picture representing the lion and the bear securely netted and in charge of a German eagle, while in the foreground an Armenian mouse is coming to the rescue, with the words: "You are both in a bad fix now. But I have come to bite your cords." This may be rollicking, if sarcastic, humour, but sarcasm, however humorous, at the expense of the Armenian mouse, is surely a little out of place just now in view of all that has happened during the past year or so.

***

A correspondent has sent me quite a batch of old newspapers from Salonika, and I have found a good many items of interest in them. Some of these items I should much like to reproduce; but I fancy I had better not do so, as they contain "information" that *might* be "of use to the enemy." There are others, however, to which no such objections attach; and it may interest some readers to see how news is—or was; for the papers are all some weeks' old—served up to our friends in Salonika. The task of selecting is thoughtfully made easy for me by my correspondent, who has pencilled observations, which seem to indicate that he finds the "English" a little trying. Thus, in a "Russian Communique," I read: "In the region of North Strypa, our lighters took an enemy trench," etc. My correspondent has marked the word "lighters," and inquires pathetically: "Were the trenches *full* of water?" And a few lines further on I find: "In pursuing the Turks towards Mamahattoun we have taken two *canons*"—the italicising being the work of my correspondent, of course. I am sorry for the clerics. Then, in one Italian communiqué, we are told: "The enemy has succeeded *to establish* himself in the advanced positions of our defence . . . the duel of artillery is still *sursuing*"; and in another: "We have put to rout two enemy calumns . . . and *spoilt* the station of Ploasch." And the summary of a speech by M. Skouloudis, winds up by saying that that eminent politician "ended in declaring that the Northern Epirus is an integral *party* of the mother country." Evidently our language has it difficulties for a foreigner, however excellent his intentions.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

NABOTH'S VINEYARD.*

Sir Mark Sykes has a knowledge of Turkey and its inhabitants that is based upon much travel and keen observation; he likes them well, upon the whole—for he has his dislikes, too; and his manner of describing them is vigorous and original. The appearance of a book by him is, therefore, by way of being an event to those who share his tastes, if not his opportunities of gratifying them, and for such readers the present volume affords a rare treat. If they have any fault to find with the book it will assuredly be that the author has crowded too much material into his six hundred pages. We would not, it is true, be without one of those pages. Indeed, we would gladly see both Part I., which is historical, and Part II., which is a record of journeys made between the years 1906 and 1913, expanded; but we should have preferred to have them in two distinct volumes; and certainly we should have been glad to have the numerous maps that are scattered through Part I. so placed as to make reference to them, and comparison between them, more easy. For the purposes of this review we propose to treat the book as if it had been published in two volumes.

The historical section covers ground with which many readers are more or less familiar, and for this reason it is, perhaps, less notable than Part II. That is not, however, to say that it is not of considerable value. Sir Mark does not attempt to give us "a detailed account of the history of Armenia, Asia Minor, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Arabia," which would, indeed, be impossible in any one volume; but aims at selecting "those developments whose results have a direct bearing on the present composition of the region." We detect no signs of original research, but there is no lack of originality in the presentation of facts or in the occasional criticisms to which we are treated; and both the letterpress and the maps indicate that the author has exercised much pains and discretion in selecting his sources of information. The result is a sketch which, though rather meagre in parts, is trustworthy in the main, and one which is always interesting, and in parts brilliant.

The story of the swift Arab conquest and the growth of Arab culture, of the coming of the Seljuks and the Ottomans, is one that could hardly be dull even in the hands of the prosiest and most pedantic of writers. And Sir Mark, whatever his weaknesses may be, is certainly neither prosy nor pedantic. Of the spread of Arab power he gives a vivid description; and sums up the effect produced on our minds by the phenomenon as follows:—

> We stand amazed at these conquests; words fail one when the magnitude of the achievements is realized. Where is Medina? Where is Badr? And where is Kashgar? What is this unknown force that has burst upon the world? What manner of men are these Moslems? There is nothing in history to equal their tale—this is not the conquest of Alexander with the culture of Greece, the valour of Macedonia, and his own unfettered genius to aid him. Nor is it the dull impact of a barbarian horde thrusting blindly in search of victual and pasture; nor yet is it the slow and deliberate annexation of various small States by an overwhelming organization, as in the case of Rome—it is the Arab of the desert, into whose head an idea has come, and he is giving that idea to the world.

The description of the early days of Islam, and especially of the conquests in Syria and Mesopotamia, seem to us by far the best things in this historical part of the book; though the account of the rise and fall of Palmyra, in chapter six, with the shrewd comments upon Odenathus and Zenobia, is an admirable piece of work. We like especially the terse summing-up of the result of the victories at Antioch and Emessa:—

> The glittering bubble of Palmyrene ascendancy had been pricked; all Syria welcomed Aurelian as it had welcomed Romans, Parthians, Persians; as it had welcomed Alexander; and as it would welcome England, France, or Germany to-day. The Syrian Arab has long had the knack of falling in with the plans of a successful conqueror.

At the present time the description (page 283) of Bayazid's lightning campaign in eastern Asia Minor will inevitably suggest to the reader a comparison with the recent Russian successes in the same region; and in just the same way the accounts of the recurrent treachery of the Arabs of Kufa and Lower Mesopotamia will remind him of the tales of treachery on the part of the modern descendants of those people, of which we have heard only too many of late. Hussein, the son, and Zaid, the great-grandson, of Ali, both fell victims to the spirit of intrigue and the sheer cowardice that seems always to have characterised the men of Kufa and its district; and the descriptions of their deaths given by Sir Mark are amongst the most moving things in his book. The portrait of Ali himself is, by the way, hardly a flattering one, perhaps hardly a just one; but, on the other hand, Abu Bekr—"the simplest and most lovable man Arabia has ever put forth"—and Abu Talib receive full justice; so, too, does the Khalif Omar; and when Sir Mark is dealing with a man of action, such as Khalid ibn Walid or Moawiya, or a real statesman, such as the great Harun-al-Rashid, he handles his subject with skill and affection. The sombre story of the Barmecides and of Harun's efforts to stave off the end that, as he realized, was inevitable is particularly well told; and the description of Baghdad in the days of Mansur and his successor will be read with unusual interest at the present time.

The account of the Turks' appearance on the scene and of their irruption into Europe is not so satisfactory as that of the early days of Islamic growth. It gives one the impression, indeed, that the author was pressed either for time or for space when he wrote it, for certain events of first-class importance, such as the capture of Constantinople, are dealt with very briefly. Our author makes it clear, however, that the conquest of Constantinople, so far from being an unmixed gain to the victors, actually carried with it the seeds of that decay which has ever since been spreading steadily. We are shown clearly how, even while the Byzantine capital still held the Turks at bay, the latter were already beginning to be "corrupted by the alien atmosphere of intrigue and treachery which crept into their domestic life" as a result of their contact with the decadent empire. And the capture of Constantinople is described as "a crowning mercy and yet a fatal blow" to the Turks:—

> So long as the Ottomans could draw science, learning, philosophy, art, and tolerance from a living fountain of civilization in the heart of their dominions, so long had the Ottomans not only brute force, but intellectual power. So long as the Ottoman Empire had in Constantinople a free port, a market, a centre of world finance, a pool of gold, an exchange, so long did the Ottomans never lack for money and financial support . . . but Constantinople as the city of the Sultans was Constantinople no more; the markets died away, the culture and civilization fled, the complex finance faded from sight; and the Turks had lost their governors and their support. On the other hand, the corruptions of Byzantium remained, the bureaucracy, the eunuchs, the palace guards, the spies, the bribers, go-betweens—all these the Ottomans took over, and all these survived in luxuriant life. The Turks in taking Stambul let slip a treasure and gained a pestilence. The wisdom, learning, art, and philosophy fled to Europe to hasten the Renaissance and elucidate the problems of the new learning, the villainous cruelty and falseness remained to distort and divert the development of the Ottoman Empire.

Frequently Sir Mark allows himself a certain flippancy of style that will probably horrify the conventional historian. On page 163, for instance, we read:—

> Merwan, at this juncture, appears to have shown signs of having some intention of playing his adopted son Khalid false. At any rate, Yazid's widow's suspicions of her second husband's honesty were so great that she decided to resume her former state, and one night dropped a cushion across Merwan's face and sat upon it until life was extinct.

If history were always written like that it would be a more popular subject with the average schoolboy than it is! The method has its advantages. It very often puts life into incidents that, owing to their Oriental character, are difficult for the Englishman to picture truly. Thus the spirit working at the back of the intrigue to overthrow the Ommeyads in favour of the Abbasids is well brought out in chapter xviii., where we have a lively description of the arrest of Sheikh Jodair-al-Kerman, his imprisonment and escape, his quarrel with the Governor, Nasr, and the sudden outbreak of riot—all typical of the East. And we are grateful to the author for many such vivid passages.

It is regrettable that such good work is spoilt, to some extent, by numerous misprints. The author's absence on active service doubtless accounts for many of these; but others—such as "initiated" for "imitated" (p. 224), "rights" for "rites" (p. 281), "must have have" for "must have had" (p. 25), etc., etc.—might surely have been avoided.

*"The Caliph's Last Heritage: A Short History of the Turkish Empire." By Lieut.-Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, Bart., M.P. (Macmillan and Co. 20s. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Omar Khayyam: Faithfully and Literally Translated from the Original Persian. By John Pollen, LL.D. With Foreword by H.H. the Aga Khan, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., LL.D. (Cambridge). (East and West. 3s. 6d. net.)

Under Three Flags: With the Red Cross in Belgium, France, and Serbia. By St. Clair Livingston and Ingeborg Steen-Hanson. (Macmillan. 3s. 6d. net.)

(1) *The Polish Question as an International Problem.* (2) *An Outline of the History of Polish Literature.* By Jan de Holewinski, with Preface by G. P. Gooch. (George Allen and Unwin, for the Polish Information Committee. Each, 6d. net.)

The Life History of Gelechia Gossypiella: From the Time of the Cotton Harvest to the Time of Cotton Sowing. By Lewis Gough, Ph.D., Director of the Entomological Section, Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture. (Cairo, Government Press. P.T. 1.)

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. May.	1916. May.		1334. Rejeb.	5676. Iyar.
19	6	Friday	16	16
20	7	Saturday.....	17	17
21	8	Sunday	18	18
22	9	Monday	19	19
23	10	Tuesday	20	20
24	11	Wednesday	21	21
25	12	Thursday	22	22

To-day is the birthday of H.I.M. Nicholas II., Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias.

Wednesday is the birthday of Princess Elizabeth of Greece, second daughter of Prince Nicholas, King Constantine's second brother, who was born at Tatoi, May 11, 1904 (O.S.).

The Zil-es-Sultan left London on Saturday for Paris.

Lady Hamilton Lang and her daughter have left Campden Hill Court, W., and have taken a country house, Hillersdon, Lower Bourne, Farnham, Surrey.

Lady McIlwraith, wife of the Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, is spending the summer in this country.

On April 28 Sir Henry and Lady McMahon gave a dinner at the Cairo Residency, when the High Commissioner took the opportunity of investing Sir William Brunyate with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

General Townshend and the other British officers who surrendered at Kut have arrived in Constantinople.

Mr. Einstein, the United States Minister Plenipotentiary to Bulgaria, who was in charge of British interests in Sofia, and who has actively exerted himself on behalf of British prisoners of war in Bulgaria (as described recently by our Bucharest Correspondent), arrived in London last Friday.

The Archbishop of Belgrade, who has been visiting London, has left for Petrograd, and will afterwards proceed to Salonika.

M. Chedo Miyatovitch, formerly Serbian Minister in London, who has been lecturing in America on behalf of his compatriots, has returned to London.

M. Nicolas Misu, son of the Roumanian Minister in London, arrived at the Legation on Monday from Bucharest.

Lewa Carroll Pasha, P.M.O., Egyptian Army, who accompanied the Prince of Wales on his way to Egypt, has now returned to the Sudan.

We are glad to see that Lieutenant H. C. Whittall, R.N.V.R., has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, with seniority May 16.

Mr. C. R. Cooke Taylor, the Liberal candidate for Dulwich, who was a member of Lady Paget's unit for fourteen months in Serbia, is going to Corsica to look after the Serbian refugees.

A Constantinople report states that an attempt has been made upon the life of General Liman von Sanders.

Many of our readers in Alexandria will learn with satisfaction that Mr. A. W. C. Roll, of the staff of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in that city, who has lately been Acting Sergeant in the H.A.C., has been promoted to be temporary 2nd Lieutenant, and graded for purposes of pay as a Staff Lieutenant.

Mr. R. E. Blunt, son of Mr. G. Stratford Blunt, British Postmaster at Salonika, has recently come to this country and joined the Army "for the duration of the war."

Mr. Blunt's father, it is interesting to note, has had a very long experience of consular work in the Near East. In 1864 he was Acting Vice-Consul at Adrianople, and he has done good work at Erzeroum, Trebizond, Monastir, Salonika, Constantza and elsewhere. While at Erzeroum (1869-70) he received the thanks of the American Minister at Constantinople for assistance rendered to an American missionary who had been attacked and robbed by Kurdish brigands; and at Trebizond he was active in investigating an outrage committed on an Italian ship that was lying in the roadstead. He was appointed British postmaster at Salonika in 1899, and he is now also Danish Consul and Swedish Vice-Consul in that port.

Mr. E. A. Harrison, general manager for Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son (Egypt), Ltd., has returned to London from Cairo.

Mr. Richard Abdy, President of the British Chamber of Commerce, Alexandria, writes to the *Egyptian Gazette* to announce that it is proposed to collect funds for a memorial to the late Judge Lionel Sandars, President of the Court of Appeal. The memorial proposed is a tablet in Saint Mark's Church, Alexandria, and, should there be any surplus available, it is proposed to utilise it in founding a prize for scholars of Victoria College. Mr. P. W. Carver is acting as honorary treasurer, and subscriptions may be sent to him at his office, c.o. Carver Brothers and Co., Alexandria.

An engagement is announced between W. D. C. L. Purves, of the Sudan Civil Service, second son of William Laidlaw Purves, M.D., of Stratford Place, W., and Wimbledon Common, Surrey, and Mabel, younger daughter of Captain Arthur Maude, R.A.M.C., of Forest Row, Sussex.

On April 29, at the British Consulate, Alexandria, and afterwards at St. Mark's Church, the marriage took place of Captain Francis Eldon Daunt, R.A.M.C., 19th General Hospital, Alexandria, eldest son of Dr. F. E. H. Daunt, of Clapham, to Winifred Doggett, younger daughter of Sidney H. Wells, of Gezira, Cairo.

On April 25, at the British Consulate and at St. Joseph Church, Cairo, the marriage took place of Arthur Bevor Steele, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bevor Steele, of Brisbane, Australia, and Ellen Mary Kathleen, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Littlewood, Gezira, Cairo.

As announced in THE NEAR EAST some weeks ago there were shut up in Kut with General Townshend and his force three British civilians—Mr. T. D. Cree, of Messrs. Blockey, Cree, and Co.'s Baghdad house, and Mr. A. W. M. Tod and Mr. J. L. Battey, of Messrs. Lynch's Baghdad and Busreh branches. We are glad to learn that information has reached London that all three of these gentlemen are well, and though they are, of course, prisoners in the hands of the Turks, no anxiety need be felt on their account.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Cree and Mr Tod were both made prisoners by the Turks at the outbreak of the war, when they were in Baghdad, and that they owed their release to Jemal Pasha, who treated all the British prisoners sent from Baghdad to Syria with much consideration and courtesy. Mr. Cree, we understand, had returned to Busreh in the hope of being able to arrange for the release of his wife and children, who, with other English ladies and children in Baghdad, had been retained by the Turks when the men were allowed to depart. Mr. Tod was engaged in looking after the interests of his firm in Mesopotamia; and Mr. Battey, who had only recently gone out to the East, and had been in Busreh, Baghdad, and Ahwaz, was assisting him at Kut.

The anniversary of the Sultan's accession was celebrated at Nicosia by the Moslem community, writes a Cyprus correspondent. Services were held in the mosques, the Ottoman flag being flown, and the minarets were brilliantly illuminated at night. The principal mosque is that of Ayia Sophia, a namesake of the Great Jami at Stamboul, and formerly the Latin cathedral: one of the finest monuments of French architecture in Cyprus. Another mosque held in great veneration by the Turks is that of Bairakdar, the first Turk who gained, and fell on, the ramparts during the siege of Nicosia in 1570. It was built on the spot where he fell. The day was celebrated by Turks throughout the island.

The Russian Ambassador and Countess Benckendorff gave a reception at the Embassy, Chesham House, last Friday evening, to meet the members of the Russian Council of the Empire and of the Duma. Among those invited were:—Earl Kitchener, Earl Curzon, the Earl of Bessborough, Viscount Mersey, Lord Robert Cecil, Lord Beresford, Lord Newton, Sir Edward Grey, Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, Sir Edward Cook, Sir Valentine Chirol, Sir Ralph Paget, Mr. H. J. O'Beirne, and Mr. L. Oliphant.

Count Tisza, the Hungarian Prime Minister, arrived at Shabatz in Serbia on Sunday, and later journeyed to Valievo.

Sir Francis Gore has resigned his position as honorary treasurer of the Serbian Relief Fund, and the Earl of Desart has resigned from the committee.

On Wednesday, at Gray's Inn, Mr. Stelios Demosthenes Pavlides was called to the Bar.

The funeral of Colonel Philip Edward Pope, late commanding 4th Dragoon Guards, whose death was reported in these columns last week, took place on Friday at Datchet Cemetery. Canon Edgar Sheppard, D.D., Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal, officiated, assisted by the Rev. J. H. Harvey and the Rev. R. T. de M. Nixon.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

It is officially announced that Sir Arthur Nicolson, who had desired in the ordinary course of events to leave the Foreign Office towards the end of 1914, consented at the request of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs after the outbreak of war to continue to fulfil the duties of Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs for a further period. The strain of the work at the Foreign Office has, however, recently been very great, and on Lord Hardinge's return from India Sir A. Nicolson expressed his wish to retire, suggesting that Lord Hardinge might be willing to take on again the appointment which he held previously to his becoming Viceroy of India. The Secretary of State, with the consent of the Prime Minister, has asked Lord Hardinge whether he would be willing to resume work temporarily at the Foreign Office, and Lord Hardinge has consented to do so, but the time when the change will take place is not yet definitely settled.

A Teheran telegram announces the appointment of Prince Firman Firma as Governor of the province of Fars.

The *London Gazette* announces, under date of March 20:—The King has been graciously pleased to appoint Albert Charles Wratislaw, Esq., C.B., C.M.G., to be his Majesty's Consul-General for the Greek Territories administered by the Governor-General of Macedonia, to reside at Salonika; and Edwyn Cecil Hole, Esq., to be his Majesty's Vice-Consul for the Greek Territories administered by the Governor-General of Epirus, to reside at Jannina.

A telegram from Bordeaux reports that General Milo Matnovitch has been appointed Montenegrin Minister of War.

The Governor-General of the Sudan has appointed Mr. H. P. Hewins, Director of Commercial Intelligence, to be Custodian of Enemy Property under the Trading with the Enemy (Custodian of Property) Ordinance, 1916.

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Captain A. H. Betterton, of the Derbyshire Yeomanry, and Captain C. H. Gore, of the Army Service Corps, have been attached to the Egyptian Army with the temporary rank of Bimbashi. The former officer has been attached for duty to the Camel Corps and the latter to the Department of Supplies.

Abdul Ali Khan Sadiq-es-Sultanah has been appointed Honorary Attaché to the Persian Legation.

The King has granted permission to Mr. Charles Henry Colson, of the British Naval Mission to Greece, to wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Redeemer, conferred upon him by the King of the Hellenes in recognition of valuable services rendered.

The King has granted permission to Mr. Richard Francis Malachy Pearson, of the British Naval Mission to Greece, to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Redeemer, conferred upon him by the King of the Hellenes in recognition of valuable services rendered.

The *London Gazette* of Tuesday contained the official notification that the King has been pleased to grant permission to General Sir John Grenfell Maxwell, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., etc., to wear the decoration of a Grand Officier of the Legion of Honour conferred upon him by the President of the French Republic.

It is similarly notified that Major (temporary Lieut.-Colonel) Stewart Francis Newcombe, D.S.O., R.E., is granted permission to wear the Croix de Chevalier of the same Order.

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to grant the undermentioned members of the R.A.M.C. leave to wear the decorations, as stated against their names, conferred upon them by the King of Serbia in recognition of their distinguished services:—

Capt. Norman Cameron, M.B., Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Capt. John Matthewson Clements, M.D., Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Capt. Bernard Creasy Ewens, Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Capt. Alexander Keith Forbes, M.B., Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Capt. Charles Michael Forster, Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Capt. John McAdam Hill, M.B., Order of St Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Col. William Hunter, C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., Order of St. Sava, Second Class.

Capt. Sydney Walker Lund, M.B., Order of St. Sava, Fourth Class.

Temp. Capt. Samuel Edward McClatchey, M.B., Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Capt. Charles Rowley Nicholson, Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Capt. Thomas Holmes Ravenhill, M.B., Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Capt. Hugh Young Riddell, M.B., Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Capt. John Henry Victor Scott, M.B., Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Capt. Philip John Ambrose Seccombe, M.B., Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Capt. Bryce McCall Smith, M.B., Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Capt. Charles Edgar Holton Smith, Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Capt. Robert Haig Spittal, M.B., Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Lieut.-Col. George Elliott Frank Stammers, Order of St. Sava, Third Class.

Temp. Capt. Lewis Augustus Walker, M.D., Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Capt. Edward Sancton Walls, Order of St Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Capt. Gerald Whittington, M.B., Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Capt. John Samuel Williamson, Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Temp. Capt. William Miller Will, M.B., Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

Francis Frederick Brown, Esq. (late Lt., R.A.M.C.), Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class.

William Whiteman Carlton Topley, Esq. (late Capt., R.A.M.C.), Order of St. Sava, Fourth Class.

A Cyprus correspondent writes (May 2): Captain Gallagher, D.S.O., Chief Commandant of Police, who has been on service, has returned to the island on the sick list, and is at Nicosia.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the decoration of a Grand Officer of the Order of the Nile upon M. Demetrius Verenikis, former Greek Consul at Cairo.

M. Radeff, the Bulgarian Minister at Bucharest, has left for Sofia, having obtained leave for several weeks.

OBITUARY.

MR. EDWARD KEYSER.

Another highly esteemed member of the British colony of Smyrna has passed away in the person of Mr. Edward Keyser, who departed this life on the 10th inst. at Bexhill-on-Sea, in his 63rd year. He was for many years director of the Smyrna branch of the Bank of Salonika, and managed the bank's business with conspicuous ability. In financial circles in the Near East he was acknowledged as a man of wide experience, and bore a high reputation for business capacity and acumen. He leaves behind him a numerous family of sons and daughters. Of five sons, four, holding the King's commission, are serving at Salonika and in Flanders. The fifth and eldest son, Mr. Lionel Keyser, H.M.'s Vice-Consul at Constantza, is now doing duty at the British Legation, Athens. The funeral service took place on the 15th inst., at St. Luke's, Redcliffe Square, Earl's Court, and was attended by his cousins, Messrs. C. and A. Keyser, of London, and a number of friends.

Brigadier-General Frederic James Heyworth, C.B., D.S.O., is reported killed in action. Born in March, 1863, he entered the Scots Guards in December, 1883. He became captain in 1896, major in 1900, lieutenant-colonel in 1908, and colonel in 1911. His command of a brigade was gazetted in November, 1914. Before the present war he saw service in the Sudan (the 1885 expedition from Suakin), and had the Sudan medal and the bronze star; and served right through the South African War. He was made a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, was mentioned in despatches, and had the Queen's medal with six clasps and the King's medal with two clasps. The war with Germany had brought to him more honours and promotion, and last year he was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath. General Heyworth, who was son of Mr. George Frederick Heyworth, married in 1913 Violet M. C., eldest daughter of the late Captain Douglas Loftus, Grenadier Guards.

We regret to learn that Captain Guye Wellesley Lushington, Royal Marine Artillery, died on service on May 8. Born in November, 1880, he was gazetted to the R.M.A. in January, 1898, was promoted in January, 1899, and had his captaincy in March, 1908. Between November, 1908, and February, 1912, Captain Lushington had employment with the Egyptian Army.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 3s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTH.

BYAM.—On May 5, in Cairo, the wife of Major Wm. Byam, R.A.M.C. (née Stiven), of a daughter. Only survived five days.

DEATHS.

KEYSER.—At Bexhill, on May 10, Edward Keyser, of Smyrna, Turkey. Funeral service at St. Luke's Church, Redcliffe Square, S.W., on Monday, May 15, at 2 p.m., then West Brompton Cemetery at 2.20 p.m. Friends, accept this, the only intimation.

PETTIGREW.—On April 27, in captivity at Ahram, Persia, W. A. T. Pettigrew, Inspector, Indo-European Telegraph Department, of Shiraz, Persia.

WHERE TO STAY.

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FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1916.

THE RUSSIAN ADVANCE IN ASIATIC TURKEY.

The steady pressure of the Russians in the Middle East and the employment in official *communiqués* of only those geographical terms which are likely to be found on small maps have aroused popular expectation in Great Britain to a degree that renders it very liable to disappointment. Three months ago a leading London journal, writing of the fall of Erzeroum, spoke of the salvation of General Townshend's force at Kut as depending upon Russia, and added: "If we are saved there, we shall be saved by Russia." Kut unfortunately has fallen, not because Russia failed to save it, for there was never any question of the Russians being able to influence directly the fortunes of the beleaguered garrison, but because the British relief expedition failed to cover the twenty odd miles that separated it from the town. During this time there has been no relaxation of Russia's efforts, but the force which captured Erzeroum has itself advanced barely fifty miles to the west, and there is no disposition now to connect its movements with the course of events south of Baghdad. On the other hand, the appearance of a Russian force at Rowandiz, a little short of halfway between Lake Urmiah and the Tigris, has revived the hopes originally raised by the fall of Erzeroum. In order to follow the operations in this part of the world, however, it is necessary from time to time to glance at a large-scale map, with a view to correcting the optimistic impressions that the study of small maps is apt to beget. It is true that the Russians are operating on a front which extends, with interruptions, from the Black Sea to the Turco-Persian frontier between Baghdad and Kermanshah; but their line is divided into three very distinct spheres. The main object of the Grand Duke Nicholas's advance from the Caucasus has been to throw back the Turks as far as he can from the Russian frontier and to occupy as much of Armenia as possible with a view to ameliorating the lot of the Christian inhabitants. In accordance with this policy the main stroke was delivered against Erzeroum, while parallel columns advanced in the coastal region and in the neighbourhood of Lake Van. The direction of this northern force, with a front stretching from the Black Sea to Bitlis, is of necessity due west, owing to the configuration of the country in which it is operating. It will have accomplished a notable achievement when its line rests on Trebizond, Erzinjan, and Diarbekr. Columns on its left wing may sweep south of Bitlis; but the line as a whole will remain primarily a rampart against Turkish efforts to regain Armenia, and will not be able to direct its attention towards Mesopotamia.

The region between Lake Van and Lake Urmiah and to the south of the former is inhabited by lawless tribes over whom the Turks have exercised little real control in the past. These people offered excellent material for marauding bands, and would require little persuasion beyond a supply of arms and ammunition to undertake any expedition that promised an opportunity of plunder. At an earlier stage in the war, under Turkish direction, they raided Persian territory south of Lake Urmiah and, turning north, occupied Maragha and threatened Tabriz. In due course the invaders were routed by the Russians and driven out of Persia. A Russian force was despatched to the region of the Lake, and would seem to have served as a screen for another body of troops despatched from Tabriz on a different errand. Little has been heard from this sphere of operations until it was announced on May 15 that Rowandiz had been captured. This town is eighty miles from Mosul, and if the Russians are able to reach the Tigris at this spot they will have driven a very formidable wedge into the Turkish position in Asia, and will have gone far to isolate the Baghdad command. But just as it was a mistake to imagine that the Russian success at Erzeroum could have anything but an indirect influence on the course of events in Mesopotamia, so we must not expect at present any Russian force that may reach Mosul to be intended to continue its advance in the direction of Baghdad. At Mosul it would effectively close the usual channel of communication between Constantinople and Baghdad, and would facilitate further operations against the latter; but nothing has been revealed of the composition of this force to lead us to suppose that it is strong enough itself to take over the task of attacking Baghdad. Its success will have been due largely to the inability of the Turks, amid their preoccupations to the north and south, to offer any real opposition to its advance. South of Mosul there are no physical features to be overcome, but this column will require to be considerably strengthened to be able to add with impunity an additional two hundred miles or more to its lines of communication. There remains the third Russian force, which, after defeating the Turks and the Persian insurrectionaries in Persia, has pursued the former to the frontier, and is now within reach of Khanikin, a hundred miles from Baghdad. If Baghdad is to fall to the Russians, it will be to this column. The main Russian force in Armenia, a thousand miles away, will have kept the bulk of the Turkish troops in that region; the middle column may have compelled the Baghdad command to detach other troops for the defence of Mosul. Neither of these, however, can be expected to annihilate distance by playing a direct part in any attempt upon Baghdad.

Instead of leaving the capture of Baghdad to the Russians, the more natural course for the Allies to adopt will be to co-ordinate the operations now taking place a hundred miles away to the north-east and to the south, and to make sure that the city is threatened simultaneously on both sides. To what extent the two forces —General Baratoff's near Khanikin and General Lake's on the Tigris—are in a position to take up the task so lightly committed to General Townshend's small column will be known to the military authorities. There is no reason why the British advance should be restricted to the banks of the Tigris and to frontal attacks on the formidable positions constructed by the enemy to the east of Kut. If it is possible for the Russians to reach Mosul, the work of dealing with the Baghdad troops can be carried out in a more deliberate manner. Reinforcements can only reach the enemy down the Euphrates by way of Aleppo, and before they can hope to cover the distance the British will be able to develop a new line of attack with better chance of success than the route followed by General Gorringe. Now that the Allies are committed to a distribution of their forces in several theatres, the only problem to present itself should be in regard to the manner in which they can be utilized to the best advantage. It is slowly being realized that so many men ought not to be kept indefinitely in comparative idleness, as they have been at Salonika, without making an attempt to inflict the greatest possible injury upon the enemy. The British in Mesopotamia are in a far more advantageous position than the Russians at Khanikin for an advance on Baghdad. It is no longer a fight against time with the object of relieving a beleaguered garrison. The strategical problem is altered, and calls for deliberate, but not dilatory, preparations. If Baghdad falls to a British force, the success will in the circumstances have been rendered possible by the Russian advance in the north, and due credit must be given to Russia's conception of her duty to the Grand Alliance, which has prompted her to undertake her self-imposed task in Armenia and Persia. The Allies, however, are fighting, not for their own hand, but for a common cause. It is to their interests that Baghdad should be occupied as soon as possible, and the main consideration should be to effect its capture with a minimum loss of life within a reasonable time.

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JOURNEYINGS IN ASIA MINOR.

By MARY A. POYNTER.

V.—Konia.*

"See all the world, but see Konia." This old Seljukian proverb or saying is one that holds good for those interested in Near Eastern history, traditions, and art to-day. But before the Seljuks were, before hardly any cities existed that have come down and are recognised as goodly towns at the present time, Konia, or Iconium, was a city in good and regular standing—her record as such going back, with name practically unchanged, into the dawn of history and even beyond that into the vague realm of legend. One great authority says that Damascus and Iconium "were necessarily and inevitably of immemorial antiquity." However far back history or legend goes the importance of these two cities stands out clearly in that early dawn, Iconium perhaps less important than her southern sister city more favourably placed as to climate and location in the then populated world.

According to Sir William Ramsay there is an Iconium tradition relating "the fame of King Nannakos, who reigned before the Flood, and lived to the age of three hundred years. Learning from an oracle that when he died all men should perish, he convoked all people to the temple, and 'made supplication with tears,' and his Phrygian subjects mourned so vehemently that 'the weeping in the time of Nannakos' became a proverb even among the Greeks. Soon after 'the weeping of Nannakos' came the Flood, in which all men perished. When the earth dried up again after the Flood, Jupiter bade Prometheus and Athena make images (eikones) of mud, and he caused the winds to breathe on the images, and they became living. Thus Iconium was re-peopled immediately after the Flood, and derived its name from the eikones. The last is a Greek addition; in the Phrygian legend, evidently, the city bore the same name before the Flood as after."

Tradition, always busy with places and peoples in fertile Eastern minds, and loving to gather the incredible as well as the credible, further relates that Iconium was inhabited by Perseus and the Gorgons. More plausible and exact history says that Xenophon and his Ten Thousand halted here in 401 B.C., and that some years later Alexander the Great honoured the city with a visit. In Roman times the place had many different masters; Cicero is reported to have stayed here for ten days and to have held a review during the time he was pro-Consul of Cilicia. Under Tiberius the town formed part of the Province of Pisidia. In Hadrian's time Iconium was elevated to the rank of a Colonia, the highest dignity that could be conferred on a provincial city. It must also be said that Iconium suffered considerably in its turn at the hands of the Parthians.

But long before the West became acquainted with Iconium it was a Phrygian town of importance, wholly Eastern in character, and, perhaps, if the Trojans were of Phrygian descent or affiliation, as Homer says they were, some of Iconium's early warriors may have taken heroic part in that memorable defence of Troy. With the conquests of Alexander came gradually the Hellenic occupation, and a Phrygian-Hellenic city it became, as the coins of that time would indicate. Later, when it became a Græco-Roman town, Rome, with characteristic foresight, made no effort at first to introduce the Latin language, but "accepted the Hellenism of the Græco-Asiatic cities as a friendly power." Thus, when Paul and Barnabas came bringing the Christian message to Iconium, they preached to the Hellénes, though Rome was in control. "Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly" to the Gentiles and Jews of Iconium, and it became one of the first Christian cities; this, in spite of the fact that gradually the population of the city was divided and "part held with the Jews and part with the Apostles." Sir William Ramsay says that there can be little doubt that the uneducated mob held with the Jews, and that this is shown both by the example of Lystra and by the issue of Iconium. Later history showed that "Iconium was one of the most influential seats of the new religion in Asia Minor."

A great and abrupt turning-point came in Iconium's history with the arrival of the Seljuks in the beginning of the eleventh century. These Moslem and semi-nomadic people came from Central Asia and made Iconium the capital of the Seljuk Kingdom which eventually included the greater part of Asia Minor. In order to have gained such an extent of territory the Seljuks must have battled fiercely with the Byzantines, but later became friendly with their neighbours, and it is recorded that Byzantine princesses not infrequently married Seljuk chiefs or rulers. The Crusaders during the first three Crusades found the Seljuks stern antagonists; during the third Crusade Frederic Barbarossa fought a fierce battle and won a victory under the very walls of the city itself. Later, during a period of comparative peace, the Seljuks prospered, and they reached the height of their prosperity under Ala-ed-Din Kai Khobad the First, who reigned from 1219 to 1236. (Was he, as some say, the Ala-ed-Din of the Wonderful Lamp?) He lived for eleven years in banishment in Byzantium, so that in this way he came in touch with the foreign art and thought of his age, with the result that these nomadic tribes in an amazingly brief space of time became civilised, so to speak, and developed arts, which they may have borrowed in the first instance, but which they adapted to their own purposes with most pleasing results.

In 1221 Ala-ed-Din fortified Konia (when the name was shortened from Iconium to Konia there is no very definite date given) from materials from ancient fortifications already at hand and built one hundred and eight towers, each tower 33 feet broad and 26 feet high and ornamented with high reliefs and verses from the Koran. Some of this picturesque defence work was seen as late as the year 1838, but little of it now remains, the stones having been used in the erection of other buildings. On the citadel stood Ala-ed-Din's palace—an Eastern jewel of architecture, though showing Byzantine influence in many of its lines as well as Persian technique in the perfection of its tiles—and the town owed many of its artistic buildings, such as mosques, *medressehs*, tombs, and baths, to that ruler's taste and initiative.

In the 13th century Konia must have been a city glowing with colour—not so much that of nature as that of art. It must have been in this century that the Seljuk saying, "See all the world, but see Konia," came into being; and with justifiable excuse. Trade relationships with the far outer world were then established, as, for example, with Venice and Genoa. But with the coming into power of Ala-ed-Din's son the prosperity of the Seljuks began to wane; there were internal dissensions, and there was the oncoming Mongol to be met and reckoned with. In 1392 Bayazid the First besieged Konia, and in 1466 it was finally taken by the Ottomans, men of their own faith, under Mohammed II., the conqueror of Constantinople. This was an illustration in the Mohammedan world, only in a lesser degree, of what took place in the Christian world only two centuries before, when the leaders of the Fourth Crusade turned aside from their original undertaking to take and sack the Christian city of Constantinople, thus weakening that defence of Christendom against the East and opening the way for its later conquest by the Osmanli.

What the traveller sees of special interest in Konia to-day are mostly the remains of the Seljukian occupation—a few impressive ruins, but more often only fragments of beautiful buildings, of carved portals, and interiors ornamented with tiles of exquisite hue and design. Of Konia's still earlier golden ages one may say that practically nothing remains.

Konia lies in the centre almost of a great fertile plain, is situated 3,425 ft. above sea level, and 473 miles from Constantinople, and has a population approaching 60,000 inhabitants. It is the capital of the Vilayet of Konia, and is important as being the centre of a rich agricultural region, and one of the chief towns on the railway line to Baghdad. It might properly be called the commercial metropolis of the interior of Asia Minor. It is important also in the Mohammedan religious world as being the headquarters of the Mevlevi Order of Dervishes. It has some modern improvements, such as electric lighting, and a closed aqueduct brings water into the town from a lake a hundred miles or so distant among the mountains. The railway station is quite a little distance from the town, and there is a hotel at the station where the traveller may abide, if not in luxury, at least in comparative comfort. We were received fortunately by friends, who not only made us comfortable, but, knowing the town, the country and its peoples, introduced us to the treasures of the past, and gave us glimpses into the life of the present. A rather primitive tram line runs from the station to the town proper, but it was an *araba*, that Turkish carriage that seems to withstand in a marvellous way the wear and tear of time and the roughest roads, that took us to the door of our friends.

Our first wanderings naturally included a visit to the citadel, a mound—though not a high one—that commands the town, and where one sees the remains of a Byzantine church and the ruins of Ala-ed-Din's palace, some of its walls still standing, and with a marble gateway bearing an inscription and the date of its erection, 1221. Near this palace on the citadel is the mosque of Ala-ed-Din, built on the Arabian plan with an octagonal dome. I may say here that there are many domes of this interesting character in the city. The roof of this particular mosque is supported by fifty antique columns (their origin unknown) that help to make an impressive interior—one that we should have lingered long over but for the fact that the building had

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only just been vacated by hundreds of soldiers billeted there for a time on their way home from the Balkan wars. They had left the interior inhabited by a large army of fleas that were ready and delighted to attack all fresh comers. In connection with this mosque, which is in a good state of preservation, there is a *turbeh* containing the tombs of the Sultans of Konia, and from the minaret of this mosque we had a view of the town on all sides—a town consisting mostly of low buildings set amid green trees, with fairly broad streets for the most part, the whole having a white, dusty look, although the summer had but just begun. Beyond the confines of the town lay the plain, far-reaching on all sides and bounded by distant high mountains. On these plains are dotted numerous villages, mostly Mohammedan, and there are also many small towns on the slopes of the mountains.

Most of the finest buildings of Konia's Seljukian days are situated in the town surrounding the citadel. One can but enumerate them briefly, since it is a hopeless task for the casual traveller to attempt to describe without illustration—and preferably by coloured illustration—the arrangement and beauty of the tiles or the grace of the ornamentation of such buildings as remain from that period. This tile-making was a craft in which the Saracenic peoples, the Seljuks among them, excelled; and there are happily many samples still extant throughout the Near Eastern world, and even so far West as Southern Spain, to keep the tradition alive, and to serve as models for modern workers in faience to base their experiments upon. The Arabic characters lend themselves readily to the scheme of decorative outline, whether brought out in relief by the chisel on marble or in raised work on tiles. Thus inscriptions from the Koran, often with old Kufic lettering, require no fresh originality of design, but make and leave a pleasing impression, whether used in the ornamentation of doorways (ornamental doorways being a happy architectural feature much favoured by the Seljuks) or on tiles of varied hue in the domes and inner walls of mosques, in medressehs and palaces, and even in the building of *hans*

Among the buildings in Konia that impressed us most were the Indje mosque, whose minaret, from which it takes its name, is covered with tiles, and though mosque and minaret are largely in ruin, its fine carved sandstone door remains in quite perfect condition. The Energe or Laranda mosque, built by the same architect as the Indje mosque, and both dating from 1269, is also freely ornamented with tiles. The Karatai mosque has a marble doorway so ornate and charming with inscriptions and carvings that one is tempted to linger before it instead of passing on into the mosque itself, whose interior is entirely blue-tiled, even the cupola being illuminated with light blue stars on a dark blue background. The mosque of Sirtsheli, built in 1242 as a school of law, has another incomparable Saracenic gateway, which leads into a ruined courtyard, though the tiles with which its walls were decorated have lost none of their brightness and beauty with the passing of years. The Mihrab here (the niche which the Moslems face when praying toward Mecca) has tiles and texts whose colouring holds the eye just as do the variegated coloured tiles that ornament the dome of this mosque. All the work of the Seljuk architects and artists of that time in the building of mosques is very much alike, and though much in ruin demands wider appreciation and admiration than the Western world seems to have time or opportunity to give to it now. As has been said, one can only hint at the beauty, the delicacy and variety of colouring of the tiles used in the ornamentation of these mosques, the intricate patterns of the carved marble inscriptions, and the elaborately designed doorways, those gems of Saracenic art that are still in many instances intact and ought to be guarded if not by an angel with a flaming sword, by some capable mortal at least to keep them from being carried away whole to some museum with whose other exhibits they might be quite out of keeping. In spite of the foregoing statement I have to confess that we have a few specimens of these tiles, brought for our inspection rather privily by one of the Faithful; and as they consisted only of broken bits, yet at the same time being admirable examples of colouring (one of them an iridescent fragment of blues and greens blending), our conscience permitted us to bring the sample away, since we could not restore it to its original place in the scheme of decoration.

No sojourn in Konia is complete without a visit to the *tekkeh* of the Mevlevi, or Whirling Dervishes. Their performance is to them a devoutly religious ceremony, the idea being that they lose themselves in a fervour of ecstasy that brings them into closer communion with God. Singularly enough they have been called the Protestants of Islam; they try to ignore much that is formal and seek after the spiritual in their faith. The founder of this order, Djelal-ed-Din, born in Afghanistan in 1207, came to the Court of Ala-ed-Din Kai Khobad in Konia in the year 1233 as a teacher of philosophy. His teachings were collected and written down, and in 1273 the Mevlevi Order was founded. The head of the Order, or Grand Chelebi as he is called today, has the right of girding the sword of Othman on each new Sultan at the time of his accession. The Grand Chelebi comes down to Constantinople to perform this ceremony, and a very fine, picturesque coronation function it is.

On entering the enclosure of this *tekkeh*, one comes first into a garden where fountains, tombs, and trees abound. On three sides are the dwelling-places of the dervishes, and adjoining is the mosque-like building, the *tekkeh* itself, with a ribbed conical dome covered with light blue tiles, these latter replacing a dome of green tiles, of which we were fortunate in getting a sample. Friends tell us the former dome was more remarkable from an artistic standpoint than the one that now replaces it. Within is the large "dancing room," or, rather, whirling room, where the religious ceremonies take place, and further on is the mausoleum, a room to which strangers are not usually admitted. In this *turbeh* chamber are the tomb of Djelal-ed-Din and the tombs of the Sheikhs of the Order. These tombs are covered with choice rugs and other rich Eastern stuffs, and the walls and ceiling are decorated with tiles and hanging-lamps that lend much colour and great picturesqueness to this chamber, which we were permitted to inspect through the courtesy of a friend.

Until at least quite recently it has been the pride of the people of Konia that no massacres of Christians have taken place there in modern times. As the great centre of the Mevlevi dervishes, the influence of this religious body has tended for peace. At least it has never threatened or been openly fanatical. One of the most trustworthy of modern authorities says: "Iconium, with its neighbourhood, is the one place in Asia Minor where the pre-Turkish (Byzantine) ecclesiastical system remains in force to the present day with little change. The Christian population remained in continuous possession of its own shrines, free to practise its own religious ceremonial with little restriction. In the Seljuk realm there was no tendency to oppress or ill-treat the Christian population, on which the industry and trade of the Mohammedan State largely depended." And, again, this same authority says: "Considering the character of the Mevlevi dervish establishment, which is in many respects non-Mohammedan . . . it is probable that their sacred centre with its splendid pile of buildings has taken the place of a Christian foundation."

I think I am betraying no trust when I say that in the house of our friends, which is a charitable and Christian institution, a sweet place for the refreshment of soul as well as body, we heard turbaned hodjas singing at a Christian gathering "Onward, Christian Soldiers"—the words in the Turkish language—with the guns of the Balkan war only just finished echoing within Turkish borders. We can never understand—with so much kindly feeling and preference as the Turk, religious and otherwise, has shown toward Anglo-Saxon peoples—how he could have thrown in his fortunes with, or, rather, thrown them away, to the Huns. He, as a race, did not. His fortunes were thrown away for him by a few hot-heads educated in the military schools, and catching the military fever, of Germany.

The market-place of any Eastern town is a centre of varied interests, and Konia's market-place is not alone unique in this respect. It has the usual fountain in its centre, the usual number of people picturesquely idle for the most part; and to us the arrival and the loading and unloading of caravans of camels furnished valid excuse for many loiterings by the way. The camel has so much individuality and has become so domestic, though not always docile, through his long association with man, that one is not at all surprised to hear him hold grumbling parleys with his master; we were even tempted to "take sides" with the camel on one or two occasions, but never came to the point of having courage to pat him our approval, as we might have done had the protestor been an Arab horse instead of a camel.

There are some rather good modern business buildings near the market-place, and a modern mosque, built by Sultan Aziz, has minarets with enclosed galleries—quite a fresh feature in minarets to us and quite pleasing in effect. The *tcharshi*, called the Bit bazaar, had many choice rugs and other attractive Eastern wares to offer. Its variety of saddle-bags, great (for camels) and small, all ornate, all hand-woven or hand-embroidered, was impelling, and kept us bargaining for what we did *not* want as well as for what we wanted until our own terms were met, and what we *did* want was hung over our arm with many grateful and congratulatory salaams and "mashallahs."

The peasant woman, the woman one sees in the streets of Konia and all that district, conceals her face with the exception of a peep-hole for one eye, through which to observe the interesting out-of-door world. This beady eye turned upon one through the narrow white opening of the head garment leaves a weird impression upon the person who is the subject of observation. The Christian women do not go veiled as closely as they do in Damascus, but the humbler class wears a discreet head-covering, and is not

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much influenced in her dress by the fashions of Paris or Vienna. The West comes and goes, but the Eastern look both of people and of things remains.

Our memory of Konia is picturesque and characteristic even to the early morning hour of our leaving. We had just taken our seats in the train when we noticed some sort of Moslem service taking place outside on the station platform. It seems the Vali, or Governor of the town, was leaving, another having been appointed in his place. The departing Vali stood in the centre of a circle of his friends, among whom were many hodjas, and the train waited while an impromptu service was held by this grave and dignified circle that stood with palms extended asking for Allah's blessing with as little self-consciousness as the East is wont to show while at prayer or during its meditations. We wondered if the new Governor would be greeted with an equally impressive welcome. The ceremony over, there were no farewells, no *au revoirs*, no waving of handkerchiefs and last words from the little gathering on the platform, only deep obeisance and many profound salaams (showing they were "as the dust at his feet") as the train, after long waiting, bore the ex-Vali away northward toward that city of strong appeal and varying fortunes—Constantinople.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Kut Wounded. May 16.

Lord DESART asked for information as to the wounded and sick officers and men of the Kut force who had been handed over to the British authorities and the prisoners now in the hands of the Turks.

Lord SANDHURST replied that four British officers had been exchanged—Lieutenant F. G. S. Maclean, Lieutenant W. A. G. Hinds, Lieutenant F. W. Portsmouth, and Lieutenant G. H. Bulloch. The two former belonged to the Indian Army, the two latter to the Norfolk Regiment. There were also exchanged one conductor, one chief petty officer, and one petty officer of the Royal Navy, 97 British rank and file, and about 970 native officers and other ranks. No lists of those taken prisoners had yet been received from the Turkish Government, but the United States Embassy had been asked by the Foreign Office to try to get lists.

Gallipoli Honours.

Lord BERESFORD asked the Government if it was a fact that certain British and Australian military officers attached to the Royal Naval Air Service during the Gallipoli campaign were mentioned in despatches by their Commanding Officer and by the Vice-Admiral Commanding the Eastern Mediterranean Naval Forces, and that their names were omitted when those of the naval officers belonging to the same service and mentioned in the same despatches were published in March last; if so, what was the reason for such omission, and if a supplementary list of awards will be published relative to these military officers, and giving effect to the Vice-Admiral's recommendations; and, if not, what is the reason for differentiating in the matter of rewards between naval and military officers of the same service mentioned in the same despatches.

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE said he was only able to answer the question in the broadest terms. Some men were included in the first list but not in the final list, but in all cases their services had been noted. This applied to both military and naval officers, and there was no differentiation between them. He would make inquiry as to whether further despatches relating to Gallipoli were to be published.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Advance on Baghdad. May 11.

Mr. ASQUITH, replying to Mr. PEMBERTON BILLING, who asked whether there existed in the records of the War Office any protest from General Townshend against the futility of the advance upon Baghdad with less than an army corps of two divisions; and whether the papers promised in connection with the Mesopotamian campaign would include all letters or memoranda from General Townshend dealing specifically with this matter, said: As some time must elapse before the papers dealing with the expedition as a whole can be laid, it is proposed to lay papers dealing with this special point separately, and, I hope, very soon.

Mr. BILLING: Has the right hon. gentleman seen a copy of a certain weekly paper which publishes what purports to be the text of a letter from General Townshend?

The SPEAKER: The hon. member should give notice of that.

Starving Serbians.

Mr. ANNAN BRYCE asked the Foreign Secretary if any arrangement had been made for providing relief for the starving population in Serbia.

Sir E. GREY: The answer, I regret to say, is in the negative.

British Prisoners in Bulgaria. May 15.

In a written reply to a question of Mr. MALCOLM, Lord R. CECIL states: According to our latest information, the Bulgarian Government have issued no pay to British officer prisoners. The United States Ambassador was requested on the 6th instant to ask the United States representative at Sofia to make further representations on the subject; I am glad to say that the last report from the United States representative at Sofia shows considerable improvement in the condition of the British prisoners of war at Philippopolis, and I hope that this improvement may continue.

Balkan Rivalries. May 16.

Mr. KING asked the Under-Secretary for War whether he was aware that a memorandum dealing with the situation in the Balkans, published as having been written by General Howell, but since repudiated by him, had been attributed to General Howell in a circular letter sent to all members of both Houses of Parliament by Professor Burrows and Dr. Seton-Watson; and, seeing that the publication of alleged confidential documents of this kind was calculated to injure national interests and inflict damage on the departments and public servants concerned, what action it was proposed to take in the matter.

Mr. TENNANT replied that the memorandum referred to had no official authority. No obstacle would be placed in the way of General Howell seeking any remedy he desired subject to the exigencies of the military situation.

Mr. KING asked was it not the case that eminent men quoted a document which they admitted subsequently to be a forgery, and yet they took no steps, and the War Office took no step, to bring these facts fully to light.

Mr. TENNANT: I do not think it is the business of the War Office to bring the facts to light if the document is not a public one. If General Howell repudiates it any remedy can be found as soon as the opportunity occurs.

Mr. KING: May I take it that the repudiation of this document is accepted by all persons at the War Office and in General Howell's command?

Mr. TENNANT: Yes; I understand that is the position.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST.

JEMAL PASHA AND SYRIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I suggest to the Government that there are urgent reasons why they should take notice of what is going on in Syria under the orders of Jemal Pasha, who was—erroneously—supposed to retain some vestiges of his French education?

My own opinion has been, so far, that Syria should not be left a day longer in the hands of the Turks, and from my knowledge of the country and of its inhabitants I firmly hold that, considering the accessibility of its coast and the responsive disposition of the mass of its people to any effort made on their behalf, neither we, France, nor Egypt has any good excuse for neglecting its immediate conquest.

The delay in our action is only weakening that element in the country which we desire to save, and on which we might rely to hasten the final ejection of the incorrigible Turks from power. The disheartened people are crying aloud for peace, but as in their heart they cherish the hope of the Allies' success, Jemal Pasha accounts this a crime, and if he hears of anyone praying for the confusion of Enver and his German confederates he forthwith proceeds to hang him! In this way he has already disposed of some hundred notables whose sole crime was, perhaps, either a repugnant feeling toward the Young Turks' policy, or a reluctance to put up with spoliations of all kinds!

We and France are called upon to secure immediate redress for the people because their greater misery arises from their goodwill towards us. I hope we shall soon complete our arrangements for an advance in Syria; and meanwhile I trust our Government will make it clear to Jemal and his principal tools there that they will have to pay for these murders.—I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER SEFI.

London, May 16, 1916.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Crisis in Greece.

The following quotations are taken from an article on the crisis in Greece, contributed to the *Morning Post* (May 13) by a special correspondent. The writer affirms that it is the dream of all "the Palace flunkeys and General Staff officers at Athens," with the exception of the Minister of Marine, to see the introduction of Prussianism into all departments of the State, with the King accountable to God alone:—

In the Press controlled by this party (which by a curious coincidence is the Press subsidised by the German propaganda!) the doctrine is not infrequently preached that, while the people are free to regulate the country's internal affairs, only the Crown is in a position of sufficient enlightenment to decide upon the country's foreign policy!

Meanwhile, what renders these intrigues a danger both to Greece and the Greek dynasty, is the fact that they are complacently regarded (inasmuch as they are not sternly discountenanced and suppressed) by the Royal Family, including the King himself. Leaving the Queen out of the question (though there can be little doubt in which direction her Hohenzollern ideas and prejudices lie), it is a matter for blank wonder to see how the Greek Royal Princes (including those who have married English or Russian Princesses) hate Venizelos with a perfect hatred, and applaud any excess or unconstitutional proceeding that helps to keep him out of office.

An examination of the services rendered by M. Venizelos to his country follows, and the writer concludes:—

King Constantine is doubtless actuated by the best of patriotic motives in the present line he has taken. And, aside from his military prestige, it is this belief in the purity of his motives that has kept (and is still keeping) the great mass of the Greek people from rising against his policy. Many outsiders wonder why the Greeks sit down so tamely under the brutality of the police, the Hamidian spy-system of the Palace, the incompetence and misgovernment of the present Ministry, and the absurd foreign policy, which is throwing all Greece's future to the winds, when they should assert the sovereignty of the people over all other factors in the State. The reason is solely that people see that this would mean civil war, at a moment when Greece needs to stand as a united nation in the tempest which is now raging over Europe; and they still cherish the fond hope that the two glories of the nation—Venizelos and King Constantine—will soon be reconciled and work together once more for the country's greatness.

Unexploited Resources.

The military correspondent of *The Times* (May 15) goes fully into the question of the belligerent forces of to-day. In regard to the western theatre, "we have our own ideas of what we shall do and when we shall do it, and do not intend to allow the Germans to choose our hour for us. Similarly," writes this correspondent, "on the Russian front this is the season when much of this theatre is roadless . . . and it would really be impatience run mad to expect the great armies of Russia to march without roads." The writer continues:—

It is not only in the West that our General Staff have much to do. What is to be said for the strategy which disposes of four important armies on the frontiers or within the confines of Turkey and provides no co-ordination for the action of the four? Taking Armenia, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Salonika together, we are superior to the fifty-two Turkish divisions, but no common strategy regulates the proceedings of our four armies; no single commander directs them; and consequently the Turk, who is the only gentleman and clean fighter that we have met in this war, is having much too good a time. There is nothing to prevent him from concentrating in due course, and this is a contingency to which Sir William Robertson is not likely to remain indifferent.

Germany and Turkey.

We take the following quotation from the *Westminster Gazette* (May 15). The *Gazette* looks upon the position of Erzinjan as being in the last degree precarious, and thinks that Germany will be forced to go to the assistance of her allies without delay:—

If the Germans are to send effective help to Turkey in Asia then two things follow as a matter of course. Any concentration with a view to breaking the Russian lines by another phalanx becomes impossible, and the gigantic effort against Verdun must be abandoned. Germany must be content to hold both the Eastern and Western fronts with as few men as can maintain a successful defence. She has not reserves which will enable her to undertake an offensive in more than one direction. Even Bernhardi never analysed the difficulties and dangers of a war on three fronts, and that is what Germany has now to maintain. To abandon Turkey would probably be the safer course, but to do so would be to shatter the great Imperial dream of Germanic influence stretching from the frontiers of France to the confines of Persia. It would be an admission of defeat which even now Germany is not prepared to make.

The *Evening Standard* (May 15), in an article by its military correspondent on the position of Turkey, estimates the present strength of the Turkish army at 500,000 men, without any reserves to make good future waste. The article concludes:—

We have yet to learn the explanation of the large Allied force in Greek Macedonia and in Egypt. The latter are a reserve which can reinforce the Allies in Greece, if the intention be to proceed against the Bulgarians when the coming Italian and Russian offensives shall cause the withdrawal of Austro-Hungarian troops from the Balkans; or the Allies in Egypt and Greece may be drawn upon for a new effort against Turkey. Meanwhile, the Turks are running short of men, material, and money, and Germany cannot continue to supply her with these commodities much longer.

"La Serbie."

We have received copies of the first and second numbers of a new weekly journal, *La Serbie*, which is published in Geneva (69, rue XXXI. Décembre), and edited by Dr. Lazare Marcovitch, of Belgrade University. It is in every respect a remarkably good production, inspired by a spirit of confidence and courage; and we welcome it as a fresh sign of the vitality of our Serbian Allies, who, temporarily driven from their country, still display in exile the fine spirit they showed in face of the enemy on the field. Amongst the articles in the first number (May 7) are: "La Serbie et les Alliés," by the Editor; "Les Deux Bulgaries," and "Les Propositions de Paix et la Nation Yougoslave." There is also a tribute to Shakespeare by "P. T.," entitled "William Shakespeare sur la Scène Nationale Serbe." From this we quote the first and last paragraphs, selecting them—from an article which shows a sound critical knowledge of the subject—because of their touching references to Serbia's present misfortunes:—

Tous les peuples du monde, les plus civilisés, les plus avancés comme les plus arriérés, se sont rappelé l'anniversaire trois fois séculaire du plus grand génie que la Providence ait envoyé sur notre pauvre terre. Les Serbes ont été condamnés, par leurs ennemis, à le commémorer loin de leur patrie.

* * * *

Dans la représentation des drames de Shakspeare. il faut voir la preuve que l'art dramatique serbe s'est acheminé dans sa vraie voie. Les récents revers serbes ont suspendu, pour peu de temps heureusement, le développement de notre art théâtral et nous espérons qu'après la guerre notre théâtre national à Belgrade célébrera dignement le tricentenaire du grand poète anglais.

The Outlook.

The Petrograd correspondent of the *Morning Post* (May 15) thinks that all appearances point to the conclusion that the principal war-work of the immediate future will be on the Asiatic front. He points out that, tricked into war by Germany, there has been nothing in the Asiatic campaign to give Turkey any faith in the "divine mission of the German champion of Islam." He concludes:—

Beyond the wholly contemptible and only very partially useful adherence of Bulgaria, Germany has found no Allies for her schemes of world conquest anywhere. She is now threatened with something infinitely more disastrous to her cause than the non-adherence of those minor nationalities whom she hoped—and has perhaps conditionally pledged—to join her flag. Unless Germany makes good some small part of her lavish promises to Islam, she is threatened with the loss of the effective support of her one Ally. This ominous possibility now compels her to redouble her care for her Asiatic and Balkan fronts. As was the case two years ago, this war can still only be won by Germany on the French front, but it may be lost by Germany now that the Allies are working closely together at other points of her vastly over-extended area of responsibilities. If Germany has decided to make an extreme effort to patch the leak in the dykes on her Asiatic front, such a move can only be welcomed by the Allies. At the same time it shows that the fighting spirit of the Germans is far from broken yet.

Suvla Bay.

"Juvenis," writing in the *English Review* (May), continues his narrative of service at Suvla Bay. He has things to tell that are full of the real grim horror of war; it is, indeed, questionable whether such details as he gives serve to do more than add to the load of suffering already borne by soldiers' relatives at home. Our quotations are from the portion of the narrative which describes his own sensations when wounded.

Suddenly I was hit on the right shoulder and knocked over; the blood poured like a fountain down my sleeve. One of the men rushed up and helped me off with my equipment and jacket. I thought the brachial artery was hit, and felt exhausted. As a matter of fact, it cannot have been; but my arm was broken. I sent the man on to join the firing line, and looked at my wrist

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watch—the time was a quarter to two. We had been three-quarters of an hour in action. . . . I did not notice much more until I felt a wallop on the side of the head, and my helmet rolled off. "A piece of shell," I thought, "and probably in my brain." Blood ran over my face, and I began to wonder how on earth a man could tell whether he had been killed or not. At length I decided that I was alive, and, picking up my helmet, made an examination. There were two neat little holes in it, such as are made by rifle bullets. At this point I realised that I was lying upon a little eminence, from which, in view of the ceaseless sighing and caterwauling of bullets past my head, I judged it prudent to descend. . . .

Hardly had I gone ten yards down when I felt a terrific crash on the left hip. "That," I thought, "must be an entire shell," as I was knocked down into a clump of blue teasle. I put my left hand down to examine the damage, and pulled out a bundle of letters, now covered with blood, from my trousers pocket. A neat hole pierced them, of exactly the shape and size of a rifle bullet travelling sideways.

The writer adds, "It may interest those whose relations are wounded that broken limbs and a cracked head do not hurt till hospital."

Russia and Britain.

The *Observer* (May 14) reads encouragement in the fact that it is already the middle of May and the expected offensive against the Russian front has not yet begun. Week by week the Russian armies are increasing in strength:—

As we have shown before, if this goes on for a few months all other circumstances which have hitherto retarded or thwarted the Entente Powers will be redressed and the complete victory of the Grand Alliance will be certain. Russian reserves even in the West will help to defeat the plan for exhausting France. Russia and her Allies, in spite of all delay, will finish together the work in Asia Minor, and by one means or another will dominate the Balkans and then reduce Austria as certainly as Turkey. All this would require another year or more, no doubt, but the Allies' goal would be in sight before many more weeks had passed. Germany's conception of making a draw of the struggle will be hopeless unless she can break the Russian front again by summer. It is the only way, and there is not much time.

In referring to the Russian advance on Khanikin the writer says:—

From Khanikin it is less than a hundred miles to Baghdad, with no difficulties anything like so stiff as those which General Baratoff's troops have already surmounted. We must bide the sequel of this excellent adventure, but it is cheering to think that though General Lake's army could not relieve Kut, its effect as a holding force very greatly facilitates the Russian operations in the direction of Baghdad. We see no reason to alter our view that light in this war breaks from the East and will spread to the West.

A Russian View.

The *Sunday Times* (May 14) publishes an interesting article by a "high Russian military official at present in London." The article deals with the whole Russian campaign; we extract a portion which refers to the part that Britain has played and is likely to play in these operations:—

What is most remarkable is the close co-operation now existing between the Russian and Anglo-Indian forces; and not only between them but also between the fleet at Cyprus and the Russian fleet in the Black Sea.

A Russian general who has just returned from the front tells me that this co-operation works wonders, and is pursued with almost mathematical exactitude. The Anglo-Indian forces operating on the Tigris are daily becoming a more and more important asset.

It is chiefly due to their co-operation that General Baratoff was able to scale the Iman Hassan Pass, which is due north-west of Kerind and more than 5,000 feet high. This operation was risky, and its success depended largely on whether the Turks would be able to get sufficient reinforcements from Khanikin.

The commander of the Anglo-Indian Expeditionary Force was communicated with, and a diversion decided upon and carried out with splendid dash, vigour and exactitude. Thus the Turkish reinforcements did not arrive in time, being kept busy on the Upper Tigris by the Anglo-Indian diversion and the Turks defending the pass were routed, thus making the Russian advance as far as Kasri-Shirin possible.

The Way of Roumania.

Mr. Stuart Cumberland, writing under the above heading in a recent issue of the *Financial Mail*, says that there is no Pro-German feeling or policy in Roumanian Government circles. He thinks, however, that distrust of Russia is still the prevailing feeling in the matter of foreign relations. The Roumanians have found it hard to forget Plevna and its sequel. He concludes:—

I will not attempt to prophesy when and how Roumania will take a direct hand in the war. Roumania's policy is a waiting one. Not of the wait and see order dear to our own Prime Minister, but waiting for the right moment—the moment when she can strike hardest and with the greatest effect. And when she does come in one may safely assume—unless a miracle happens—it will not be on the side of our enemies. For, in addition to knowing which side her bread is best buttered, Roumania is decidedly pro-English, and our policy should be to strengthen the ties that exist between us, not only for present advantages in common, but for future possibilities. The entry of Roumania, with her geographical position and well-trained and well-equipped army, into the conflict at the psychological moment, would be a decisive factor, and the future financial and commercial relations with her form a factor that should receive our earnest and unremitting attention.

Townshend and the Truth.

Mr. A. G. Hales, writing in *John Bull* (May 13), makes a very grave and definite charge against the Government in regard to the Baghdad venture. Mr. Hales claims to have special information regarding General Townshend's personal views on the expedition. He writes:—

I know . . . . that General Townshend *did* make a strong protest against the suicidal adventure. This is what Townshend wrote: "*It is absolutely unsound from a military point of view to attempt to take Baghdad with less than an army* corps of two divisions.' Townshend is a prisoner of war until peace comes, and he cannot protect his reputation; but it is the duty of a public journal to protect the soldier from the machinations of unscrupulous politicians. Townshend's renown shall not be smirched whilst he is languishing in a Turkish stronghold, in order that the face of this Government may be saved.

His concluding paragraphs include the following:—

What I want is punishment for the guilty, and I believe that is what the nation wants. Well, I have quoted one warning of poor Townshend's. Listen to this—never mind how I get it: "*I send you a line after the battle of Ctesiphon, where I won a Pyrrhic victory—having* 4,500 *killed and wounded out of* 14,000 *men. . . . . The enemy had from four to six divisions against my one—and I am amazed our Politicals did not know of these heavy reinforcements having reached the Turks*—HAD I GOT INTO BAGHDAD I SHOULD NEVER HAVE GOT OUT AGAIN. . . . ALL THIS HAS COME ABOUT THROUGH THEIR NOT HEEDING MY PROTEST WHEN ORDERED TO TAKE BAGHDAD."

Armenia.

Our attention has been called to an interesting article, entitled "The Truth About Armenia," by Miss Emily J. Robinson, which appeared in a recent issue of *Khaki*. Miss Robinson, who was the founder of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, has collected a large amount of reliable information relating to the massacre of Armenians, and her article, based upon this knowledge, is worthy of close attention. Our quotation is from its concluding passages:—

Indifferent as the world has been to the five-century-long martydom of Christian Armenia, this indifference has been greatly the result of ignorance; signs are manifest that things have changed. . . . The people of the United States are waking to the truth, and well they may, for many of the men, women and children who have been slaughtered by order of the Turkish Government were scholars in their mission schools. Having heard the cry for help, the American people are already answering it in a practical way.

By the courage shown by Armenian men and women in making a last stand to save the lives and honour of their dear ones—by the faith for which millions of them have died, when by accepting Islam they might have saved themselves—by the endurance which has enabled them, after massacres so often repeated, still to remain a nation, even though a scattered one—Armenia is working out her own deliverance.

Articles to Note.

"From the Tigris to the Texel," by T. Miller Maguire, in the *United Services Magazine* (May).

"Driven into Exile," by William Smith (illustrated), in the *London Magazine* (May).

"The Mysticism of Peace," by Adela Marion Adam, M.A., in the *Expository Times* (May).

"La Douleur d'un grand empire" (interview with Cherif Pasha), in *L'Evenement* (May 13).

"La Turquie après Trebizonde," by General Cherif Pasha, in *Le Matin* (May 4).

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

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ARMENIA'S TRIBUTE TO SHAKESPEARE.

An extremely interesting meeting in connection with the Tercentenary celebration of Shakespeare was held last Tuesday, at the Queen's Hall, when the Armenian Literary Society of London assembled to hear a paper read by his Excellency Hovhanes Khan Massehian, ex-Persian Minister, who has translated Shakespeare into modern Armenian. The Right Hon. Viscount Bryce occupied the chair, and among others who spoke were his Grace Archbishop Utudjian (Archbishop of the Armenians of Western Europe), Sir Sidney Lee and Professor Freeman. Letters were read from Sir Harry Johnston, Lord Morley and others regretting their inability to be present.

The chairman, in opening the proceedings, said that the Armenians were a nation of poets, and during centuries when there was no literature here except for a short time (that of the Roman conquerors) there was a literature in vigorous youth among the Armenian mountains. Unfortunately there was no country whose history presented for poetry a greater number of tragic themes. He did not think there were any episodes in history illustrating gallant and unconquerable patriotism more moving and striking than those which recorded the defence of Armenian liberty by scattered tribes and villages like those which had given imperishable renown to the name of Zeytun.

The lecturer, in the course of his address, said that the renaissance of the Armenian language began in the middle of the Nineteenth Century. The old classical Armenian of the Fourth and Fifth Centuries, into which the Bible had been translated, had then ceased to be a living language—it was found impossible to revive it—while the dialect spoken by the peasants was not polished enough to be used as a literary language. But a novel by Raffi was published and then translations of writers of Western Europe. The first renderings of Shakespeare were "Hamlet," translated from the French, and "The Merchant of Venice," from the German. Reading these had inspired him (the lecturer) with the determination to learn English, so that he might read Shakespeare in the original. He had learned English accordingly, and had made the first translations direct from Shakespeare's original tongue into Armenian. Previous translations, too, had been in prose, his were in verse, sometimes blank verse, sometimes rhymed.

Professor G. Hagopian, in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, said that the interest of Lord Bryce in Armenia was not of recent growth, it dated from 1876. When in those days he (Professor Hagopian) had made representations to the great committee of the Eastern Question Association, its chairman (Mr. Mundella) had replied: "We want facts, facts, facts about Armenia. We know nothing about Armenia." He (Professor Hagopian) had marshalled those facts together, and when the paper was ready had been referred for advice to the Regius Professor of Civil Laws at Oxford—Mr. Bryce, now Lord Bryce.

Armenian songs were sung in the course of the evening by Miss Hropsime Gulbenk Mair Arax and Miss O'Mally Dzidzer Nery.

The British Consul-General and the British colony re-entered Ispahan on Tuesday (says a telegram from Teheran), and received a splendid welcome from the Russian military and the Persians.

Travellers from Constantinople declare, says the *Morning Post's* Salonika correspondent, that Marshal von der Goltz was assassinated by Captain Ali Abdullah, a Turk. They state that he fired three times with a revolver at the Marshal, who died instantaneously.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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I have frequently drawn attention to the important rôle allotted to the Danube in the future economic development of the Central Powers. Together with its navigable tributaries, such as the Save, the Tiza, etc., it has become the great waterway of Central Europe, and is eventually to become the great trade artery from the mouth of the Rhine to the Black Sea across Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria. The matter is not a dormant one, and I am, therefore, not at all surprised to see that, according to the *Morning Post's* Budapest correspondent, an international conference is to be held in Vienna on this subject. All the Allied States of Germany will be represented, and also Roumania—which is not surprising considering that the mouths of the Danube are in Roumanian territory, though controlled by an international commission. As a matter of fact, the position of Roumania on the Danube is a very peculiar one, and of tremendous significance to the Pan-German dream of a German Danube. Hence, I trust that Roumania will not sell its heritage for a mess of pottage.

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There are many who, when the future map of Europe is drawn up, would like to see the Bulgar driven away from the southern bank of the Danube, and, as far as future peace in the Peninsula is concerned, I must agree with them for this, if for no other reason: the southern bank of the Danube between the Iron Gates and Rustchuk is higher than the northern bank, and consequently the Roumanian shore is perpetually menaced by attack, and dependent on the treacherous, double-faced goodwill of the Bulgars. In these circumstances Roumania's advantageous position on the mouths of the Danube is neutralised by her exposed position along the Roumano-Bulgarian frontier. Nor is it likely that the Central Powers, who wish to create an exclusively German Danube, will do anything to strengthen Roumania's hold on the river; on the contrary, they will do everything to weaken it, and, therefore, it seems to me that Roumania's best plan at the coming conference is to "sit still and hold tight," to accept temporarily any crumbs that may fall in her way, but in no way to bind herself to a policy which in the long run is bound to be antagonistic to her own interests. It is not in Budapest, Vienna, or Berlin that she will find protection for that long stretch of the Danube exposed to Bulgarian perfidy.

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It will be remembered that at the recent lecture on Serbia at the London Chamber of Commerce (see THE NEAR EAST, May 5, page 18) Mr. C. E. Town, who moved a vote of thanks, said that with regard to Serbia's future outlet on the sea, "he had been very pleased to learn that a present of two naval units had been made by Great Britain to Serbia, and that each of the Allied nations was going to present Serbia with units, so that she might become a naval as well as a military Power." I did not draw special attention to the matter at the time, considering the moment inopportune. But this week there has been published in Corfu a denial to a statement that has appeared in the Press to the effect that Serbia "has bought her first warship." As a matter of fact, the Serbian Government has purchased a merchant vessel, not a warship. This seems to me much more natural and practical. Even when the war is over, I doubt the wisdom of any development of Serbia along the lines of a "naval Power," as suggested by Mr. Town. The nucleus of a Serbian mercantile marine will be a necessity to New Serbia; its growth and development will depend entirely on the economic development of the country itself and on the seatrading abilities of the people—as yet unproved. To bolster up this small nucleus by naval units might not only prove a source of extreme danger, but would also deprive the mercantile shipping of useful hands, and thereby hamper its normal development. Therefore, while pleased to see that Serbia has bought her first merchant vessel—which I sincerely hope will in due course be followed by many similar purchases (or gifts from the Allies, as the case may be)—I trust that all dreams of "naval units" and "naval power" will remain dreams for some time to come.

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We reproduce elsewhere two extracts from the Egyptian papers which are deserving of some reference in these columns. The first of these is from the *Gurfa el Tugarieh el Misrieh* ("Review of the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce"), and deals with the shipping problem, urging the creation of an Egyptian mercantile marine. Thus is revived the old dream of the great Mehmet Ali. Circumstances have altered since those days, and the opposition rife then need hardly be resurrected to-day. Personally, I see no reason why the Egyptian people should not create a marine of their own. In its inception it would be mainly coastal, the routes extending along both shores of the Red Sea, and as far north as Cyprus and west to Malta. Of the more ambitious scheme—namely, the regular plying of vessels between Great Britain and Egypt—much can be written, both favourable and otherwise. In the first place, and in view of home "vested interests" and forced competition, any such scheme would be a costly and difficult one to realise, and would most likely come to grief unless supported and backed by the Egyptian Government. It will be remembered that when Lord Kitchener was in Egypt, before the war broke out, there was some rumour of a Government scheme for the acquisition of a State mercantile marine, the object, it was stated, being to compel shippers to bring down the Mediterranean freight rates. This sounds feasible in theory, but in practice I doubt whether the desired results would have been obtained. However that may be, nothing further has been heard of the pre-war suggestion, and it is not likely that the Egyptian Government will put it forward for some long time to come. Eventually, whether it be by the reconstruction and strengthening of the Khedivial Mail (this is the more likely procedure), or whether it be by the formation of a new company, native or otherwise, under State control, Egypt will doubtless acquire a mercantile marine of her own; but, unless the first-named procedure is followed, it will have to be built up gradually, slowly evolving from an Egyptian coastal shipping service which, practically speaking, is as yet unborn.

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The second question to which I wish to allude concerns Egypt's position as regards the new income tax. The *Egyptian Gazette* of April 27 published a leading article on the subject which fully covers the matter, and is reported elsewhere. It only remains for me to draw the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to an anomaly that requires rectification. Under the existing arrangement a limited liability company, which has its registered office in London, "is mulcted to the tune of 80 per cent. excess war tax on its war profits, and in addition is forced to pay a quarter of its income as income tax." On the other hand, an English company, having its registered office in Egypt and not in England, "escapes any taxation under the income tax or the excess war profits tax." This, obviously, is unfair; besides, it must inevitably lead to the removal from England to Egypt of the registered offices of many English companies if they are to compete with their untaxed competitors. The matter is one deserving of rectification, and I think that it could be best brought about by the Egyptian Government acting on advice tendered to it by the Imperial Government.

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Berlin, aspiring to be the empire city of a Central European State, has brought forth a ridiculous mouse in the form of a propaganda organ called the *Wirtschaftszeitung der Zentral Mächte* (Economic Journal of the Central Powers). It has been founded as the official organ of the movement whose aim is the establishment of a German-Austro-Hungarian Economic Union. As Turkey and Bulgaria are—whether they will or not—to belong to this Central European Union, the *Gazette* is published weekly at Constantinople and Sofia, as well as at Berlin, Vienna and Budapest (says a Berne correspondent of the *Morning Post*). The editorial offices are in Berlin and Vienna; the editor for Germany is Professor Paasche, the editor for Austria is Dr. W. Exner, the editor for Bulgaria his Excellency Constantine H. Kaltschoff, while the editor for Turkey is Hadji Adil Bey, President of the Turkish Chamber of Deputies. In the current issue of the paper it is suggested that all the States belonging to the proposed Union should enjoy a common postal service and a uniform coinage system. In other words, I take it that the mejideh is to be turned into pfennigs, to the greater glory of Kultur. The correspondent alluded to says that the articles in the current issue of the *Gazette* deal with details of the proposed economic *rapprochement*. In the Turkish section there is an article on the fertility and produce of the Turkish soil; there is another on "The Mesopotamia-Persian Petroleum Question," and a third on "Islam and the Economic Question." The articles in the Bulgarian section treat of mining, agricultural, banking, and commercial affairs in Bulgaria.

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So considerable has been the number of subscriptions to the Roumanian Five per Cent. National Loan that the Government closed the list on Saturday, six days earlier than the appointed date. On May 10 subscriptions reached a total of 300,000,000 lei, which was double the amount asked for; by Saturday they had attained, in round numbers, 400,000,000 lei. It will be seen, therefore, that I was right when I predicted that the loan would be a great success. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the National Bank has, as foreseen last week, reduced its rate of discount to 5 per cent. as from Tuesday last.

COMMENTATOR.

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Alexandria Prize Court.

S.S. Derfflinger (ex Cargo).

His Honour Judge Grain has delivered judgment in the Supreme Court for Egypt sitting in Prize in a case relating to cargo ex the s.s. Derfflinger, the facts being set forth in the judgment as follows :—

The Société Anonyme Italienne "Il Truciolo" bought goods at Manila through an enemy firm named Germann and Co., of Hamburg, the goods consisting of forty-three bales of knotted hemp fibre.

The goods were despatched by Germann and Co., of Manila, to Genoa, and were invoiced by Germann and Co., of Hamburg, on July 30, 1914, to La Société "Il Truciolo."

The bills of lading were forwarded by Germann and Co., of Manila, to Germann and Co., of Hamburg, and were endorsed "Germann and Co., Limited."

Germann and Co., of Hamburg, forwarded them to the Credito Italiano at Florence, who were to forward them to La Société "Il Truciolo" on the acceptance of a draft for 375 frs. drawn by Germann and Co., of Hamburg.

The Credito Italiano on December 2, 1914, on the instructions of La Société "Il Truciolo" accepted on behalf of La Société the draft for 55,375 frs. of Germann and Co., of Hamburg, and the bills of lading were duly forwarded to La Société "Il Truciolo."

Mr. Halford, who appears on behalf of La Société "Il Truciolo," urges that in coming to a decision as to the ownership of these goods the Court must be guided by the Italian law as to the passing of property in goods between seller and buyer, and he places before the Court a very interesting and carefully drawn up dissertation on the law of the sales of goods which has been drawn up by the legal authorities at the Italian Consulate.

It is argued on behalf of La Société that by the Italian law goods put on board c.i.f. by the consignor pass to the consignee as soon as they are put on board, and that the fact that the goods on the voyage are at the risk and peril of the consignee is conclusive evidence that the property in the goods has passed to the buyers.

Speaking generally, Courts of Prize sit for the purpose of administrating the law of nations and the law of nations only.

As it is stated by Wheaton, p. 457, par. 392, 2nd ed., "There is evidently a wide distinction . . . between the ordinary tribunals of the State, proceeding under the municipal law as their rule of decision, and prize tribunals appointed by its authority and professing to administer the law of nations."

But there is no doubt that in some cases the municipal law must be applied, as there is no rule of law under the law of nations to assist the court in coming to a conclusion. It then becomes a question which is the municipal law to be applied.

Is it that of the captors in whose courts the matter is being determined? or is it to be that of the claimants to the captured property? Sir William Scott, The Santa Cruz 1 Ch. Rob. 60, states: "If I am asked under the known diversity of practice on this subject, 'What is the proper rule for a State to apply to the recaptured property of its Allies?' I should answer that the liberal and natural proceeding would be to apply in the first instance the rule of that country to which the recaptured property belongs. I admit that the practice of nations is not so; but I think such a rule would be both liberal and just."

And he does, in arriving at his decision, apply the Portuguese rule of law, which was not on all fours with the British, and winds up his judgment as follows (page 79) :— "Perhaps a rule more closely concurring with our own might have been more convenient; but the difference is not sufficient to justify this country in refusing to Portuguese subjects the benefit of their alteration. In professing to act on the law of our Ally we must do it for better or worse."

The judgment of Dr. Lushington in The Otto and Olef, E.P.C. Vol. II. p. 510, supports the contention of Wheaton, that primarily it is the law of nations which the Prize Court has to administer, but also states that there may be occasions when foreign municipal law can be applied. He states : "Now, in a simple case depending on the law of nations, and not depending upon the peculiar construction of any treaty between Denmark and England, I am of opinion that it is no part of my duty to examine minutely into the municipal law of Denmark. I have no right to look and see whether Denmark has been fraudulently treated by the parties who procured these instruments. The only purpose for which I can look into the question is to see whether the property bona fide belongs to Danish subjects."

In municipal courts there is no doubt that a contract made in a foreign country and foreign language must be interpreted according to the laws of the country in which it is made. Lord Craworth, in Di Sora v. Phillips, 1863, 10 H. of L., p. 633 : "When a written contract is made in a foreign country and in a foreign language, the Court, in order to interpret it, must first obtain a translation of the instrument; secondly, an explanation of the terms of Art, if it contains any; thirdly, evidence of any foreign law applicable to the case; and, fourthly, evidence of any peculiar rules of construction, if any such rules exist by the foreign law. With this assistance the Court must interpret the contract itself on ordinary principles of construction."

This statement of Lord Craworth was merely made with reference to the rule of law in the municipal courts, but directly it is admitted that under certain circumstances the municipal law has to be called in in aid of the law of nations, this rule as laid down by Lord Craworth becomes applicable.

Recently in s.s. Erymanthos (cargo ex) II., Judge Sarnis, sitting in Prize at Malta, decided that contracts made in Belgium must be interpreted by the law of the country, viz., Belgium, in which they were made.

And I have come to the conclusion that in certain cases the municipal law must come in to the assistance of the law of nations, and under certain circumstances it may be that one has to resort to foreign municipal law.

Wheaton goes as far as to say that there may be occasions when the municipal law upsets the law of nations in the Prize Court. On p. 465 he says, "It is a question of great nicety how far a Prize Court is bound to enforce municipal law against foreigners when that municipal law is contrary to the law of nations, and he cites The Recovery 6 Ch. Rob 348, The Snipe Edw. Ad. 381, The Maria I. Ch. Rob. 350, The Ostree 9 Moo. P.C. 150. In the case which is now before me I am inclined to think that I might be driven back on to the British law of sales of goods because of the difficulty in ascertaining under what particular foreign law the contract was made. It was a contract in the first place made between Germann and Co., of Manila (which is probably a German firm), and Germann and Co., of Hamburg, and in the second place between Germann and Co., of Hamburg, and La Société "Il Truciolo," of Genoa. And in the confusion of nationalities of the parties engaged in the contract the only course open would be to decide the matter on the law of the court before which it had been brought for decision.

But I do not think it is necessary to pursue this point, nor perhaps was it absolutely necessary for me to have gone into the question of the application of the foreign municipal law, but it formed the basis of the arguments brought before me, and in the event of the case going to a higher tribunal I thought it was desirable that it should be shown that this aspect of the case had been considered.

My reason for stating that perhaps there was no necessity to enter upon the argument of the application of the foreign municipal law is that after careful study of the Treaties on the Italian law of sales of goods, which the courtesy of the Italian Consulate supplied me with, and after listening to the arguments of Mr. Halford on the same point, I cannot find any material difference between the Italian and British law, as regards the sales of goods.

In the arguments before me in this case great stress has been laid on the fact that the goods had been put on board c.i.f., that they were at the buyers' risk and peril.

And it was urged that it having been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the goods were at the buyers' risk, the Court, according to Italian law, must come to the conclusion that the property had passed from the sellers to the buyers.

There is no doubt that the question, At whose risks are the goods? is an important factor in arriving at a conclusion as to the passing of property in a contract for sale of goods, and might perhaps be the determining factor—not only in Italian law, but in British law also.

But under both laws other elements may arise which will reduce the question of peril and risk on the voyage to a question of minor consideration.

And I have come to the conclusion that that is what has occurred in this case, and that we must look further than the question of peril and risk.

We must consider the point which arises in Italian law of sales of goods as well as in the British law—namely, what was the intention of the parties to the contract?

Was it the intention of the sellers that on these goods being put on board the buyers became absolute possessors of these goods, and that the sellers relinquished all control of the goods whatsoever, reserving to themselves no right of disposal?

The form of the contract was obviously documents against acceptance, because until La Société "Il Truciolo" accepted Germann and Co.'s draft for 55,375 frs., La Société would have been unable to obtain the goods because the bills of lading were being held by the bank on behalf of Germann and Co. until the draft was accepted.

It is clear that the sellers intended to reserve to themselves some right of disposal, because until the sellers had obtained some security for payment for the goods from the buyers they rendered it impossible for the buyers to obtain them.

Therefore, I hold that both in Italian and British law it was the intention of the parties to the contract that these goods should not pass to the buyers on being put c.i.f. on board the vessel, but that the sellers reserved the right of disposal of the goods until a further act had been carried out by the buyers—namely, the acceptance of the draft.

The goods came into the hands of the Crown in October, 1914, while the bills of lading, and consequently the goods, were still at the disposal of the enemy firm, Germann and Co., of Hamburg, the sellers. The draft of Germann and Co. was not accepted until December, 1914. I, therefore, must hold that at the time the goods were seized they were the property of Germann and Co., of Hamburg, an enemy firm, and must, therefore, be confiscated as good prize.

Order made for sale.

According to a letter to the *Ahram* (Cairo) from Edfon, Mr. Wells, Chief Inspector of the Mines Department, arrived at that town on April 28, and began work at the coal mine recently discovered in that district. Mr. Wells is having diggings made at a distance of about 300 metres from the place where the deposit has been discovered.

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TRADE NOTES.

Egypt.

H.M. Consul at Cairo has forwarded a copy of the *cahier des charges* in connection with a call for tenders by the Egyptian Ministry of Education, for the supply and delivery of clothing for the pupils of the Bulac Elementary Training College for Women Teachers, viz.:—4,060 metres of flannelette, 6,090 metres of printed calico, 3,480 metres of coloured zephyr, 2,320 metres of veil muslin, 1,740 dozens of white press buttons, and 870 pairs of girls' shoes. Samples may be inspected, and specifications and forms of tender obtained, at the Central Stores, Ministry of Education, Darb el Gamamiz, Cairo. Sealed tenders, accompanied by a deposit of 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent., of the value of the offer, will be received at the Central Stores of the Ministry of Education, a above, up to May 27.

H.M. Consul at Cairo has forwarded conditions of a contract in connection with a call for tenders by the Egyptian Ministry of Finance for the supply of stationery articles required for the use of the various Government Administrations during the year 1916-17, including pencils, penholders, pen wipers, pins, gum, paper clips, sealing wax, ink, etc. Copies of the conditions and form of tender may be obtained from the "Economat Central, Ministère des Finances," Cairo, at which address also sealed tenders, made out on the proper form and accompanied by samples (in duplicate) of the goods it is proposed to supply, will be received up to noon on June 1.

The Secretary of State Dominions, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the construction of fine "steel roofing" for warehouses in the province of Gharbieh. Date, May 23.

The Superintendent of Stores, Ministry of Education, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of linen and table requisites for the school year 1916-17. Date, June 10.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-18). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Date, June 1.

The Superintendent of Stores, Ministry of Education, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 10,000 dozens of Arabic reed pens required for the school year 1916-17. Persons unable to tender for the supply of the total quantity required may submit tenders for any substantial portion thereof. Date, May 31.

ENEMY FIRMS.

The following addition to the statutory list of firms in foreign countries with which trading is prohibited has been published:—

Greece.

Barouh, Solomon and Levi, Volo.
Brazzafoli, Domenico, Syra.
Constantacopoulos and Co., Patras.
Dimitrelias, John, Vathy, Samos.
Fels and Co., Corfu.
Frandzis, P., and Fiorentino, G., Vathy, Samos.
Galanis and Goldstein and Hadjiandreou, Samos.
Muller, Karl, Patras.
Lochner, Max, Patras.
Lucas and Co., Patras.
Spiliotopoulos, C., Patras.
Stoltenhof and Lucas, Patras.

The following are among the removals from the list:—

Persia.

Shobet, Selim David and Co.
Sofer, D. J. and S., Hamadan.
Zarour, Sion, Hamadan.

FAMINE IN CONSTANTINOPLE

Constantinople is threatened with famine, writes the *Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula from Constantza (undated), and now depends mainly on precarious supplies. Not only bread but almost all other foodstuffs are now distributed on the ticket system. Owing to the continued arrival of refugees from Asia Minor, in consequence of the Russian advance, the stock of provisions available for distribution is greatly diminished. Business is practically at a standstill, and prices have increased enormously. Sugar, petroleum, rice, coffee, potatoes, and beans, fetch from 15 to 20 times their normal cost. A cup of tea now costs about 1s. 6d. in the restaurants. The only bread procurable is black and unpalatable; this is sold at about 6d. per lb. to those who can obtain tickets. In the provinces provisions are still fairly abundant, but sugar, coffee, and petroleum are no longer obtainable. In the city many small restaurants and cafés are closed, but the larger establishments patronized by the Germans remain open. The Germans, who receive their pay regularly, can afford to live in good style, and this circumstance alone is enough to render them obnoxious to the unhappy Turkish officials, whose salaries are in most cases many months in arrear. In former times the officials were in the habit of making over their arrears of pay at a reduction of 20 to 30 per cent. to certain bankers, who contrived to obtain payment from the Treasury by bribery, influence, or other means. But transactions of this kind are now impossible, owing to the depreciation of paper money, and dire distress prevails among the official classes.

The monetary situation is practically hopeless. No more gold is to be found in the market; silver is also disappearing; and even nickel coins have become so scarce that it is difficult to obtain small change in the shops, which, instead of change, commonly issue I.O.U.'s to their customers, on account for further purchases. The old £T5 notes of the Ottoman Bank have vanished. Their place has been taken by the recently issued £T1 notes (frequently cut into two 50-piastre notes) and 25-piastre notes. The new issue of paper money "made in Germany" consists of 5 and 10 piastre notes also. The notes are expected to arrive from Berlin in a few days. They enjoy a shadowy German guarantee, being convertible into German bonds. All denominations of the fiduciary currency have a forced circulation. Refusal to accept the paper money entails arrest and imprisonment. It is accepted with many misgivings, especially by those who are old enough to remember how, after the last war with Russia, the £T1 note fell in value to one piastre.

The energy latterly shown by the Russian Fleet, which has sunk a considerable number of the coasting vessels which brought provisions and petroleum from this port, has caused a further rise in prices; while the *coup de grâce* has apparently been delivered by the Roumanian Government, which has prohibited the departure of all vessels.

ENEMY TRADE IN EGYPT.

A supplement to the latest issue of the *Official Journal* sets forth the terms of a Proclamation by General A. J. Murray, Commanding in Chief in Egypt, as to an extension of the decisions of the Council of Ministers of August 5 and 13, 1914, and of the Proclamations under Martial Law of November 7, 1914, and January 25 and October 15, 1915, relating to trading with the enemy. The New Proclamation declares that any British, Allied, or neutral territory which is in the effective military occupation of the enemy shall, during the whole period of such occupation, be deemed to be enemy territory for the purposes of the above-mentioned Decisions and Proclamations. Similarly, enemy territory in the effective military occupation of his Britannic Majesty, his Allies, or of a neutral State, shall be deemed not to be of enemy territory for the above purposes.

In case of doubt as to the date at which any such British, Allied, neutral, or enemy occupation began or ended, such date shall be conclusively determined by a certificate delivered under the authority of the General Officer Commanding in Chief.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

SYRIAN CROP OUTLOOK.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 8.

A person who left Palestine only six weeks ago confirms the reports of the extraordinary dearness and dearth of wheat and other grain, to which the failure of last year's crops is said to have contributed in a great measure. It is comforting, on the other hand, to learn from the same source that the forthcoming crops promise a fairly good yield, which, if not indiscriminately requisitioned by the military authorities, and if judiciously distributed, may relieve the present distress and avert the impending famine.

Food Prices.

A letter from Beyrout gives some interesting figures as to the prices of some foodstuffs. Melted butter is worth 30 piastres the oke (the pound sterling=137 piastres); olive oil, 23 piastres; meat, 24 piastres per oke. These, after all, are not unusually exorbitant prices, but petroleum, on the other hand, is selling at 700 piastres the case, of two tins!

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Harvesting work proceeds in general satisfactorily. Inquiry shows that the damage caused in several districts by recent hailstorms has been far more serious than was anticipated. The Commissioner of Nicosia, who directed the Mudir, Husni Effendi, to investigate the results locally, has ascertained that the losses sustained in some of his villages run to £20,000, amounting in one village alone to £6,000. Similar local inquiries are being made by the Commissioners of other districts for the information of the Government.

The locust war is being actively waged. In some parts it has not been possible to cope with the increasing swarms, which have invaded standing crops, especially of wheat. In these nothing can be done except by destruction of the crop, which is seldom carried out.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, May 18.

Currants.

The market has been fairly active this past week, with business done at full prices, and in some instances slightly advanced. The s.s. Erato is shortly expected, but with only a small quantity of currants, which in any case will not affect the market. Prices quoted for Pyrgos, 41s. to 43s.; Amalias, 44s. to 46s.; Patras, 46s. to 51s.; Gulf, 48s. to 52s.; Vostizza, 48s. to 54s.; Island, 45s. to 48s.; and smalls, 44s. to 56s.

Sultanas.

A fair amount of business was done during the week in Greek fruit at full prices, whilst other kinds were somewhat quiet. Prices quoted for Greek sultanas, 88s. to 110s.; Afghan and other kinds, 84s. to 102s.

Dates.

There is a good demand, especially for Persian, but evidently the prices asked discourage business worth mentioning; thus only small transactions are taking place at steady rates.

Seeds.

Linseed is firmer, but rather quiet. London-Calcutta spot is offered at 73s. 6d., afloat was sold at 72s., while May-June and June-July buyers offered 72s. Bombay ordinary May-June is quoted 74s., and small-grain ditto 73s. Rapeseed is firm: Toria, May-June, Hull, 67s. 6d. Cottonseed is firmer: Egyptian-London, May, is quoted £14 7s. 6d., and Sakelarides £13 17s. 6d. Canaryseed is dull and values somewhat easier. Mustard is scarce, and higher prices are demanded. Rangoon beans have also advanced both for spot and to arrive.

Oils.

Linseed oil is firmer: Spot pipes, landed, £35 10s.; barrels, £36 10s. Rape oil is dull: Ordinary brown, naked, spot, £49; English refined, barrels, £52 to £53. Cotton oil is firm. Crude spot, pipes, £45 10s. is asked; refined pale, pipes, £49 10s.; and barrels, sweet, £54 to £55, as to make.

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Engineering Notes.

Harnessing the Assouan Dam.

The *Egyptian Gazette* recently published an article on "Paper Mills in Egypt," in which it was suggested to utilise the water power from the Barrage. A correspondent now writes to the paper in question on this subject, and points out that the Barrage scheme would be impossible, for "in order to have water power you must have (1) continuous flow, (2) a fall of water or head. These two conditions are not fulfilled in the Barrage because its sole object is to store water for the land of Lower Egypt and to allow as little as possible to pass to the sea. Besides, the Barrage structure, as it stands, would be useless for such a purpose, and several additions and modifications would have to be made before it would be used in this way. There are other drawbacks, but those just mentioned render discussion of them unnecessary. What should be considered as wasted power is the falls at the Assouan Dam. The fall is about 26 metres, and the flow at flood is about 14,000 cubic metres a second. This would develop as much horse-power as is now obtained from the whole of the oil and steam engines in Egypt and the Sudan combined. The power produced would be useful for driving trains from Assouan, north and south, and for cloth as well as paper factories; and should the existing quarries there be developed, hydraulic and electric machinery could be used for cutting and planing the granite. Engineering shops could be started there, which would serve as training schools for engineers. Another place where power could be obtained is the Fayoum. This province has big natural differences of land levels, causing suitable falls of water for the development of horse-power. Turbines (water motors) already exist in the Fayoum, and are used in the cotton mills of Nubar Pasha. Other turbines could be erected with equal success to give power in other than flour and cotton mills. It is strange that lighting by electricity produced by water power has not yet been effected in the Fayoum."

New Radiographic Service.

It is announced that a radiographic service between Spain and the United States will soon be established by means of a new radio-signal receiver of a design that does away with the usual earpieces. The new instrument after having been examined by the Centro Tecnico de Aeronauticos, and favourably commended by the latter, was approved by the Spanish Minister of Public Works, with the result that a scheme is being formed for the establishment of the above service. It is stated that the radius of the new apparatus is over 5,000 kilometres (3,000 miles).

The Union of the Greek and Macedonian Railways.

It is reported that on the new railway line, Gida-Papapouli, which will link the Athens-Larissa railways with the Salonika-Monastir, and European lines, rails have been laid down as far as the river Touzla. Thus only seventeen kilometres (ten and a-half miles) remain to be constructed in which to complete the line to reach Libunovon, where it will link up with Salonika-Monastir Line. It is expected that this will be accomplished towards the end of the month.

Danube Navigation.

During the present month (says the *Morning Post's* Budapest correspondent) there will be an international conference in Vienna concerning the Danube navigation, which is one of the most important schemes of the Germans in connection with the Central European Commercial Union. On the conference all the Allied States of Germany, and also Roumania, will be represented. The Bulgarian Government is showing keen sympathy with the scheme. The trouble in connection with the Danube question arises out of the differences between Hungary and Austria, for both intend to secure the so-called "Central Stelle," the central position on the line of navigation. It was originally planned that the conference should be held at Budapest, but the Austrians were up to the game, and before the Hungarians moved in the matter they forestalled them. The plan is that the Danube should be utilised for the German trade to the sea, beginning from the German town of Regensburg, where the Danube becomes navigable, and touching all the German, Austrian, and Hungarian towns connecting the Tisza and other navigable rivers with the Danube, and thus getting a convenient water route to the Balkans and the Black Sea, and so to Turkey. The Burgomaster of Vienna, Herr Weisskirchner, is doing his utmost to have Vienna accepted as the central port for the Danube navigation, and in consequence there is considerable discontent in the Hungarian papers.

Egyptian Shipping.

The *Gurfa el Tugarieh el Misrieh* (Review of the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce) publishes an article, quoted by the *Egyptian Gazette*, on a subject of interest to us now, considering the new status of the country as a British Protectorate. We, therefore, reproduce the following extract :—

"There is one industry which has no particular home and which requires energy and perseverance—that is, navigation. The Egyptians have absolutely no share in this highly-remunerative business, in spite of the fact that Egypt's position, geographically speaking, is most suitable for seafaring, and encourages commercial navigation owing to the country's relations with foreign lands. We cannot understand why the Egyptians have hitherto abstained from embarking upon such business. Besides the steamers which pass through the Suez Canal, no fewer than 2,400 ships enter Egyptian ports every year conveying about 5,074,836 tons of goods from foreign countries, while the steamers which pass through the Canal number about 4,000, with a total tonnage of 16,200,000. The ships which ply between Egypt and other countries are all foreign, not a single one of them being Egyptian. It can thus be easily imagined what an enormous freight bill Egypt has to pay to foreign navigation companies on both imports and exports. Had Egypt been possessed of some steamers she would obviously have derived some portion of the profit which now goes to foreigners. The navigation companies which we now suggest that Egyptians should organize would not require a very large amount of capital. We could at first content ourselves with a small company, utilising a limited number of ships to undertake the shipping of Egypt's cotton to England and importing coal from Britain. We also need some steamers to ply between Egypt and the ports of Turkey, Arabia, and the Hejaz. The present time might be the most suitable for organizing such companies."

GREEK FINANCES.

The session of the Greek Chamber was resumed on Monday. It is believed that the Chamber will vote the 1915 and 1916 Budgets and other fiscal measures, including the new internal loan, the contract for which, however, has not yet been signed with the National Bank, and that the session will then be closed.

It will be remembered that, in connection with Greece's financial difficulties, an attempt was made to raise a loan abroad. The scheme, however, was vetoed by the International Commission of Financial Control. This notwithstanding. Reuter's Athens correspondent cabled on the 11th as under:—"The Austrian delegate on the International Commission of Financial Control has received instructions to support the Greek Government's scheme for raising the funds necessary to meet pressing needs. As, however, a majority of the Commission is necessary to sanction the scheme, the position remains unchanged."

Reuter's correspondent reported from Athens on May 16 as follows:—"The agreement with the National Bank for a loan of a hundred million francs will be signed to-day or to-morrow, and will be submitted to Parliament on Thursday. Replying to a deputy who put questions on the financial situation, the Minister of Finance said the Government had done everything possible to meet the needs of the country. The measures to be laid before Parliament included the taxation of everybody, from the highest to the lowest, and, alluding to the deputy's remark to the effect that the inadequate provision made for soldiers' families might lead to discontent and that serious consequences might ensue, the Minister declared emphatically that the possibility of trouble was excluded, adding 'Let anybody try to disturb order.' The Minister's firm attitude created a favourable impression. No Greek contends that pecuniary sacrifices at this juncture are not a national necessity, but, with the exception of shipowners and a few others who are realising big war profits, the new taxation is a hard trial for a population struggling for existence when living is most difficult owing to the world war and the control exercised over neutrals by belligerents."

ROUMANIAN LOAN.

Reuter reported from Bucharest on May 17 that the National Loan was closed on that day—that is to say, six days before the date originally fixed. Subscriptions amount to 375 million lei (£15,000,000), which is 2½ times the sum asked for.

Although official negotiations of an economic nature between Roumania and Bulgaria continue, Bulgaria is continually quibbling about transit, and accordingly Roumania, by way of reprisals, is refusing the export of all provisions.

Large quantities of purified petrol and a little benzine continue to be exported to Switzerland. The transport is being organised by a colonel in the Swiss Army. No train is despatched until official notice has been received that the trains previously sent have reached their destination.

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COMPANY MEETING.

ANGLO-PORTUGUESE TELEPHONE COMPANY.

Mr. Herbert Allen, presiding at the annual general meeting on Tuesday last, stated that in 1915 the company earned £81,923, against £71,339 in the previous year; they expended £54,037, as against £44,675; and they made a gross profit of £27,886. The expenses included £2,459 paid to the Portuguese Government by way of royalty, and a loss on exchange of £10,659. In the previous year royalties amounted to £2,024, and loss on exchange to £4,683. Against the gross profit there was a set-off of £1,349 for income tax and £3,600 for the debenture service, which left a net profit of £22,937. They had set aside £2,000 of this to exchange fluctuation account, as against £2,500 in the previous year, and this account now amounted to £8,500; to the renewals fund they had again placed a sum of £10,000, bringing the total up to £2,000; the general reserve fund remained unaltered at £25,000. Six months ago they paid an interim dividend of 3 per cent. on the share capital, and the board now recommended a final dividend of 5 per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year, the two payments together accounting for £12,000. The effect of this would be to deplete the balance of £5,472 brought forward from the previous year by a sum of £1,063, leaving £4,409 to be carried forward on the present occasion. The number of subscribers increased during the year by 10½ per cent. and the gross revenue by 14 per cent. Unfortunately, however, the net profit showed little advance on that of the previous year, owing partly to the increased cost of labour and material, and in greater measure to the loss on exchange. At the present time the company held sufficient bills to cover the probable remittances until the end of the current year, and the average rate of exchange for 1916 should work out at something like 36d. per escudo. The company's business was expanding at an unprecedented rate, and scarcely had they got their new exchange at Lisbon into working order than they were confronted with the possible necessity of further extensions. How much longer they could defer the opening of a new exchange at Oporto he did not know. For the time being the policy of the board was to restrict new work as far as possible to the actual bringing in of subscribers, but the present rate of progress could not be maintained without an adequate increase in the capacity of the exchange and of the cable routes. The present financial position of the company, owing to the conservative policy followed by the board in the past, was quite satisfactory, and, subject to the absence of any turn for the worse in the military situation—which, of course, would be speedily reflected in the country's finances—they could see their way ahead for well over a year. Peace at present seemed far enough off, and it would be idle to speculate upon the possibilities of the situation twelve months hence. Personally, he was not one of the "ardent optimists."

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by the managing director, Mr. Fredk. Kerr, the report and accounts were adopted, and a final dividend of 5 per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year, was declared.

Mr. Charles Woodley was re-elected a member of the London Board of Directors, and Senhor Jorge O'Neill O'Neill was re-elected a member of the Lisbon Board.

Messrs. Futcher Head and Co. were also reappointed auditors for the current year.

Mr. Stevens, in moving a vote of thanks to the Chairman, said he thought the shareholders could congratulate the directors and the staff generally on the very satisfactory report they had submitted, especially having regard to the difficulties associated with Portugal, the exchange, and, not least of all, the European war.

The Chairman acknowledged the compliment on behalf of the Board and the staff in London and in Lisbon.

EGYPTIAN FINANCES FOR FEBRUARY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 1.

This evening the State accounts for the month of February were published. During that month the revenue amounted to £E1,275,088 and the expenditure to £E1,025,615, bringing the totals at the end of February to £E15,815,106 and £E13,693,841 respectively.

The chief increases in revenue during the month were:—Customs, £E138,876; tobacco dues, £E42,706; legal fees, £E10,160; railways, £E106,500; telegraphs, £E11,232; domains, £E43,723. Direct taxes decreased by £E117,130 (this was to be expected, in view of the large amounts paid in advance during the preceding months by the cultivators). The chief items of expenditure were:—Irrigation, £E130,427; railways, £E196,936; War Office, £E76,001; and public debt, £E116,393.

The accounts show a surplus at the end of February of £E2,121,265, as compared with a deficit of £E1,229,235 at the same date last year, and, with another month to go to the end of the financial year, it looks as if all estimates will be falsified, and a record balance will result to the credit of the Reserve Fund. The way in which the revenue, especially Customs, railways, and legal fees, has come in is remarkable, and was certainly not foreseen by any of the experts. Also expenditure has been kept down in a most extensive manner, and this has, of course, helped to make the large surplus now available.

It is interesting to note that several items of revenue already exceed the estimates. Thus, direct taxes are £E135,620, Customs £E376,607, tobacco dues £E90,238, railways £E416,235, domains receipts £E105,619, and rent of Government land £E54,578 above the figures fixed in the Budget. On the other hand, expenditure on irrigation is £E450,558 below the estimate, and that on railways and the army £E404,990 and £E201,131 respectively under that allotted to them, whilst nearly every other item shows an economy on the estimates. Finally, the total revenue collected up to the end of February is only £E84,894 below the estimate for the whole year, whilst the expenditure is as much as £E2,482,530 off the full figure allotted to the services for the twelve months. It seems scarcely likely that anything near that figure has been expended during April, and, on the other hand, the revenue must have exceeded a million, judging by the preceding months and the fact that the Customs returns and the railway traffic showed no falling off, so there may be a slight addition to the present surplus of £E2,121,265, unless some heavy bills come in for payment at the last moment.

EGYPT AND THE INCOME TAX.

Under the above heading the *Egyptian Gazette* of April 27 published a well-argued leading article on how the only too apparent injustices of the new income-tax affect different companies in Egypt. We quote the following passages:—

"A limited liability company, which has its registered office in London, is mulcted to the tune of 60 per cent. excess war tax on its war profits and in addition is forced to pay a quarter of its income as income-tax. On the other hand, an English company, which has not registered in England escapes entirely any taxation under the income-tax or the excess war profits tax. As it is solely owing to the power of the British Navy and Army that anyone is able to exist here, it is most unfair that English companies should benefit by this protection and pay nothing for it. Take, for instance, English steamship and cotton companies in Egypt. Why should one company which happens to have registered itself pay these very heavy taxes, while their competitors pay absolutely nothing. The consequences of this glaring anomaly in taxation is obvious. The companies will simply remove their head offices to this country. We fully recognise the temptations to take such a step, although its patriotism is dubious. Yet the motives are very strong to induce such proceedings, and we shall not be surprised to see that some companies avail themselves of Egypt's immunity from war taxation. It is well known that enormous sums have been made both by English shipping and English cotton companies here in Egypt, not to mention firms who deal in other commodities, whose market is England. Yet such companies are allowed to retain all their war profits and go free from income-tax, thus being able to cut prices with other companies, whose head offices are in England, merely because of this glaring injustice. We suggest to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that this is a question that should receive his immediate attention, and that any Bill brought in to meet such cases should also be retrospective in its effects.

"It will be remembered that the leading case as regards English companies in Egypt is that of 'Mitchell v. Egyptian Hotels, Limited.' In that case, it may be usefully recalled, the profits of the company were exclusively derived from hotels in Egypt, and the articles provided that the control and management of the company's business should be vested in the local directors. As the London Board did not participate in or further the business operations in Egypt, the House of Lords held that the business was carried on entirely abroad, and accordingly only those profits remitted to England were assessable to English tax. But in the cases we refer to the companies are making their profits in England, but escape because of their domicile in Egypt. We are of opinion that if any Englishman cannot assist his country in the trenches, he can help out of his pocket, and as it is well known that many Englishmen here are making huge profits out of the war, we see no reason why they should not be made to pay their share."

During March, 1,253,857 kilos of gum, valued at £54,566, were exported from the Sudan via Port Sudan.

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COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.—The directors have declared a dividend of 6s. per share on the ordinary shares and £15 per share on the deferred shares, payable on and after to-day, at the National Bank of Egypt, in Cairo, Alexandria, and London.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS. — Gemsah, week, 89 tons; previous week, 637 tons. Hurgada, 555 tons, against 577 tons.

CAIRO ELECTRIC RAILWAYS AND HELIOPOLIS OASES COMPANY.—The annual general meeting of shareholders was announced to be held last Tuesday in Cairo.

CAISSE DE LA DETTE PUBLIQUE (EGYPTIAN).—The *Official Journal* (April 20) announces that the coupon of the Unified Debt, which fell due on May 1 last, will be paid in London at the Bank of England; in Paris, at the Credit Lyonnais; in Alexandria, at the Credit Lyonnais; and in Cairo at the Caisse de la Dette.

COMPAGNIE UNIVERSELLE DU CANAL MARITIME DE SUEZ.—The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders will be held on Monday, June 5, at 8, Rue d'Athènes, Paris.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended April 30 amount to £E4,571, or an increase of £E558 over the corresponding period of last year.

GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY.—The ordinary general meeting of shareholders will be held in Cairo on May 31, at 11 a.m.

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.—The directors announce an interim dividend for the half-year to March 20 of 3s. per share, free of tax, payable June 12.

PIRÆUS, ATHENS, AND PELOPONNESUS RAILWAY.—The directors have declared a dividend at the rate of Drs.3 per share, payable in London forthwith at the Bank of Athens, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C., against surrender of coupons Nos. 54 and 55.

SUEZ CANAL.—Traffic receipts for the 12th, 13th, and 14th inst. amounted to 870,000 fr., as compared with 690,000 fr. for the corresponding days last year.

EGYPT.

CAISSE DE LA DETTE PUBLIQUE.—COMPTE DEFINITIF DE L'EXERCICE 1915-16.

RECETTES.	£E.	M.	£E.	M.
Report au crédit de l'Exercice 1915-16....			1,070,000	—
Provinces affectées:				
Garbieh	480,570	242		
Menoufieh	383,152	730		
Béhéra	287,500	—		
Kalioubieh	188,204	204		
Dakahlieh	399,829	430		
Charkieh	306,620	395		
Guizeh	137,326	804		
Béni-Souef	234,595	520		
Fayoum	149,429	183		
Minieh	369,641	332		
Siout	376,188	500		
Guirgueh	242 485	608		
Assouan	45,773	185		
			3,511,317	133
Prescriptions des Dettes Privilégiée et Unifiée			1,259	491
Intérêts produits par le placement de fonds			110,821	745
Total de Recettes			£E4,693,398	369

DEPENSES.	£E.	M.	£E.	M.
Service de la Dette Consolidee:				
Emprunt Garanti 3%....	307,125	000		
Dette Privilégiée	1,082,235	492		
Dette Unifiée	2,182,906	440		
			3,552,266	932
Dépenses budgétaires de la Caisse de la Dette du 1er avril 1915 au 31 mars 1916			34,948	087
Report au crédit de l'Exercice 1916-17 ..			1,070,000	000
Total des Dépenses			£E.4,657,215	019

RECAPITULATION.	£E
Recettes	4,693,398 369
Dépenses	4,657,215 019
Excédant Revenant au Ministère des Finances	£E36,183 350

BANK OF ABYSSINIA.

Notice is hereby given that in conformity with Article 30 of the Statutes an ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the Bank of Abyssinia will be held on Wednesday, the 31st May, 1916, at 4 p.m., at the offices of the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo, Egypt, for the purpose of:—

Presenting the Directors' Report.
Presenting the Auditors' Report.
Submitting the Accounts to the 31st December, 1915.
Electing Directors.
Electing the Auditors for the year 1916 and fixing their remuneration.

Any Shareholder holding a minimum of 5 shares is entitled to take part in this meeting, provided the Shares be deposited at one of the following places, where a card of admission or form of proxy will be given:—

In Egypt (at Cairo and Alexandria) at least five days before the date of the meeting:—
At the National Bank of Egypt, Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Banque d'Athenes, Banque Belge pour l'Etranger, Imperial Ottoman Bank, Banque d'Orient, Banco di Roma, Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio, Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, Crédit Lyonnais, and Deutsche Orientbank.
In Abyssinia, at least five days before the date of the meeting:—
At the Bank of Abyssinia, Adis-Abeba, Dire-Dawa and Harrar.
In New York, at least five days before the date of the meeting:—
At Messrs. Kidder, Peabody, and Co., Bankers.
In Europe, at least five days before the date of the meeting:—
In Paris, at the Société Générale de Crédit Industriel et Commerciale, 66, Rue de la Victoire.
In Rome, at the Banca d'Italia.
In London, at National Bank of Egypt, 6-7, King William Street, E.C.

F. T. ROWLATT, President.

Cairo, 11th May, 1916.

ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

Notice is Hereby Given that the thirty-eighth Ordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders will be held at the Company's Offices, Alexandria, on Monday, the 5th June, 1916, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Company, also to confirm the nomination of Mr. A. S. M. Dickson as a Director of the Company, and further to elect Mr. H. R. C. Blagden, the Manager of the Company, as a Director of the Company, and for that purpose to declare Article 106 (a) of the Articles of Association suspended in his favour in accordance with the terms of the said Article.

Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer desiring to attend or to be represented at the Meeting must deposit their Share Warrants in London before the 22nd May, 1916, or in Alexandria before the 2nd June, 1916, until after the Meeting, at Messrs. Barclay and Co., Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, Alexandria, or at some other approved bank in London or Alexandria.

Dated, Alexandria, the 3rd April, 1916.

By order of the Board,
H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Manager.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Côtes du 2 Mai, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt ...		11⅜ to	—
Tram. d'Alexandrie..	Frs.	86 ,,	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11½ ,,	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5 ,,	—
priv.	L.E.	2⅞ ,,	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	126 ,,	127
Bons de Panama	Frs.	94½ ,,	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs.	46½ ,,	
Privilégiée	Frs.	92 ,,	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	75 ,,	—
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2⅝ ,,	—
Comptoir Financier and Commercial d'Egypte	£	⅛ ,,	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	3/32 ,,	—
Union Foncièr d'Egypte	L.E.	⅛ ,,	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	3⅛ ,,	—
Bonded Warehouse	L.E.	4⅛ ,,	5
Unifiée	L.E.	78½ to 78⅝	exp
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4⅛ to	—
Fondateur	£	18 ,,	—
Pressage et dépôts	£	27½ ,,	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	1⅛ ,,	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	4⅛ ,,	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅞ ,,	3
Ord.	£	14/6 ,,	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3½ ,,	—
Egypt. Delta Light Railway	£	5 ,,	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£	105 ,,	—
Jouissance	£	150 ,,	—
Egyptian Markets		22/9 ,,	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	145 ,,	—
Div.	Frs.	93 ,,	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	88 ,,	90
Egyptian Salt and Soda		15/6 ,,	—
Crédit Foncier d'Egypte	Frs.	572 ,,	—
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	301 ex coupon	
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	247 to	—
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	250 ,,	—
Delta Land	£	⅛ ,,	—
Port Said Salt		31/9 ,,	32/-
Cotton Ginners	£	1/16 ,,	½
New Egyptian	£	6/- ,,	—
United Land	P.T.	4 ,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.		24/6 ,,	25/-
Fondateur		85/- ,,	90/-

Marché nul.

LONDON EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909..	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909 ..	99	—	80
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan ..	93⅛	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	76½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	65½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82⅛	73½	63xd
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80⅛	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	52	55
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	52	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	48
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	42
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	52	52
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	48½
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902 ..	77	—	65
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	75½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82⅛	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.....	92	—	86
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855..	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94⅛	—	76
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	68
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82⅛	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	64
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65⅛	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4⅛	—	3⅛xd
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	—	6⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.....	80	—	69xd
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red...	83	—	71xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	—	10⅛
Bank of Abyssinia	⅛	—	—
Bank of Athens.....	£2	—	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82,6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅛	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited.....	3⅛	—	3⅛xd
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	11⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	—
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	4⅜
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89⅛	—	—
D>. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅛	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅛
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb. ..	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb...	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds..	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1⅞	—	1⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	⅛	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅛	—	2½
Do. Do. Def.	⅛	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8⅛	—	5½
Do. Pref.	4⅛	—	3⅛
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/-
Do. Def.	⅛	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Bd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	8/-
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84
Do and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	—	⅛
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅛
,, ,, Founders	⅛	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	72½
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	⅛
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	—	12/-
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/7½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1⅛	—	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	24/-
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99⅛	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	16/4⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	—	19/9
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅛	—	3⅛
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2⅛	—	1½

OIL.	Price on May 10.	May 17.
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	7/-	7/-
Anglo-Persian	20/-	20/-
European Oilfields	3/9	4/-
Roumanian.....	13/-	12 9

PARIS BOURSE.

	May 10.	May 16.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	442	442
Canal de Suez	4305	4400
Credit Foncier Egyptien	614	610
Turkish Unified 4%	59.05	59.50
Egyptian Unified 4%	90	90
Serbian, 1895	66.70	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 264.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

It is satisfactory to find that the British Mesopotamian Force is not intended to remain dug-in at the spot where the capitulation of Kut found it. A more hopeless confession of failure could not be conceived, and we do not pretend for a moment that such a proceeding was ever seriously considered. But the aggressive opposition that has manifested itself to what is regarded as the dissipation of strength on so-called side-issues had given rise to the fear that advantage might be taken of the failure to relieve Kut in order to cry halt to further operations in Mesopotamia. In passing, it may be pointed out that the answer to the lament over the dissipation of our fighting strength is to be found in Colonel Churchill's remarks in the House of Commons regarding the ample margin of troops not yet usefully applied to the prosecution of the war. We may not always agree with Colonel Churchill as a critic, but he voiced the opinion of those whose attention has been particularly directed to the Eastern theatres of war, when he commented on the "very large" armies in the East. "Sent and used in time, the forces which were now accumulated in the East—there was no military object in that theatre which they could not have achieved. The Government were open to obvious and serious criticism every day that passed without those forces being made to play their part against the enemy."

As was hoped, the abatement of the exceptional floods caused by the heavy rains has given the Tigris Corps its opportunity to advance. Leaving the Turks in their position at Sanna-i-Yat on the left or north bank of the river, General Gorringe has pushed forward on the right bank, has captured Dujailar Redoubt, which successfully withstood General Aylmer's efforts to take it early in March, and is now established on the Shatt-el-Hai to the south of Kut. As a result of this movement the Turks have had to abandon the south side of the river, but retain Sanna-i-Yat and Es Sinn on the north. Unless the situation in Baghdad is causing the enemy uneasiness, he may rely on the Tigris and the normal floods at the present season to protect him in his positions on the left bank until they can actually be carried by assault. The future progress of the operations so successfully inaugurated by General Gorringe may still be determined by the condition of the river. The flood season lasts into July, but it would be possible to turn it to advantage, if the supply of river craft were adequate to the needs of the Expedition.

The announcement that "a force of Russian cavalry has joined General Gorringe after a bold and adventurous ride" adds a touch of colour to a picture which has sorely needed it. There is no call for exaggerated expectations. A Russian force has been operating within a hundred and fifty miles of the British camps on the Tigris, and a dash over this distance would be an exploit entirely to the liking of the daring Cossacks. The arrival of the small band which braved the risks—the intervening country is probably inhabited by hostile tribes—is evidence of the fact that the forces converging on Baghdad are working together. The size of the band constitutes no appreciable addition of strength to the Tigris Corps; and, we may add, if there should be any friendly rivalry in what we hope is a race for Baghdad, the presence of a handful of Cossacks will not impair the British character of the Expedition any more than a few British aviators with General Baratoff would detract from the Russian honours, if his forces should happen to reach Baghdad first.

Whatever may be the forces employed, there can be no doubt that our Russian Allies are dealing systematically with Turco-German designs on Persia. The latest reports speak of the advance on Mosul being continued from Rowandiz; but in the meantime another force operating on the left of this line of advance has occupied Sakiz and Baneh, the latter only some thirty miles from the Turco-Persian frontier. As there is reason to believe that the Russians are also clearing the country north of Kermanshah, they will have practically established touch along a six hundred mile front extending from Trebizond to Kermanshah. These sweeping movements must prove even more disconcerting to the Turks than a concentrated attack at a given spot. The advance forces of the Russians will be for the most part cavalry, but they offer an effective screen for possible developments behind, and the danger of the Turkish lines of communication being cut grows with the extension of the Russian front.

The absence of news from the Armenia sector suggests that the Turks have exhausted their first attack and are not receiving reinforcements rapidly enough to follow up their initial gain. As they did not force the Russians back any considerable distance, it must be problematical whether the success was commensurate with the costliness of the effort. The course of events on the Tigris points to a hurried redistribution of the enemy's forces. After the formidable stand made in these very positions during the last few months it is

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unlikely that the Turks would allow General Gorringe to advance so easily, if they had retained the same number of troops in front of him. These signs of increasing embarrassment in Turkey's military position, taken in conjunction with the persistent reports of the precarious situation in Constantinople, should serve as a special stimulus to the Allies to drive home their advantages with all the strength at their disposal.

The Triple Alliance has been formally reconstituted with Turkey in the place of Italy. An announcement to this effect was made on April 27 by the Turkish Minister of the Interior in a speech at a banquet given in honour of the visit of members of the Reichstag to Constantinople. Certain points in Halil Bey's speech are not without interest. He admitted that the Entente Powers offered to guarantee the integrity of Turkey, but added that, as this implied an "oppressive guardianship," the proposal could not be accepted. Germany, on the other hand, offered "an alliance, with equal rights and of long duration, on the principle of mutual and equal assistance against every danger." As a result of this agreement, "Turkey regained her independence, in order to rank as one of the members of the Triple Alliance." Since that time separate conventions have been arranged between Germany and Turkey in regard to Consular jurisdiction, right of residence, extradition, and other matters. In none of the German proposals, Halil Bey added, was to be found the faintest glimmer of the Capitulations. This alliance on equal terms has received somewhat stilted approval from the Press in Germany; and the extent to which Turkish enthusiasm on the subject is shared may be gauged by the remarks of the Cologne *Volkszeitung*. "It remains to be seen whether and how Turkey, in respect of the new conventions, will be able to conform with the ideas of a modern State. There is no room for the least doubt in regard to the good intentions of the statesmen now in power. Not only they, however, but also numerous other authorities in all the provinces of the Empire, are called upon to co-operate. . . . It is not to be supposed that, with the ratification of the Convention, all difficulties will be overcome. Turkey has taken a great step forward. But to consolidate and extend the progress made will require still a great deal of trouble and effort." Finally, Turkey is reminded that, as the conventions were prompted by Germany, so in the future she will have the benefit of German suggestions, and she is exhorted not to reject Germany's "disinterested and impartial assistance."

On May 18 El Arish, a post on the enemy's line of communications from Syria to Egypt, was bombarded by ships, aeroplanes, and seaplanes. The work was done thoroughly. The ships bombarded the fort to the south-west of the town, while the seaplanes and aeroplanes gave special attention to enemy troops and camps. As a means of worrying the Turks and breaking up hostile formations collected for the purpose of raiding Egypt, this incident, no doubt, serves a useful purpose, accomplished with little effort. It is well, however, to remember that there is a difference between "strafing" the Turks and undertaking military operations calculated to hasten the end of the war. The bombardment of El Arish seems likely to be used as a book entry on the credit side to balance the Katia affair; but it ought not to count as exoneration for the latter, or in itself provide an occasion for an exhibition of self-complacency in Egypt. The time has arrived for judging military operations by the concrete advantages achieved rather than by the space devoted to them in *communiqués*. On this principle the value of the attack on El Arish will depend on the extent to which it is followed up by further operations.

The policy of inactivity—whether masterly or the reverse it is not possible to judge—pursued at Salonika for many months now has been varied by a change in the command of the British forces. Lieutenant-General Sir Bryan Mahon has been transferred to the Western Frontier of Egypt, where his particular knowledge of the country will prove of great advantage, if he be given a free hand, and he is succeeded in the Balkans by Lieutenant-General Milne, previously Chief Staff Officer at the Headquarters Staff of the Second Army in France. If General Mahon was sent to put Salonika in an adequate state of defence, he has carried out his mission in a manner which has won the admiration of all those who have seen the results of his work. The new Commander-in-Chief has had considerable experience in the employment of artillery on the scale rendered necessary in this war, and the task devolving upon him, it is to be hoped, will be to conduct a vigorous campaign in the Balkans, which, in its earlier stages at least, must prove an arduous undertaking.

Although the Anglo-French forces have attempted no advance from Salonika, credit must be given them for having achieved all that is possible within the limits of the policy imposed upon them. There has been no respite in the organisation and consolidation of their positions along the whole front; enemy camps and working parties have been systematically bombarded, and the line held has been tentatively extended here and there. But the fact remains that the enemy has been given ample time to strengthen his positions with a view to the employment of the minimum number of men in challenging any attempt to advance that may hereafter be made by the Allies. He has been able to withdraw a certain proportion of the German and Austrian troops for service elsewhere, with the result that the Allied force now at Salonika and in the surrounding districts is probably out of all proportion to the number of the enemy it serves to contain.

The report that Mr. Henry Morgenthau, the United States Ambassador at Constantinople, has resigned his post is confirmed. Britons the world over would not wish to allow the occasion to pass without recording anew their indebtedness to him for the devoted manner in which he applied himself to the protection of British interests in Turkey during the war. To his good offices we owe it that any attempts to introduce German methods of treating prisoners of war in Turkey were frustrated. Mr. Morgenthau's influence, we may hope, will survive his departure. In connection with the arrival of General Townshend and his staff at Constantinople, a communication has been received from the United States Embassy, which speaks, on the authority of the Ottoman Red Cross Society, of Baghdad, where many of the British prisoners are, being provided with an ample supply of medical stores. This is satisfactory, as far as it goes, and it is reassuring to know that the United States Consul at Baghdad is to put himself in touch with the prisoners with a view to gaining information of any special needs they may have.

A contribution to Turkey's problem of the settlement after the war was made by Mr. Morgenthau during his stay in Constantinople with the suggestion that the Turkish Government should sell Palestine to the Zionists. Ministers, he now states, eagerly approved of the project. "They discussed figures, and argued whether Palestine should be converted into a republic," and were ready to grant concessions at once for the building of harbours and hotels. This alacrity on the part of Turkish Ministers to seize upon an idea which clearly has "money in it" is not altogether remarkable at the present moment; but the Zionists will be well advised to proceed somewhat more deliberately than the present owners of Palestine may wish.

The movement of troops in the direction of Darfur, which was reported from Cairo in our issue of April 14, is a reminder that the unrest in North Africa has not been entirely disposed of by the successes gained in Western Egypt. Ali Dinar, the Sultan of Darfur, repudiated his allegiance last year by refusing to pay his annual tribute to the Sudan Government, in whose side he has long been a thorn. His latter-day pose as a miracle-working Prince of the Faithful and his anxiety to have his miracles published in book form at the expense of the Government are an indication of the suit-

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able material on which Turco-German intrigues had to work. It is, perhaps, fortunate that the leaven thus implanted has germinated more slowly in Darfur than it did among the Senussi. No further conflicts are reported in the North; but from the appointment of General Mahon to command the western frontier of Egypt we are led to infer that the possibility of fresh fighting in this quarter has not been altogether eliminated. If Ali Dinar is forced into the field, he will naturally cast about for support.

In common with other organs of the Press, THE NEAR EAST has had the privilege of receiving from a conference composed of delegates from six neutral countries, convened upon the initiative of Henry Ford, an appeal for sympathetic consideration of the conference's views regarding "the universal principles and concrete proposals" upon which agreement between the present belligerents seems possible. The universal principles expounded are unexceptionable. They include recognition of the principle of nationality, which entails the dismemberment of Austria-Hungary; at the same time the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus are to be internationalised. To what extent the Central Powers are prepared to accept these suggestions the neutral conference is perhaps better informed than the rest of the world. Other "concrete proposals" are that German colonies ought to be returned, and "Germany's access to the Near East guaranteed." Whether the proposal to return Germany her colonies is prompted by a direct appeal from the natives in those countries, the conference does not state. If not, it might be of interest to hear their views on the subject. The expression, "Germany's access to the Near East," is not explicit enough to convey the conference's meaning. If it is to entail the transfer of Austro-Hungarian, Bulgarian, and Turkish territory to Germany, it is a contradiction of the principle of nationality.

It is announced that the question between the Allies and the Greek Government in regard to the transport of the Serbian army from Corfu to Salonika has been settled by the Entente Powers withdrawing their claim to use the Greek railways. The troops are to proceed to their destination by sea. As was suggested in these columns some weeks ago, it was unfortunate that the matter was ever allowed to develop into the resemblance of a crisis. In view of the attitude of the Greek Government it was obvious that it would never willingly give its consent to the proposal, and, as the Allies could not of their own accord collect the rolling stock required for the transport of the troops without taking possession of the whole of Greece, there was no need to give the Greek Government what it was looking out for—an opportunity to administer a rebuff to the Entente Powers. The request was probably made at a time when the submarine menace in the Eastern Mediterranean was acute; otherwise the military authorities would have realized that it was easier, when once the Serbians were put on board at Corfu, to convey them all the way to Salonika by sea than to disembark them at Patras and send them on by rail.

A question was asked in the House of Commons on May 24 which raised the point whether the pledge given by Great Britain to respect the Holy Places of the Mohammedans would apply to Baghdad. The point is an important one in view of the possible approach of British and Russian forces on Baghdad. But any anxiety on the subject is misplaced, for Baghdad is not a Holy City. That status belongs to the neighbouring towns of Kerbellah and Nejef, in which, though one degree less sacred than Mecca and Medina, non-Moslems are not permitted to stay.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, May 10.

Trial of Sultan's Would-be Assassins.

The trial of Mohammed Neguib Helbawi and Mohammed Shamseddine, who are charged with having conspired, together with persons unknown, to cause the death of the Sultan, and with having been concerned in the attempt made on the life of his Highness on July 9 last—Helbawi as thrower of the bomb, and Shamseddine as renter of the house from which it was thrown—started on Monday before a military court sitting at the Native Court of Appeal, under the presidency of Major-General Watson, G.O.C. Cairo District. Mr. A. S. Preston acted as Judge-Advocate; Sir William Brunyate, assisted by Mr. G. E. Jeffes, prosecuted; and Messrs. J. P. Foster and C. H. Perrott defended the prisoners in the order named. The trial has not aroused much local interest, probably owing to its having taken place so long after the attempt was made. The court has sat every morning this week, and it looks as if the trial will last yet another couple of days, as the number of witnesses for the prosecution and the defence is considerable.

Residency Interest in Education.

Since their arrival in Egypt the High Commissioner and Lady McMahon have taken a very lively interest in the practical side of education. Recently his Excellency extended the series of inspections which he has been making to the School of Engineering at Giza, where he visited the laboratories and watched some of the experiments, and to the Higher School of Commerce, where, among other features, he was shown the bureau in which instruction in the conduct of a commercial office is given in Arabic, English, and French. Both of these schools appeared to be conducted on eminently practical lines, and his Excellency expressed himself as highly satisfied.

Lady McMahon has also paid a series of visits to various institutions where female education is being carried out, and has repeatedly shown by her sympathetic inquiries her interest in, and appreciation of, the efforts that are being made to render the women of Egypt more useful members of society and more capable wives and mothers than their parents and their female relatives of past generations. The success of such a movement as this depends, of course, in great measure on the amount of sympathetic encouragement it receives at the hands of the foreign communities; and it is to be hoped that the ladies of those communities, some of whom, it must be acknowledged, have in the past evinced practical interest in the movement, will whole-heartedly and more generally follow the example set them by her ladyship.

The Entry of Ladies into Egypt.

Great satisfaction has been expressed at the removal of the embargo placed on the landing of ladies in this country. The prohibition, which came into force at the close of 1915, gave rise to very real hardship in the case of bonâ-fide residents, who, willing as they were to bear their full share of the war, felt that adequate consideration had not been given to the peculiar situation in which they found themselves. That they had right and reason on their side there is not the shadow of a doubt. It would, however, serve no useful purpose to dwell on the question. Rather is it a matter for sincere congratulation that the authorities responsible for the prohibition have now recognised that its wholesale application was having effects that they probably never

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contemplated, and that they have had the courage to amend the regulations satisfactorily to meet the situation. It is true that the permission to return to Egypt now accorded to residents is made conditional on the situation in Egypt undergoing no change prior to their return; but there is reason to believe that every case will henceforward be treated on its merits, and that the Egyptian situation will have to undergo a very considerable change for the worse for residents to be called upon to undergo anything approaching the personal hardships which fell to their lot last winter.

The Truth about the "Turkish Atrocities."

During the Gallipoli campaign all manner of stories were current as to the conduct of the Turkish troops towards our wounded and prisoners. Whilst many affirmed that John Turk played the game, a good number of our men narrated instances of the atrocities practised by him on those who had the misfortune to fall into his hands. A year has now elapsed since the campaign started, and it has been possible to sift the information available and arrive at the truth. I have good authority for stating that there has been a good deal of probably unavoidable exaggeration. At the outset there may have been one or two isolated cases of brutality, but the evidence goes to show that both at Helles and at Anzac the Turks played the game right through. The only bad break was at Suvla, where it appears that a different class of men—probably Kurds—was in the enemy ranks; but even there the break was only temporary, so to speak, and the general conclusion come to by those who are in a position to know and whose cool judgment may be relied upon, is that, generally speaking, the Turk has proved himself to be a clean fighter.

The Anglican Church in Egypt.

The public meeting of the Anglican community, the calling of which was foreshadowed recently in this correspondence, took place, by kind permission of the High Commissioner, at the Residency on Thursday last. The question before the meeting was the consideration of the proposal to build a new church in place of All Saints', the present parish church in Cairo. Sir Henry McMahon, who was in the chair, explained the situation which necessitated the building of a new place of worship. His Excellency stated that "from every aspect that one views the question of a new church here in Cairo, the more urgent becomes the necessity of providing a building that in size and accommodation will meet the requirements of future congregations, and in style, appearance, and dignity will be worthy of our religion, our Empire, and our co-religionists"; and the Bishop of Jerusalem, who followed his Excellency, and further explained the situation, added that it was well within the bounds of possibility that eventually there would be a bishopric in Egypt, and that every consideration pointed to the centre of the diocese being Cairo.

The meeting then unanimously passed the following resolutions. First, that instead of rebuilding All Saints' as a parish church, it be rebuilt by the whole community as a cathedral worthy to represent our religion and our position in Egypt. Secondly, that a Building Committee be appointed under the presidency of the High Commissioner to undertake in conjunction with the Bishop of Jerusalem the working out of all questions relating to finance, site, and building, the committee to be empowered to add to their number, especially with a view to obtain the representation of Alexandria and other important centres, and to consist (in addition to representatives of other Anglican communities in Egypt) of the present Church Committee, to whom were added Mr. Somers Clarke, for many years the architect in charge of the fabric of St. Paul's Cathedral, and Mr. A. H. Hooker, one of the oldest members of the community. Thirdly, that though no general public appeal for funds be made at present, a statement of the project be issued as soon as possible, and that residents in Egypt particularly be invited to begin contributing to the Building Fund, such sums to be invested at once in the War Loan. A meeting of the Anglican community of Alexandria will be held early next month, and as soon as it has selected its representatives the above-mentioned Building Committee will commence its labours.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, May 7.

The Legislative Council reassembles on May 23 for passing the Supplementary Estimates. One of the Greek members of Council, the Hon. John Kyriakides, who has done long and valuable service as a representative of the Limassol-Papho Electoral Division, does not propose to seek re-election. Should he adhere to this resolution, his loss will be much felt, for he is deservedly esteemed as one of the ablest and most experienced members that the island has sent to the Council.

A return of births and deaths in Cyprus for the year ended December 31 last shows that there were 9,141 births, or 31 per thousand, and 5,473 deaths, or 18.5 per thousand. Unfortunately, great value cannot always be attached to the returns as regards the villages, and the figures must be regarded with caution.

A Nicosia paper, the *Voice of Cyprus*, relates the adventures of two Cypriots in Mesopotamia, who were employed on the Baghdad Railway before the outbreak of the war. Arrested, imprisoned, and ill-treated as British subjects by the Germans, they were subsequently regarded as Ottoman subjects and compelled to serve under the Turkish flag. Finding an opportunity to escape, they made for the British camp. Falling into the hands of Kurds, they were stripped and ill-treated, but afterwards released. After much wandering they succeeded in reaching the British camp, but knowing nothing but Greek, which no one in the camp could understand, they were arrested and held as spies. After a considerable time they were able to show that they were Cypriots who had escaped from Turks after maltreatment. One of the two, a villager of Kaimakli, was then released and provided with means for reaching Egypt, whence he has returned, to the joy of his family. The other was detained, for what reason is not yet known.

The Greek Athletic Meeting was fixed for May 6, the anniversary of the King's accession, and the next day. May 6 was also a fête day of the Greek Calendar, that of the martyr Georgios, observed by the Greek Church. Honours were paid to the Crown Prince, George. Prayers were also offered, and much mention made of King George, the founder of the present dynasty, and also of the King's brother of that name.

PRISONERS FROM SINAI.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 1.

Statements made by prisoners taken in the recent engagements in Sinai confirm the reports published lately by the telegraphic agencies and the Press about the state of feeling among the Arabs of Turkey and the economic condition of the country, and throw further interesting light on the former subject. It would seem that the Arabs, especially those of Irak and Syria, are divided into three groups, the first being decidedly pro-British, the second pro-Turkish, and the third favouring the establishment of an autonomous Arab State. The second group can be only a small and unimportant one, and confined to the illiterate and narrow-minded. As a matter of fact, the large majority of prisoners were delighted to have been captured; and the kindness lavished on them by the Red Cross workers is calculated to strengthen this feeling in them.

It seems that while crossing the desert they were sometimes more than two days without drink or food. Some of the companies tried on a few occasions to kill their officers and flee, but in every case these movements were sternly suppressed by the overpowering numbers of troops that were quickly called up. So far, the majority of troops encountered in Sinai are Bedouin, with a sprinkling of the settled population—Moslem, of course—of Palestine, and just a few real Turks to stiffen these more or less unreliable Arab formations. Some of the prisoners recently caught are Bedouin from Irak, adherents of Ibn Saud, who had come over to Syria to buy camels, and who were compelled by the Turks to enlist in the expeditionary force against Egypt, under the threat of execution of their chiefs.

One of the prisoners, an Arab of Medina, made the significant answer to a question put to him as to his state of feeling: "I am now one of the many millions of Moslems who are under Christian rule." The feeling of resignation implied in this vague reply betrays the fact that the pan-Islamic idea seems to be dominant only in certain centres where the Enver propaganda has had some measure of success.

All the prisoners confirm the reports of economic distress in Palestine, if any confirmation were needed after all the official reports of neutral consuls on the subject. They further confirm the fact that the people are still refusing to deal in the new issue of paper money signed by Talaat and Javid.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, May 1.

The Situation.

Military operations have been practically at a standstill throughout the past week, mainly in consequence of the bad weather. There has been a continuous downpour of rain for several days, and as it falls alike on the just and the unjust, both the Allies and their enemies had to suffer the same inconvenience. This condition of things has hindered not only land, but aerial, warfare, and there is consequently nothing of importance to record in either connection. General Sarrail informed us the other night that there had even been a heavy fall of snow at the front.

By the time these lines reach you the difficulty in regard to the transfer of the Serbian troops from Corfu to Salonika will doubtless have been solved, but the strained relations resulting from this inimical action of the Greek Government is exasperating the Allies here. The Greeks seem really afraid of the Serbians; and the way in which the present pro-German Government is putting every obstacle it can in the way of the Allies generally is calculated to intensify the bitter feeling. In any case, it will take a good deal of diplomacy to smooth matters down after the war, and this country ought to realise by this time which side is going to have the advantage in the end.

Another German Consul Arrested.

A short time ago the Germans appointed a new Consul at Drama. I learned from private sources that he was no other than a German officer whose consular duties were merely nominal, and whose principal object was to establish and maintain an elaborate system of espionage upon the Allies. In pursuit of this object he made frequent visits to Serres and other places. The British were not entirely ignorant of his movements and occupation; but, as usual, they delayed his arrest until the proofs became overwhelming. On Thursday last they acted. The Consul was returning from Serres by train when a detachment of British cavalry suddenly appeared and signalled to the driver to stop. This he promptly did, and the passengers were naturally much alarmed. No one, however, was interfered with excepting the German Consul, who was soon found. He was conducted to Salonika and transferred to a warship; while the papers he carried, as well as those found at the Consulate, were taken away for examination. It is expected that information contained in these will lead to further arrests. It is known that this quasi-consul was formerly attached to the German Embassy in Sofia.

Mounds of Macedonia.

I referred some time ago to the musical talent existing among the Tommies, but their talent is by no means confined to music. Many persons, with expert knowledge in various branches of science, and even some learned professors, have considered it their duty to join the British Army during the present war; and we have a considerable sprinkling of such people in Salonika and its neighbourhood. One of these experts has been writing in a local journal about the birds of Macedonia, and another about the peculiar ancient mounds, or tumuli, to be seen in many parts of the country here.

These mounds are of two kinds—the one small and conical, while the other usually covers a large space and takes an oval flat form. A very good example of the conical class exists about nine kilometres from Salonika on the road to Langaza. This class consists of tombs dating from long before the Christian era, and many have been found to contain beautiful marble and bronze fittings. In the course of trench-digging and other military operations the contents of a few more of these curious mounds are being brought to light, and after the war is over we shall no doubt have many learned papers from the experts above referred to. The other mounds are not tombs at all, but the sites of early towns or villages, some of which date from remote antiquity. They usually contain immense quantities of fragments of pottery.

No systematic exploration of these mounds has yet been undertaken, but it is hoped that when peace is restored they will receive closer attention. Meantime, a provisional museum has been established by the British at the White Tower here, and the military are invited to preserve and bring to the museum any pottery or other articles they may discover in the course of their operations. This collection may then furnish quite a useful basis for the study of Macedonian archæology.

Still More Spies.

It is painful to have to record that evidence is accumulating on every side to prove that some Greeks are exercising an extensive espionage on the operations of the Allies. Several cases have occurred recently. When the spies have been Greek soldiers, General Sarrail has hitherto contented himself with handing them over to General Moschopoulos, who commands the Greek troops here, to be suitably dealt with; but, so far as I can learn, the way in which they have been dealt with is calculated rather to encourage than to prevent espionage.

The latest instance is that of two soldiers who had apparently been allowed leave for the purpose of exercising a kind of journalistic function. One of these, a Lieutenant Malousis, is well-known to all newspaper correspondents who have had occasion to call at the censor's office of an evening to have their press telegrams passed. I always found him there. He spoke French very well indeed, and did his best to discuss political questions with the pressmen. It is understood that he was made acquainted with the contents of all our telegrams, and that he communicated what he thought worth while to the Germanophile Press here and in Athens. There was associated with him another soldier named Pounguras. These men also went about among the French soldiers and spied upon their movements. When made aware of these facts, General Sarrail formally requested the Prefect to have both men removed from Salonika and neighbourhood. Perhaps this has been done. Perhaps, on the other hand, they are on their way to Athens to be decorated for their services. In any case, Malousis is no longer to be seen at the censor's office. I know from private sources that there is still another of the same quasi-journalistic spy class who regularly communicates with an Athens journal, and who has so far escaped the General's attentions. In fact, I have had in my own hands the original MS. of one of this gentleman's communications to that paper with all the necessary proofs of authorship.

THE STATE OF PALESTINE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 8.

A traveller who left Palestine six weeks ago confirms the report as to the calling to the colours of all males up to the age of fifty-five, including even the physically unfit, such as the one-eyed and those with weak sight, and to the subsequent modification of this law, so that the military exemption tax is being again accepted, on the condition, however, that the redeemed men should have undergone three months' training. This is further confirmed by a private letter received recently from Beyrout viâ Greece. This relaxation of military measures may be due to the Government's urgent need of gold, or the uncertain military value of the Palestinian, and indeed of all the Syrian conscripts. So little is the people's heart in this war that, according to this new informant, large numbers have been deserting and taking to the hills to hide in caves. These cases were becoming so frequent that the Government had to resort to the ruse of issuing orders of general amnesty so as to entice the deserters to quit their hiding places; but the deserters did not believe in the sincerity of these orders, and the Government had finally to organize local bands of gendarmes well acquainted with the local features of the country and its hiding places, with the view of tracking and arresting the refugees. This, however, chiefly served the purpose of the gendarmes, who, in the majority of cases, returned with empty hands, but full pockets.

An Athens message reports that Greeks are now allowed to pass into Bulgaria by the route via Oxilar.

An Italian force despatched from Tripoli to Zuara, which was threatened by rebels, met with an enthusiastic reception from the population. The rebels were defeated, and a considerable quantity of booty and prisoners was captured.

The State trial of the two conspirators against the Sultan of Egypt was continued on Monday, when the prisoners' counsel began to outline the defence.

B

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, April 25.

More "Waste Paper."

It is unreasonable that neutrals travelling through belligerent countries should take offence when they find themselves subject to some measure of control, especially when there rests upon them rather more than a suspicion that they harbour unfriendly feelings towards the people through whose country they happen to be passing. Roumanians, however, have had to be particularly long-suffering in this respect, for when they venture to traverse Austro-Hungarian or German territory they become the victims of every sort of vexatious *chicane* which Teuton-Magyar officialdom can devise. The last case of the kind is that of M. Grégoire Filipesco, which has aroused more than usual interest, as well as indignation, owing to the fact of his being the son of the well-known leader of the Roumanian Conservative party. M. Filipesco, junior, and his wife passed from Switzerland into Germany, were there arrested without explanation, subjected, according to the papers, to what seem very unnecessary indignities, and then reconducted to the Swiss frontier under escort.

It is natural that every Roumanian should be strongly incensed at the scant respect which the Roumanian passport obtains in the Central States, but I am afraid that their prolonged neutrality has caused them to remain behind the times. Why, indeed, should a people who tear up solemn treaties to which they are signatories as being so much waste paper accord greater importance to a passport, even though it be viséd under the signature of his Imperial Majesty's representative?

A Jockey Club Incident.

The other night M. Filipesco, senior, who was in one of the rooms of the Jockey Club, and doubtless smarting under the insults inflicted upon his son by the Germans, was accosted by the German Minister, who walked up wearing his most affable smile, his hand extended in greeting. This was apparently a little too much for M. Filipesco's serenity, for he rejected Herr von dem Bussche's advances in terms which left no doubt as to the true state of his feelings.

It is, perhaps, as well that the incident should have had no unpleasant sequel, in view, of course, of the abnormal conditions which obtain. The German Minister subsequently stated that his intentions had been conciliatory, etc., M. Filipesco, on his part, being prevailed upon to express regret for what had occurred. The incident is regrettable from the fact that M. Filipesco is vice-president of the club and the German Minister a member by courtesy; none the less, most people sympathise with M. Filipesco, and the general impression is that Herr von dem Bussche's system of braving public opinion has brought upon him another well-merited rebuff.

High-handed Methods.

The Roumanian Military Attaché in Berlin, Colonel Mircescu, who was on his way to Bucharest in charge of the diplomatic bag, was stopped at Brashov, where his personal correspondence was read by the Hungarian authorities and he himself had to submit to a thorough search. He was even summoned to open the diplomatic bag, which he naturally refused to do. The bag was thereupon confiscated, and the Colonel allowed to resume his journey. Later on the bag was returned as a result of representations made in Vienna. Both Count Czernin and the Austro-Hungarian Military Attaché are since reported to have expressed regret for what has occurred.

A Royal Gift.

His Majesty King Ferdinand has, on the occasion of the Easter festivities, made a generous gift of one and a-quarter million francs to the poorer members of the town populations, in view of the cost of living, which has greatly increased since the war has been in progress.

Dr. Sion, Director-General of the Sanitary Service, has returned to Bucharest after a sojourn of many months in Germany, whither he had gone for the purpose of effecting different purchases. These are said to have arrived, and consist of twenty truckloads of drugs, dressings, surgical instruments, etc.

"La Politique."

Even those to whom the result of this war is a foregone conclusion will, especially if they live in a neutral country, cast an occasional half-contemptuous glance over the papers which are said to represent the views of the enemy out of curiosity rather than impartiality. It was in this frame of mind that I resolved some days ago to sink a copper in M. Alexander Marghiloman's paper, *La Politique*, a daily which is printed in French. The leading article, under the heading "Illusions Dangereuses," contains quotations from a French revue and suggests that the "poilu" is not as happy in his trench as people think, that the trench is not so luxurious as people say, that the much-vaunted friendships resulting from a confraternity of arms exist only in the imagination, that suffering only hardens the heart, that the French soldier's privations, be he a man of education or not, necessarily lead to complete moral degeneration, and so on. That is all this paper, appearing in the French language, has to say of the French. The remainder of the issue is chiefly devoted to annihilating the English. In a word, *La Politique* is, like the *Journal des Ardennes*, nothing but a German propagandist organ masquerading in French garb, with the peculiarity that it bears a marked Anglophobe character.

INTERNATIONAL ETHICS.

At the meeting of the Cercle d'Etudes Ethnographiques, on May 18, at Prince Henry's Room, 17, Fleet Street, Mr. C. F. Ryder, a Vice-President of the Anglo-Ottoman Society, lectured on "Christendom and Islam." Describing himself as an Englishman, a member of the Church of England, a seeker after knowledge, and an interested student of the religions and philosophies of the East, he pointed out that the war is bringing about great changes, and that the relations between Christendom and Islam are more interesting to-day than ever before. The losses of the war are falling principally upon the European nations; in proportion as Europe is thus weakened, Asia is strengthened. As a matter of policy as well as right, Europe should know more of her neighbours in Asia and Africa. For the first time Asia has been brought into a struggle in Europe, and this fact will produce a profound impression in Asia. He urged the importance of cultivating good relations with Islam; in view of the seventy millions of Moslem British subjects in India, the prevailing ignorance about the religion was most regrettable. Islam was seriously misunderstood, but the prejudice against it was largely due to ignorance. Christendom should recognise the beneficent results achieved by Islam. Mr. Ryder suggested that if the nations understood each other's religions a system of international ethics might be introduced which would go far towards overcoming existing hatred.

Mr. A. Yusuf Ali, who presided, warmly supported this suggestion as an important factor making for the progress of the world. In an interesting speech, summing up the discussion, he pointed out that Islam is a great democracy, the religion of brotherhood, and that co-operation is the special need of the present and the future.

The discussion will be resumed at a later meeting, at which it is expected Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall will be present.

Sunday, June 4, has been fixed by the English Zionist Federation as "Declaration Day." Signatures are being obtained to a declaration which reads:—"We earnestly desire the establishment of a publicly-recognised, legally-secured Home for the Jewish people in Palestine, as formulated by the First Zionist Congress in 1897."

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THE ROUMANIAN FLOUR DEAL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 25.

A short while ago the Roumanian millowners held a meeting in order to come to a decision regarding two offers which they had received, the one German, the other British. After a lengthy discussion the question was put to the vote, with the result that the British offer proved to be acceptable to a very large majority. Six-sevenths of the millowners have up to the present agreed to lease their mills for a period of four months—for that is what the affair really amounts to. No pressure has been put upon the minority, so that they are at liberty to dispose of their flour as they will; none the less, there are excellent prospects of an even higher proportion of owners accepting the British terms, which have been made through the bank of M. Chrisoveloni.

In accordance with recent legislation, the Roumanian millers found themselves under the obligation of putting aside 40 per cent. of their produce for internal consumption and of furnishing another 20 per cent. to the Army. This left them free to export the remaining 40 per cent. of their flour.

Such was the situation when the Austro-German "consortium" made them an offer of 5,800 frs. per wagon for the available quantity, which is said to amount to about 10,000 wagons. The millers were on the point of accepting, when M. Chrisoveloni stepped in with another proposal, which may be summed up as follows:—The millowners bind themselves by an agreement not to grind any corn for a period of four months, with the exception of that required for internal consumption and to meet the needs of the Army. In exchange, M. Chrisoveloni pays them the sum of twenty million francs, to be distributed in proportion to the capacity for output possessed by the different mills. The heaviest penalties threaten millers who, having signed the contract, are found guilty of grinding or selling flour otherwise than as stipulated in the agreement.

The lease of the Roumanian mills for a period of four months by M. Chrisoveloni, whereby nearly all the exportable flour remains in the country, is a veritable disaster to the Germans, and will very likely prove to be the last straw that breaks the Turkish camel's back. He is, indeed, struck in his weakest point, and at a moment which for him could not be more unfavourable. The desperate situation in Constantinople is well known here, especially in Constantza, which, it is said, has assumed the aspect of a port of Asia Minor, from the fact that thousands of Turkish sailors have come with boats to ship Roumanian flour to Constantinople.

The ultimate effect of this *coup* (a *coup de grâce?*) can be foreseen, but presumably cannot be foretold with certainty. Anyone, however, harbouring doubts regarding the probable results, has but to read the comments of the German-bought Press in order to have his doubts immediately removed. We read that the over-sensitive Teuton—who would willingly be taken for a Roumanian—is quite revolted at the immorality of the transaction, and he calls upon the Government to prevent its realization. He is deeply pained by the *naïveté* of the Roumanian who will not see that Turkey cannot be starved and that England is insidiously undermining the Roumanian milling industry. Hark to the *Steagul*:—

Both millowners and Government must realize that England does not so much aim at the starvation of Turkey as at our removal from the Oriental market. If during the course of six months we do not export flour in the East, she will take our place, together with the Bulgars, who were already proving serious rivals in Asia Minor.

(Note that the Teuton, in order that he may the more readily be taken for a genuine Roumanian, does not disdain a dig at his Allies.) Again:—

The war will not last for ever, and England, with all her exertions, pursues purely economic ends. When the war is over she will give the flour to the Turks and will hasten to forestall the Oriental market, which we are losing through this contract.

I think this specimen of Boche hypocrisy, as practised in Roumania, will suffice. Roumanians know what attitude to adopt in the face of such stuff. The fact is that the arrangement has given widespread satisfaction among the people of Roumania, and it is pleasant to know that, whatever may have been the difficulties encountered by the promulgators of the transaction—and they seem to have been considerable, for here and there individual interests have of necessity been compromised—the Roumanian Government as such placed no difficulties in the path of the agents who have so actively furthered the interests common to Britain and Roumania.

An Armenian Congress was opened in Petrograd on Tuesday in order to co-ordinate the efforts to help the Armenian people. More than 200 delegates are attending the congress.

BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 5

Shortage of Foodstuffs.

The problem of provisioning Bulgaria becomes more difficult daily. In face of the growing discontent, which shows itself more clearly as time goes by, the Germans, who had made large purchases in the country, have had to abandon all importation of foodstuffs from Bulgaria.

The Council of Ministers has lately been considering what steps can be taken to cope with the crisis, especially with regard to the invaded districts. Meanwhile the population suffers cruelly. Thus at Shabatz a kilogram of salt costs 14 francs; at Belgrade, 13 frs.; and at Nish 17 frs.; a kilogram of flour in the same towns costs, 1 fr. 10 c., 95 c., and 1 fr. 15 c.; while sugar is 9 frs., 2 frs. 60 c., and 3 frs. 20 c. Bread tickets similar to those in use in Germany and Austria-Hungary have been introduced; and in the principal towns, notably at Belgrade, the people are not allowed to take meat or fatty substances on two days of the week.

The Ministry of War, which has assumed responsibility for the application of the Law for Public Supply, has just issued instructions to the authorities that they are not to interfere in any way with the supply of goods destined for districts in need of provisions. On the other hand, people are invited to sell their goods only at the prices fixed by the Committee of Public Supply. In any case, nothing can be purchased without an authorisation from the military commander certifying that that district is not in immediate need of the goods in question; nor, in the case of foodstuffs or cattle, can the person desiring to buy goods do so without a military certificate that there is need in the district from which he comes.

The Austrians in Serbia.

The Austrian "Governor" of Serbia has given instructions with a view to encouraging the cultivation of land abandoned by the Serbians. The inhabitants of the villages are compelled to participate in this work—under the surveillance of Austro-Hungarian officials.

It is calculated that, taking into consideration the ground already planted, Serbia will be able, after the next harvest, not only to supply her own needs, but also to contribute substantially to the needs of her conquerors.

Terrorism.

The Commission of Inquiry regarding the Gueshoff-Daneff Cabinet has resumed its labours. This is a sure sign that the Government feels itself unsafe, for it is M. Radoslavoff's favourite method of holding the Opposition in check. A sword of Damocles is suspended over the head of every man of mark who does not share the opinions of "Tsar" Ferdinand. In the case of M. Ghennadieff, it is the Declausier affair; in that of MM. Gueshoff and Daneff, it is the Commission of Inquiry. The long periods of inactivity and the short, sharp bursts of energy on the part of the precious body afford a safe index to the state of the Cabinet.

Apparently Ferdinand of Coburg and his supporters find themselves in peril once more. Therefore the Commission has resumed its labours, and, judging by the tone of the Press, it looks as if it may really strike a severe blow this time. Thus the *Outro* writes about the discovery of "proofs of a total want of foresight and spirit of combination on the part of the Government of that period," and of "unexpected irregularities committed during the Balkan War" in certain military departments, notably those responsible for the commissariat and the sanitary service. It seems that a good many military men, as well as politicians, are "marked down" by M. Radoslavoff and the King!

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

OMAR RETRANSLATED.*

Was Omar a great poet? Some would have it that in the temple of Persian poetry his niche should be of right but a small one, that he is one of the lesser luminaries of the Persian poetical constellation, that the native Persian smiles at the extravagant Occidental enthusiasm for a minor poet. It may be so; but it is certain that hundreds of English-speaking people who know their Omar well have never heard of any other Persian poet. For this we have to thank Edward FitzGerald. But, then, we are continually being told that FitzGerald's Omar is not the real Omar. Scholars who can go to the original say that they value him for himself, and with a noble generosity they want other people to share in their love and admiration. They have the key with which they unlock the gate that leads into the enchanted garden; but they love not solitude even with so many delights. No more are they satisfied even with a select company, with a few choice spirits, who can use the magic key. They must needs go into the world's highway and implore the multitude to allow themselves to be hoisted over the wall by means of an English verse translation.

The latest of these missionaries is Dr. John Pollen. He has attempted the difficult task of a literal translation into English verse. In a brief preface his Highness the Aga Khan contrives to say something worth saying concerning Omar and FitzGerald's famous translation. As a Persian scholar, he vouches for Dr. Pollen's faithfulness to the original, and recommends Dr. Pollen's translation as possessing the qualities of attractiveness and simplicity. It certainly does succeed in pleasing. An example will show best the metre adopted:—

> Wine—lovers' lips—and meadow's slope—
> Robbed me of Bliss and you of Hope;
> To Heaven or Hell man's doomed, but tell,
> Who came from Heaven or went to Hell?

Dr. Pollen apologizes for adopting this simple hymn measure, and "thus presenting Omar in a quasi-Puritan dress." He alleges as an excuse that he has thought he has detected in Omar something of the Miltonic Puritan. The parallel is interesting and suggestive, but perhaps a little misleading. Indubitably the English poet believed in Heaven and Hell. He was not satisfied with the "cash." His hopes were fixed on "credit." He told—

> Of things invisible to mortal sight.

Dr. Pollen says that Omar was a recluse without ambition. Milton had a Government appointment, and was keenly interested in the controversies of the time. Besides, he speaks somewhere (does he not?) of love of fame as—

> That last infirmity of noble minds.

English-speaking admirers of Omar will do well if they place this severe little volume on their shelves beside their *editions de luxe* of FitzGerald's translation.

Which is the real Omar?

The profits from the sale of the book, it should be noted, will go to benefit the Indian soldiers who have so nobly fought for the Empire in this war.

WAR VERSES.†

The brochure of verses which Mr. McCartney has produced will doubtless interest those who are following the events of this war with a keen eye to their religious significance. The greater number of his verses deal with this aspect of the war, although the first, which is also the only one that can lay any real claim to imaginative power, is quite free from controversial texture. This particular poem, which treats of the return of warrior spirits from Gallipoli to the familiar haunts of their lifetime, was, we are informed, written between the hours of 2 and 4 a.m., and is certainly the best of the collection. It is pleasing to notice that in "Fatty—Turkish Hero," Mr. McCartney, whose love for the Turks is not strong, pays unstinted praise to a Turk who cheerfully braves the inferno of "no-man's land" to carry water to two wounded Australian soldiers.

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Smith, Elder will publish very shortly "Travel in the Middle East: Being Impressions by the Way in Turkish Arabia, Syria, and Persia," by Captain Trenchard C. Fowle, 40th Pathans. The volume will be illustrated by the author's own photographs taken on his travels extending from the Indian frontier to the heart of Persia.

Messrs. Hutchinson and Co. will publish shortly "A Woman in the Balkans," by Mrs. Will Gordon, F.R.G.S. In this work the author gives an account of her travels in Balkan lands, and of their history, peoples, and customs. Serbia (past and present), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Bulgaria, and Turkey are described. Roumania is also fully depicted, as well as the social life of the capitals, political problems, the war, and the ideals and aspirations of the people. The book will be illustrated with reproductions from photographs.

The *Correspondance d'Orient*, we are glad to see, has resumed publication, which was temporarily suspended by the outbreak of the war. The first number (No. 141) of the new issue appeared on May 5, and others are to follow on the 20th and the 5th of each month. The first number of the new series (we have not yet received the second) is, perhaps, not so Oriental in character as the journal was in the old pre-war days, but it is interesting and lively. M. Ernest-Charles writes on "La France devant la Monde," MM. O. Guiheneuc and E. Miles on the naval and the military situation, and M. Georges Loiseau reviews various events in the Near East, under the heading of "Les Idées et les Opinions." Our contemporary has not yet had time to get quite into its stride again, but it is a valuable review of events from our Ally's standpoint, and we cordially welcome its reappearance.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Hearts and Faces, by John Murray Gibbon. (Lane, 6s.)

Poland as an Independent Economic Unit. By Stanislaw Posner, with an Introduction by Sidney Webb. (George Allen and Unwin, for the Polish Information Committee. 6d. net.)

EARLY CRETAN CIVILIZATION.

Speaking last Saturday at King's College, Dr. R. M. Burrows said that until a few years ago the earliest civilization known in Europe was that of Greece—the Greece of Homer—which was contemporary with the classical period of Hebrew civilization; but excavations in Crete showed that Europe had a civilization contemporary with those of Egypt and Babylon. This early Cretan civilization was neither Asiatic nor African, but essentially European, as was shown by the remains of pottery and other artistic productions. One great influence in the evolution of this civilization had been that of its environment. The civilizations of Egypt and Babylon had developed beside slow-moving rivers and in the midst of flat and sandy plains, but the Cretan was surrounded by the sea, instinct with life and movement, and with hills rising up from that sea, covered at this season of the year with flowers that made the country a blaze of glorious colour. These facts had influenced the early Cretan artists, and they had drawn their inspiration for decoration from mountain creatures and flowers. More remarkable than their art were the people themselves, who were European in physical form, emotions, and mentality. The small waist, the tilted pelvis, and the pose of the head of the women, as portrayed in the survivals of their art, suggested the Parisienne of to-day. The people's sentiments apparently were the same as made Europeans of to-day sporting and dramatic. Oriental people liked to portray themselves in the moment of victory, but the Cretan pictures of bull-baiting sometimes showed the bull as the victor. That showed that they were ready to take a licking as well as to give one, and their wonderful engineering work proved them to be fitting ancestors of the European scientists and inventors of our own times.

A Cyprus correspondent informs us that the Island Government is not at present issuing passports to persons intending to proceed to Greece.

The treatment of British prisoners at Philippopolis has improved. They get medical attendance and baths, and play cricket and tennis. They have also a gramophone.

One thousand two hundred Austrian prisoners captured by the Serbians at the beginning of the war have been landed at Toulon.

In connection with a speech delivered by M. Rallis in the Greek Chamber on Saturday, an official communiqué has been issued in Athens denying that any attempt has been made by the Entente Powers to force Greece to abandon her neutrality.

A semi-official denial is given in Athens to the report that numerous desertions from the Greek Army are occurring daily, and that long furlough is being given. It is declared that, on the contrary, the discipline of the Army is as excellent as ever, and that only the usual leave is being granted.

"Fairplay" writes, from Hastings, to the *Times*:—"Over two months ago mention was made in the House of Commons that the Aden and minor operations on the Indian frontier would shortly be published. This has not been done, and though severe and hard fighting has several times occurred at Aden under most trying climatic conditions, these brave and gallant men have had no mention, while their equally brave and more fortunate comrades in other zones of operations continually come under the limelight and reap the reward that they merit."

* "Omar Khayyam: Faithfully and Literally Translated from the Original Persian. By John Pollen, LL.D., with foreword by H.H. the Aga Khan. (East and West. 3s. 6d. net.)

† "Gallipoli." By Richard Hayes McCartney. (New York: Charles C. Cook.)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

AN APPEAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May we call the attention of your readers to the sad case of a well-known and most deserving English family at Jerusalem, who are suffering seriously through the war? The head of the family is interned in Turkey, and there has been no communication with him for a long time. Full particulars will be given on application to any of the undersigned.—Yours, etc.,

NINA BLYTH,
97, Comeragh Road, West Kensington.
STEPHEN CAMPBELL,
Canon Missioner in Jerusalem,
Maydore, Mattock Lane, Ealing, W.
BERESFORD POTTER,
Archdeacon in Cyprus and Syria,
Rake Manor, Milford, Surrey.

May 18, 1916.

THE LARNAKA SOUP KITCHEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—My attention has been called to a paragraph in your paper, in which I am reported to have started and maintained a soup kitchen in Larnaka, Cyprus, during the past winter months entirely at my own expense.

May I ask you to kindly correct this and to give the real facts, which are:—

That I started a soup kitchen at my own expense, that I was very kindly lent a house, free of rent, that the municipality lent me the furniture and cooking utensils, and that my friends, by their entirely voluntary contributions, have practically maintained it since.

Further, though my daughter certainly manages the soup kitchen, she is ably assisted by several other young ladies, who only take food to a very few persons who, being bedridden, are unable to attend in person.—Thanking you in advance for kindly inserting this correction, I am, etc.,

C. WODEHOUSE,
Com. of Larnaka.

Larnaka, Cyprus, May 8, 1916.

*** We very gladly publish the above generous letter, which refers to a paragraph that appeared in our issue of March 31 (p. 592). At the same time we would point out that our Cyprus correspondent, in his reference to the subject dealt with, wrote that Mr. Wodehouse had "established a 'common meal' room . . . *almost* entirely at his own expense." Our correspondent also expressly stated (1) that Miss Wodehouse was helped in her charitable work of distribution by other ladies—the names of two of these ladies were given—and (2) that the house used as the soup kitchen "was given by a philanthropic citizen of Larnaka."—ED.

M. CARP AND THE CENTRAL POWERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of March 3 appears a letter from Mr. D. Mitrany, in which he writes:—

In a message from your correspondent in Bucharest, published in your paper a few weeks ago, it was stated that ONLY *his advanced age secured M. Carp an undisturbed hearing* during the great speech he made recently in the Roumanian Chamber.

May I, for the sake of history, etc., etc., correct to some extent the above statement, etc.?

Any person aware of M. Carp's high character and the universal respect he enjoys would, on reading Mr. Mitrany's lines, infer that your correspondent's appreciation of M. Carp was pinched, ungenerous, and unfriendly. This is particularly unpleasant to myself, as I am personally acquainted with M. Carp, and on friendly terms with many members of his family. Further, there are to my knowledge two near relatives of his who are readers of THE NEAR EAST, and they are aware that I am your correspondent.

Few readers of Mr. Mitrany's letter would, I assume, look up the back numbers of THE NEAR EAST to see what your correspondent had actually written. But if they did, they would read the following lines on p. 358 of the issue of January 28:—

. . . . There were but two speakers who advocated adhesion to the Central Powers, M. Stere and M. Peter Carp. The latter ALONE *was listened to with attention, his great age, his reputation for integrity, the sincerity of his convictions, and the high offices he has held in the State* commanding a respect that the character of his opinions could not have imposed.

Further comment is unnecessary, and I should not have presumed to draw your attention to the matter had not Mr. Mitrany's distortion of my words and their sense appeared in your columns—or, rather, I should say, had they appeared elsewhere than in the columns of THE NEAR EAST.—I am, etc.,

YOUR BUCHAREST CORRESPONDENT.

Bucharest, April 25, 1916.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Mesopotamian Operations. May 22.

Lord ISLINGTON, replying to questions put by Viscount MIDLETON and the Marquess of SALISBURY, said that further papers as to the operations in Mesopotamia were in course of preparation and would, he hoped, be laid before the House in a few days. He could not state off hand whether all the telegrams between the Viceroy and the Secretary of State for India would be included. He was not prepared to say that the Government did not expect Parliament to be in a position to discuss this question until after the Whitsuntide recess.

May 23.

Lord ISLINGTON referred to the question asked on Monday by Viscount Midleton as to the papers to be published with reference to the operations in Mesopotamia. The noble viscount had asked whether private correspondence between the Governor-General and the Secretary of State would be included. Inquiries had been made, and a large mass of correspondence relating to Mesopotamia, both official and private, had been examined in the War Office with a view to deciding what documents could be published consistently with the public interest. Until the consent of other departments concerned had been obtained it was not possible to say what papers could be laid. The Government, however, had no wish to conceal anything that could possibly be made public. National interests, in regard to which they must be guided by their expert military advisers, were the sole consideration.

The Marquess of SALISBURY said that he was advised that unless the private correspondence between the Viceroy and the Secretary of State was in some cases included the papers would probably be insufficient to enable a just conclusion to be reached as to the circumstances.

Prisoners at Katia. May 24.

Mr. TENNANT, replying to Mr. BALDWIN, said:—No lists of officers or men taken prisoners at Katia have yet been received from the Turkish Government. It is reported from the base that Colonel Coventry, with twenty officers and 202 men of the Worcestershire Yeomanry, were taken prisoners, also two officers of the Gloucestershire Hussars. In addition, two officers of the Worcestershire Yeomanry were reported missing, believed killed, one of whom had since been reported dead. Nine of the rank and file missing were reported wounded.

TURKEY AND ZIONISM.

The New York correspondent of *The Times* reports that Mr. Henry Morgenthau, late American Ambassador at Constantinople, speaking at Cincinnati on Sunday evening, disclosed the fact that he had recently broached to the Turkish Ministry the advisability of their selling Palestine to the Zionists after the war.

The Turkish Ministers, he said, eagerly approved of the project. They discussed figures and argued whether Palestine should be converted into a republic. "I told them that if harbours were built at Jaffa half a million visitors would be attracted yearly to Jerusalem, each one of whom would spend £20." "Why wait until you raise the money?" they responded. "We will grant concessions now, so build your harbours and hotels."

Mr. Morgenthau added that the Turks were seriously considering sending the Grand Rabbi of Turkey, Nahoum, as Ambassador to the United States.

MISSIONARIES IN PERSIA.

Following upon the occupation of Ispahan, the old capital of Persia, by the Russian forces on March 12, the British Minister at Teheran has consented to the return of C.M.S. missionaries to that city. Dr. Emmeline Stuart and Miss J. Biggs have proceeded thither from India, and Dr. D. W. Carr, the acting secretary of the mission, is on his way there from England. A telegram from Teheran on April 28 stated that the staff of the society from Yezd, who had retired within the Russian sphere of influence, would be leaving for their station on May 2. Dr. White wrote from Teheran on March 9:—"That the people of Yezd need us very badly, and are prepared to give us a great welcome, we have heard from various sources. Only last week, among numerous letters from Yezd, was one from a large landowner, in which he said how very badly the people needed their hospital and doctor. He went on to say, 'If you will only come back I will guarantee your safety—in fact, not a hair of your head shall be injured!' Another Yezd grandee who has been living in Teheran, and has just been appointed to a high office in Yezd, came to see me before he left and pressed me to go back with him, and said, 'As soon as I arrive in Yezd I shall begin an agitation to bring you all back again.'

A NEW ART.

Mr. Montague Summers, who is well known in Egypt, was responsible for one of the principal attractions in the Art Section Tent of the Chelsea Flower Show this week with an exhibition of butterfly pictures. These pictures, which were designed and executed by the exhibitor, include real butterflies of England and of the Tropics among charmingly painted representations of the flowers which they most favour. Particularly beautiful are those in which Mr. Summers has chosen the soft lights of evening for his background, as in the one which depicts the large white butterfly settling upon the meadow-sweet. The pictures are set in patent airtight frames, for which Mr. Summers has been awarded the Branksian Silver Medal of the show.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. May.	1916. May.		1334. Rejeb.	5676. Iyar.
26	13	Friday	23	23
27	14	Saturday.....	24	24
28	15	Sunday	25	25
29	16	Monday	26	26
30	17	Tuesday	27	27
31	18	Wednesday	28	28
June 1	19	Thursday	29	29

To-day is the birthday of H.M. Queen Mary.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Theodora of Greece, third daughter of Prince Andrew and Princess Alice, who was born at Athens in 1906.

Prince Christopher of Greece, who left Petrograd last week, has arrived at Marlborough House on a visit to Queen Alexandra. On Wednesday he accompanied Queen Alexandra to the R.H.S. Flower Show at Chelsea Hospital.

The Sultan of Egypt arrived in Alexandria on Tuesday. An Anglo-Egyptian guard of honour was mounted at the station, and H.H. was welcomed by a number of prominent representatives of the various communities. The town was gaily beflagged in honour of his arrival.

H.H. the Aga Khan has arrived in Paris, and is expected in London very shortly.

Lady Ninian Crichton-Stuart left London for Edinburgh on Monday.

Tuesday was the Roumanian national fête day, but on account of Court mourning the Roumanian Minister did not hold his usual reception.

Mlle. Margaret Lahovary, sister of Princess Bibesco of Roumania, arrived in London on Monday, and is leaving shortly for Paris.

At a Council of the British Empire League, held at the House of Lords on Wednesday, Lord Kitchener was elected a Vice-President of the League.

Lady Maxwell is now making very satisfactory progress towards recovery.

Lord Howard de Walden, having obtained a month's leave, left Egypt for England on May 8, accompanied by Lady Howard de Walden. They are now at Dean Castle.

The Right Hon. Sir H. M. Durand has been appointed by the King to the County of London Appeal Tribunal.

The *London Gazette* announces that his Majesty the King has been pleased to appoint General Sir James Willcocks, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., D.S.O., to be Colonel of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

The *London Gazette* announces the appointment of Colonel C. E. Yate, C.M.G., M.P., as a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Leicester.

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Bourdelakis Bros. 4s. " "
Do. (Gold-tipped) 5s. " "
Corbetti (Egyptian) 5s. " "
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22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street, W.

M. Emile Costinescu, the Roumanian Minister of Finance, has recently been ailing, but we are glad to learn that he is now restored to health as a result of his rest in Constantza. In his absence M. Antonescu, Minister of Justice, has taken charge of M. Costinescu's department

General Mahon left Salonika on Friday amidst many signs of regret at his departure. General Sarrail, who was at the White Town to bid him good-bye, told a special correspondent that he had found in General Mahon "not only an ideal collaborator, but a real friend," and said that he regretted his departure very much. There were also present many British generals and Staff officers, and several Serbian officers; while General Moschopoulos and Colonel Messalas, with their respective staffs, represented the Greek Army.

Lieutenant-General Milne, who succeeds Sir Bryan Mahon, is, like him, acquainted with the Sudan, having served in the Khartoum Campaign of 1898. He also served in the Boer War, and is a well-known and distinguished officer. In the present war he has been twice mentioned in dispatches, and he was promoted major-general last year. He was Chief Staff Officer on the Headquarters Staff of the Second Army before going to Western Egypt, where he distinguished himself by his prompt handling of the Senussi tribes when, at Turco-German instigation, they invaded Egypt.

At Buckingham Palace on Saturday the King invested General Sir Edmund Barrow with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Star of India.

The marriage arranged between Captain Philip C. Field, Royal Army Medical Corps, attached Egyptian Army, and Miss Katharine Gordon, third daughter of the late Alexander Gordon, barrister-at-law, and Mrs. Gordon, of 13, Rossetti Mansions, S.W., and Molino di Sopra, Alessio, Italy, will take place quietly in London next Thursday.

On Monday, at St. Peter's, Sheringham, the marriage was solemnized of Major Frank De Winton Harman, D.S.O., Norfolk Regiment (attached Egyptian Army), son of the late Canon Harman and Mrs. Harman, to Evelyn Mary, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Gully (late Norfolk Regiment) and Mrs. Gully, of the Croft, Sheringham.

In Lines of Communication Orders issued in Cairo on May 8, the Inspector-General of Communications records his appreciation of the courage of Second Lieutenant H. Frayling, Royal Scots, and Private W. Scott, who both gallantly effected rescues from drowning at Alexandria.

In a dispatch dated May 9 Mr. Edmund Candler, the representative of the British Press with the Expeditionary Force in Mesopotamia, writes (from "At the Front"): "The first four British officers from Kut arrived here to-day. They are Captain Maclean (78th Punjabis), Lieutenants Bullock and Portsmouth (2nd Norfolks), and Hinds (103rd Mahrattas). All have been in hospital at Kut for periods varying from December 25 to the beginning of April.

Signaller Ellis Silas, 16th Infantry Battalion, Australian Contingent, had the honour of submitting his sketches of Gallipoli for the inspection of the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace last Saturday.

Mr. Tickner Edwardes, the well-known author of the "Lore of the Honey-Bee," which has become the standard work on the subject, and also of many successful novels dealing with English village life, is at present in Cairo assisting in the operating theatre of the Citadel Military Hospital, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. As a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps, Mr. Edwardes was on the Peninsula until the last days of the retirement and there had many exciting experiences. His many readers, both in Egypt and the old country, will be glad to hear that he has come through all unscathed.

Mr. Herbert Vivian, a well-known writer on Near Eastern affairs, applied for his discharge from bankruptcy on Tuesday, but the discharge was suspended for three years.

We are informed that the Rev. W. J. C. Armstrong has accepted the assistant chaplaincy of All Saints' Church, Cairo, and hopes to begin work in August. Mr. Armstrong is a graduate of Cambridge and is senior curate of St. Peter's, Mansfield, Nottingham, where he has worked for six years.

Owing to illness Prince Abdul Karim Khan was unable to open the art exhibition of the Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-Arts, held at the society's rooms in Upper Bedford Place on Monday. The president of the society, M. Jaakoff Prelooker, took his place.

The Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-Arts will hold its forty-first annual conference from May 30 to June 3. Amongst the items of its programme are the following:—On May 31, H.H. Prince Abdul Karim Khan will take the chair at a meeting of the Poetry Section, and Syed M. El-Ehsan El Bakry will read a paper on "Arabic Poetry." On June 1, Professor H. M. Léon, M.A., LL.D., will read two papers, one in the Philological Section on "The Massalji, or Turkish Story-teller," the second in the Natural History Section on "The Shield Reptiles of Palestine." On June 2, Dr. John Pollen will read a paper on "Eastern Mysticism from a Western Point of View," before the Oriental Section; and Mr. Harendranath Maiha one on "A Comparative Study of Civilization in the East and West" before the Oriental Section.

The *Oxford Magazine* (May 19) announces that it is proposed to form a local advisory committee in connection with the settlement of Serbian boys at Wycliffe Hall. The proposal has the sympathy and support of the Vice-Chancellor and the Mayor, and the committee will be composed of representatives of the University and City. Sir Arthur Evans (representing the Executive of the Serbian Relief Fund), Professor Vinogradoff, Mr. Nevill Forbes, Professor Turner, Mr. Matheson, Dr. Hoey, and Mr. Ball (who is acting as chairman) have already consented to serve. It is generally felt that the formation of a Serbian Committee will not only be in itself an expression of welcome and goodwill, but will be of considerable assistance to the settlement in various ways. It will be no more than a consultative or advisory body and not of the nature of a "Relief" Committee. But it is proposed to raise a local fund for the provision of educational books and appliances, as also for games and recreation purposes. A number of volunteers have already given a good deal of personal assistance both in teaching and in other ways. A fuller statement will be issued later: in the meanwhile the committee would be glad to receive further offers of help. All communications may be addressed for the present to Mr. S. Ball, at Barnet House, or to Dr. Hoey, Indian Institute.

At the recent Cape to Cairo Red Cross Fair an autograph of Florence Nightingale was purchased for a substantial sum by the Lord Mayor, who sent it to Mrs. Louis Botha at Cape Town as a souvenir of the sale.

By kind permission of the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, a meeting was held at the Lodge, Quinn's College, in connection with a scheme of repatriating Armenian sufferers by the war. The principal speakers were the Bishop of Ely and the Regius Professor of Divinity.

Six Turkish Deputies and Hussein Ashawid Bey, the Vice-President of the Turkish Chamber, are now in Germany to return the recent visit of the German Deputies to Constantinople.

CIGARETTES.—Egyptian blend, 3s. per 100; Extra Fine, 5s.; cork, gold tipped the same. Colonel B. writes: "None better; am very pleased to recommend to all friends."—Write Ezbekea Co., 3, Little Titchfield Street, Oxford Street, London, W.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

The New York *Independent* announces quite definitely that Mr. Morgenthau's resignation as United States Ambassador to Turkey is to be accepted by the President.

"The nomination of his successor," adds the *Independent*, "is to go to the Senate as soon as the formal inquiries as to his acceptability have been responded to by the Turkish Government. He is Abram I. Elkus, a prominent lawyer of New York. There are few men in New York City who have such an unusual record in promoting legislation for the correction of industrial abuses and the furtherance of commercial welfare as Mr. Elkus. He was the counsel for the New York State Factory Investigation Commission, whose recent report is recognised as a model of thoroughness and impartiality. The set of laws which he drew up to safeguard the lives and health of workers was subsequently passed by the New York Legislature. He has been counsel for the Merchants' Protective Association of New York City, and has long been active in stamping out fraud in mercantile life, particularly in bankruptcy cases. He was nominated for judge of the Court of Appeals of New York on the Democratic ticket in 1913, and is now an active worker in many benevolent and civic organisations."

The War Office announced last Friday: Lieutenant-General Sir Bryan Mahon, K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., has assumed command of the Western Frontier of Egypt, and Lieutenant-General Milne, C.B., D.S.O., is now commanding the British troops at Salonika.

The *Morning Post's* Berne correspondent reports that Lieutenant-Colonel H. Picot has been appointed to take charge of the arrangements for British prisoners to be interned in Switzerland, whose number is estimated at about 1,300.

Judge Walter Bond is leaving Cairo definitely on July 1, and will retire from the service in October, when his leave will expire.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (May 7): Mr. Jardine, an assistant to the Chief Secretary, who collaborated with Mr. Lukach in editing the excellent "Cyprus Handbook," has been appointed Chief Secretary in Somaliland.

The *Cyprus Gazette* of May 2 announces that Mr. Herbert Dunk, Registrar of Deeds, has been appointed Public Custodian of enemy property.

El Miralai G. F. Clayton Bey, C.M.G., Director of Intelligence and Sudan Agent in Cairo, has been granted the temporary rank of Lewa.

Mr. F. E. de Halpert, of the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, has been appointed Intelligence Officer, Headquarters Staff, Egypt, as Lieutenant.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (May 9):—

M. Marinkovitch, Serbian Minister in Bucharest, has left for Petrograd, where he is to meet M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier. In his absence M. Rakitch has charge of the Legation.

M. Stanoevitch, late First Secretary of the Serbian Legation in Bucharest, has been appointed First Secretary of the Serbian Legation in Petrograd.

Colonel Bronsart de Schellendorf, the German Military Attaché, has been recalled. Colonel Hammerstein has been appointed as temporary substitute.

Mr. A. J. Pawson, Judicial Inspector, Legal Secretary's Department, Sudan Government, has been transferred to the Upper Nile Province as Second Inspector.

Kaimakam E. H. Ross Bey, Senior Inspector, Kordofan Province, Sudan, has been transferred to the appointment of Assistant Civil Secretary. Mr. E. N. Corbyn, Inspector Finance Department, Khartoum, succeeds him as Senior Inspector, Kordofan.

Captain A. Capel, the Gloucestershire Regiment, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service officer. He has been granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi and attached to the Cavalry and Mounted Infantry for duty.

Lieutenant A. J. R. Lamb, D.S.O., 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays), has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service officer, with the temporary rank of Bimbashi in the Cavalry and Mounted Infantry.

OBITUARY.

ADMIRAL C. WINDHAM.

We regret to announce the death of Admiral Charles Windham, C.V.O., which took place on Saturday at Reymerston Hall, Norfolk, the residence of his brother-in-law, Colonel Hare, C.B. The second and eldest surviving son of the late Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Ash Windham, K.C.B., and grandson of Vice-Admiral William Lukin Windham, of Felbrigg Hall, Norfolk, and of Admiral Sir John de la Poer Beresford, he was educated at Lees School, Brighton, and on his Majesty's ship Britannia. He entered the Navy in 1865 and served with the Abyssinian Expedition, 1868, in Ashanti, 1874, and in Egypt, 1882. From 1896 to 1901 he was captain of the Royal yacht Osborne. He was captain of his Majesty's ships Isis, 1901-2, and Amphitrite, 1902-5, and was promoted Rear-Admiral in 1905. Since 1907 he had occupied the post of Gentleman Usher to the King. At the funeral, which took place at St. George's Cemetery, Hanwell, on Wednesday afternoon, the King was represented by Colonel H. Fludyer.

The death is announced as having taken place at Aden, on the 6th inst., of Major Francis de Bercken Hancock, of the Bombay Political Department. Major Hancock was at one time Assistant Political Agent and Assistant Resident at Aden. But in 1908 he was transferred to Kathiawar as Political Agent, and since 1913 he had been Service Administrator of the Porbandar State. He was on the voyage home at the time of his death.

The death is announced as having taken place at Bournemouth on Monday of Mr. J. B. Camm, father of Dom Bede Camm, O.S.B., who is now serving as chaplain to the forces in Egypt.

We record with deep regret the death of Mr. Schöndorff, who had occupied for several years the honorary post of British Vice-Consul at Bucharest. Mr. Mutcheon, Vice-Consul at Galatz, has taken temporary charge of the Vice-Consulate in Bucharest pending the appointment of Mr. Schöndorff's successor.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 3s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTH.

PRIDEAUX-BRUNE.—On May 14, at Cairo, Egypt, the wife of Captain Fulke K. Prideaux-Brune, Australian Light Horse, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

BRENAN—CAMPBELL.—On May 16, at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Norton Road, Hove, by the Very Rev. Canon Ottley, Lieutenant Terence Vincent Brenan, 11th Essex Regiment, second son of the late Edward Vincent Brenan, of Rockleaze, Bristol, to Marguerite Julia, eldest daughter of Tomlin Joyce Campbell, Egyptian Survey Department, Cairo, and Mrs. Tomlin Campbell, 52, Norton Road, Hove, Sussex.

DEATH.

EDE.—On May 19, at The Moors, Bishopsteignton, Devon, Edward Denzil Ede, of 33, Croham Road, South Croydon, and the London County and Westminster Bank, younger son of the late Charles William Ede, of Blackheath, and Constantinople, aged 54.

IN MEMORIAM.

LAW.—In loving memory of Captain Alexander Duncan Law, the Hampshire Regiment, attached Egyptian Army, only son of Major James Law, Royal Engineers, Aldershot, who died suddenly at Khartoum North, Sudan, May 23, 1914.

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FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1916.

GREECE AND THE ALLIES.

In happier circumstances the opening of the line connecting Larissa and Salonika, which places Athens in railway communication with the rest of Europe, would have attracted more attention both in Greece itself and also abroad. It is a little over two years since the contract for the extension of the Athens-Larissa line from Karali-Zerven, a few yards from the old Greco-Turkish frontier in Thessaly, to a point near Gida on the line between Salonika and Monastir, was signed. The outbreak of the war delayed the construction, but the section is at last completed, and Athens in normal times will be reached by rail from Paris within about sixty hours. It is early for the potentialities of this Greek line to be fully appreciated. Piræus is now the furthermost port of the European railway system on the way to Egypt and India, and in due course should make a successful bid for the international traffic to those countries, which is ever on the look-out for a shortened sea-route. For the present Greece must rely on a branch line which leaves the trunk line to Constantinople at Nish. If at the end of this war there is to be a Southern Slav State, one of its first concerns will be not only to improve its railway connection with Western Europe, but also to see that its railways are joined to those of the kingdom of Serbia and of Greece. When that day comes the position of the Piræus will be still further strengthened, provided the various links in the railway chain across Jugoslavia can be maintained at the transcontinental standard of efficiency. The absence of a through route from Athens to "Europe"—to use the phraseology current in States south of the Danube—has long constituted a grievance to Greece. Before the Balkan wars the Turkish Government had refused to grant the necessary permission for a junction with its own lines, and Greece has had to wait until she was in possession of Salonika to see her ambition realised. Even now a contrary fate ordains that the opening ceremony in connection with this coveted section, which took place last Sunday in the presence of King Constantine and his Ministers, finds the Greek railway system still "in the air." While traffic on the new line is to be postponed until the Athens-Larissa Railway has been repaired and strengthened with a view to enabling it to cope with the heavier demands that are likely to be made upon it, through communication with the rest of Europe must wait until the end of the war. But it is all to the good that Salonika should at this stage be brought within twelve and a-half hours of the capital, and it is possible that this material factor may exercise some influence on Greece's attitude towards the course of events in Macedonia.

For Greece, if there were any anomaly in the opening ceremony at Libanovo, on the Gulf of Salonika, on Sunday, it will have been not so much in the impossibility of marking adequately the international importance of the event, but rather in the absence of the first Greek of his day. The contract for the construction of the line was signed in Paris by M. Venizelos, and, under ordinary conditions, he would have been present at the ceremony, whether in office or out of office. It must have been impossible for those who were at Libanovo to banish from their minds the fact that he was not there and the reasons for his non-attendance. No amount of self-complacency can confute the uncomfortable logic of the course of events which has followed upon the repudiation of M. Venizelos and King Constantine's refusal to conform with the wishes of the majority of the people. Greece has kept herself out of the great upheaval; and those who are responsible for her policy no doubt congratulate themselves and their country, because they conjure up only the terrors and destruction of war. They have probably never stopped to think whether war has not also its advantages, whether the stern realities of a life and death struggle—not the comparatively easy campaigns which the Greek army experienced in the Balkan Wars—are not calculated to bring out the latent good in a nation, to awaken among a politics-ridden people a consciousness that national interests are of greater importance than the pursuit of purely selfish ends by each individual. But, apart from metaphysical considerations, what has Greece had to face as the price of her freedom from participation in the war? In the first place, in spite of all the sophistry brought to bear upon the subject, she stands revealed to the world as having broken her pledged word to Serbia, and the measure of the reliance placed upon her good faith in the future will be determined solely by the possibility of compelling her to remain true to her bond. She is a country divided against herself, with the bitterness of party strife intensified at a time when all the countries in the Grand Alliance, on whose side she ought to have been ranged in virtue of her treaty with Serbia, are proving the solidarity that war waged in a righteous cause brings to a nation. Reports of the revival of the baneful Military League are denied by the Government, although its own supporters in the Press are responsible for the statement, and apparently intended it to be a warning to a people whose constitutional freedom it would be the object of the League still further to curtail. Finally, Greece's material position, if we may judge by the utterances of Ministers, is no better than her peace of mind. The army remains mobilised at great cost to no purpose, the finances of the country give rise to anxiety, and owing to the equivocal attitude of the Government the Allied Powers have to regulate imports to an extent which makes it easy for unpatriotic Greeks to corner food supplies and reduce sections of the population to the direst extremities of want.

Between the relative merits of the two policies open to them the Greeks themselves have to decide. In a speech defending the Government's course M. Rhalli declared last week that a departure from neutrality would bring on Greece poverty, privations, and calamities worse than those from which she already suffers. "It would probably lead to complete disaster," he added. The sordidness of the considerations which the Government asks should determine the people's choice must have been apparent to M. Rhalli's audience, and a belligerent would need to be hard pressed to require the help of a nation inspired by such motives. M. Rhalli, however, we believe, is as unjust to his countrymen as he was mendacious in his references to the Allied Powers. "The aim of the Entente," he said, "is to make Greece depart from neutrality. We have arrived at a point when protests are no longer heeded." In the face of such a travesty of facts, the Greek Foreign Office was compelled to dissociate itself from M. Rhalli by issuing a statement to the effect that, since the written assurances given by the Allies last November repudiating any such intention, no further communication had been received by the Greek Government. The time for Greece's participation in the war was when her co-operation was asked for, first, by Great Britain in return for generous compensation; and, secondly, by Serbia, in accordance with the terms of the Greco-Serbian treaty. Greece refused both requests, and the Allies have been able to dispense with her services. They ask nothing from her now; but, in reply to protests from a Government whose policy does not enjoy the support of the nation, they can only point out that they are acting in the interests of Greece, and on lines to which she gave assent when she invited the Allies to land at Salonika. Any dilemma in which the Greek Government finds itself is one of its own contrivance, and those who regret to see Greece placed in a false position will hope that the opening of the railway which gives the capital direct communication with Europe will bring the Government into line with the people in realizing that Greek interests are inseparably bound up with those of the Allied Powers.

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PRINKIPO.

By MARY A. POYNTER.

If recent despatches from the Near East are to be relied upon, then General Townshend's lines as a prisoner of war have fallen in pleasant places. Let us hope the report is true, that he is to be given free roaming of the peaceful and beautiful island of Prinkipo, situated in the Sea of Marmora just at the line where the Gulf of Ismidt begins, and only a dozen miles from Constantinople. It will furnish an ideal place for our hero to recuperate from the strain of all his hard fighting, and from the strain of those horrible months when he was besieged—always under fire and suffering every privation—in Mesopotamia. The Turks, in offering him the hospitality of Prinkipo, are simply living up to their old tradition of showing courtesy and kindness to a valiant enemy who is temporarily in their power.

Prinkipo is the largest of the half-dozen small islands called by the Turks Kizil Adalar, but better known to the foreigner and the world in general as the Princes' Isles. In old Byzantine days they were distinguished for their many churches and monasteries, several of which have endured to this time. These islands were also used as the retreats, enforced or otherwise, of princes and powers

When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes.

Romanus IV. was one such sufferer, and at least three Empresses—Irene being one of them—were imprisoned on the island of Prinkipo, whether for sins of commission or omission this is, perhaps, not quite the moment to inquire. A green-embowered hillside of Halki, the island literally within a stone's throw of Prinkipo, furnishes the last resting-place of one of Queen Elizabeth's Ambassadors—England's first Embassy here—who was sent to the Grand Seignior at Constantinople to ask his assistance for Great Britain in her difficulty with the then reigning monarch of Spain.

To-day these islands are distinguished mostly for their beauty, their desirability as places of residence, as places of sweet and peaceful summer life. They do not lie flat upon the surface of the water, but rise to heights, even to hundreds of feet sometimes, so that they shall not be overlooked, though they be small. Small pines grow up the hillsides and crown the heights of these islands, and give them the reputation of being salubrious, a reputation that anyone acquainted with them would not wish to contradict. Their soil is red, as their Turkish name would indicate, and the soil of Prinkipo in particular is a soft rosy-red that the sunshine delights to bring out and emphasize while at the same time drawing forth the resinous breath of the pines.

These Princes' Isles lie near to the coast of Asia—whose heights are bare in contrast to the islands' green summits—and they are surrounded by a sea as blue as the sky knows how to picture. Constantinople's domes and minarets can be seen plainly in the distance, though none of its noise and dust can reach these favoured isles. One would certainly call Prinkipo the delectable, the crown jewel of this little cluster of red islands, though each has a claim to distinctive beauty and interest. It is an island full of delightful suggestions of Italy, as well as of constant reminders of the Orient to which it belongs. Prinkipo's sunsets of a summer evening are a pageant that even the oldest inhabitant would not miss. Then the blue seas of the daytime glow redder than the reddest cliffs of the isle itself, or they shade off into gold—become painted seas, in fact—painted with every colour that Nature has ever spread out on her palette of the skies to be reproduced on the waters below. One hardly needs to add that these Prinkipo shores are the haunt of the halcyon bird—he of the iridescent wing.

The gardens of Prinkipo are celebrated—or ought to be—both in song and story. Sir Edwin Pears' garden there, with its cypress avenue, is a favoured spot both on account of the charming views it commands and for the varied shrubs and flowers that seem to o'erleap all bounds in the profusion with which they grow. And other English gardens there are in Prinkipo that no one who has ever seen them in the old days of peace would like to forget now.

The native population is mostly Greek, though the spring, summer, and autumn residents in peace times are made up of representatives of most nations. The American Ministers and Ambassadors, having no settled official summer residence, have shown much appreciation of Prinkipo in the past. A few years ago one of them, familiarly and affectionately called "Sunset Cox," went so far with his appreciation as to write a large volume, called, as I remember, "The Isles of the Princes; or, The Pleasures of Prinkipo." He shows these pleasures were many and varied.

Only in comparatively recent times have the Turks frequented Prinkipo to any great extent. During the later years of Abdul Hamid's reign something like a summer invasion of Turkish visitors, nearly always of the upper class, began to take place. The Turkish ladies especially began to come in numbers, finding that here they were more free to drive and walk about by themselves—driving often in open carriages and with the merest excuse of a veil thrown about their heads.

The donkey is a time-honoured institution of Prinkipo, and he has all the uncertain tricks of the donkey tribe. The rich and the poor, the great and the small patronise this animated vehicle of locomotion, especially if an excursion is to be made to the monastery of St. George—an excursion that leads up a steep ascent to the highest point on the island. These donkeys were, at least until recently, in fairly fine condition, as the S.P.C.A. (under English and American auspices) used to offer prizes to the donkey-boys who should turn out the happiest and most prosperous-looking donkeys at the end of the season. Poor fellows, they may be thin enough now!

There have come vague reports of Prinkipo having been fortified by the Germans since the present war began. But of what one does not know one should not speak; one can only feel certain that it would take much unsightly human handiwork to destroy the natural beauty of Prinkipo. It is far and away the most charming haunt within easy reach of Constantinople—no, I forgot for a moment the claims of the Bosphorus, and let me revise my statement and say that the shores of the Bosphorus and Prinkipo are beauty spots that any city might envy, and of which all cities might be proud.

PRISONERS OF THE TURK.

The following information has been communicated to the Foreign Office by the courtesy of the United States Ambassador:—

The United States Embassy at Constantinople learns from the Ottoman Government that General Townshend and his staff will be brought to Constantinople, and that suitable accommodation will probably be assigned to them on the Island of Prinkipo, where they will be allowed full liberty.

The Embassy understands that most of the officers and men are still at Kut and Baghdad, and that some of them will be sent to Damascus. The Ottoman Red Crescent Society state that there is at Baghdad an ample supply of medical stores, and that they have so informed the British Red Cross Society. No information is available as to the special needs of the prisoners, but the United States Consul at Baghdad has been instructed to communicate with them and to supply, if possible, detailed information.

The United States Embassy at Constantinople learns from the United States Legation at Sofia that the Bulgarian authorities will transmit merchandise received at the Greco-Bulgarian frontier for Constantinople. The Embassy expects to receive Red Cross supplies from Athens by that route (via Oxilar), and suggests that it should be used for the transmission of clothing and supplies for the British prisoners.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.

DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I am full of contrition and abject apologies. Last week I perpetrated a "limerick" about an old lady who dwelt in "Yanina," suggesting that the said venerable dame "might have been cleaner." Now I regret it. Not that I am threatened with an action for libel. But I learn from a Greek friend that "Yanina" is not pronounced to rhyme with cleaner, as I thought, but, as the bard of the *Oxford Magazine* made it, with "ran in her." *Hinc illæ lacrimæ.*

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The Limerick Spirit certainly seems to have been very active of late. Not only did it inspire the "Balkan Verses" which have, indirectly, got me into trouble—for my Greek friend was not my only critic, by a long way—but it prompted a correspondent, to whom I am indebted for numerous kindnesses, to send me a copy of some delightful rhymelets. He writes: "In turning over some papers, associated with ten or a dozen years ago, the following limericks have come to hand. They appear to have been written in the old dog days of Constantinople, by one M. A. M." Perhaps some of my readers who remember the days referred to may guess the identity of the author:—

If you are inclined to write verses
In a city where canine the curse is,
  You must surely expect,
  If you pause to reflect,
That your dog-gerel so much the worse is.

Yet when you are once more at home—
With minaret, tower, and dome
  Afar from your view—
  You would welcome a few
Gentle barks from the streets of New Rome!

Poor old scavengers of Constantinople! It is strange how many of us think kindly of you, and of the Old Turks who treated you well. But then you were always grateful—like the Old Turk himself.

***

Here is an interesting passage from the letter of a Roumanian correspondent regarding the attitude of the Neutral towards the war::—

For people who are at war it must be no easy matter to understand the frame of mind of a member of a neutral nation who would, so to speak, himself adopt the attitude which dictates the policy of the State, and attempt to weigh contemporary events in a spirit of impartiality. Such people are few even in the neutral States—to judge from what we observe in Roumania—though there are a number who give themselves out to be impartial. The reasons are: First, the fact that nearly everybody is materially affected by the great war; secondly, because there are involved moral factors of overwhelming weight; and thirdly, because very few people (if any) possess qualifications which permit of their observing current events in their true perspective. Failing such qualifications, the neutral voluntarily limits his political horizon by allowing his sympathies to bear him, figuratively speaking, into one or the other camp. So a man will in all probability be either pro-German or pro-Entente—the latter if he is wise—but he will in any case abandon all absurd pretensions to impartiality.

***

Regarded as a demonstration of the solidarity of our alliance and a proof of good-fellowship, the arrival of the party of Russian cavalry in the midst of our Tigris force is distinctly gratifying. It also shows the dashing quality of the little force—for, I take it, the force is a very small one indeed—which must have had a rather anxious time, whichever route it followed to join up with our men. But I am sorry to see the attempts made in some quarters to represent the incident as an epoch-making one. Some of our newspapers are apparently bent on representing to the world—and, incidentally, to our enemies—that we are in a very bad way indeed, which is hysterical folly. It seems to me that it would be no bad idea for us to send off a small force of cavalry—a hundred or so would suffice—to link up with the Russians. That would be the fittest way of returning our Ally's pretty compliment, and it would also show the croakers that we are not quite so near the last gasp in Mesopotamia as their nonsensical writing would lead one to suppose.

***

The said croakers appear to forget what this country has done, and is doing, in the war. A little reflection would serve to show them that, though we may not be doing all we should like to do, we really *are* "doing our bit." To say nothing of supplying some of our Allies with arms and munitions, stores, foodstuffs, and the proverbial "sinews of war," we have put a good many German colonies out of action, so to say; we are helping to hold the line in France and Belgium; we are helping to make the Bulgars and the Austro-Germans more than a little unhappy; and we are keeping the seas open to our traffic and closing them to enemy traffic by bottling up the All-Highest's fleet in the Kiel Canal. That, if you consider it quietly, is not a record of which we need be ashamed. Moreover, as our Allies have been generous in acknowledging, even our Mesopotamian Expedition has helped the common cause enormously, facilitating the Grand Duke's operations by drawing off very considerable Turkish forces from the North. The pessimists—British and otherwise—have no good reason to say, or to think, that we are not pulling our fair share of the burden.

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We have not been allowed to read much about the doings of the Navy of late, but I gather that when the story of the war comes to be told in full we shall all feel very proud of what has been going on down the Mediterranean recently. It is not showy work, but it is very effective; and it is satisfactory to know that it makes the enemy enormously angry. Reference to the senior Service reminds me of a neat remark made by a distinguished naval officer at the R.G.S. dinner on Monday evening. Lord Hardinge, in the course of his speech, had observed that he belonged to a service in which eloquence was at a discount. The Navy speaker prefaced his remarks by observing: "I belong to a service in which eloquence is—punished." A bull's-eye!

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So General Mahon is back in Egypt. I am glad of it, and so also will be his numerous and more fortunate friends who are resident in that country now. He is very Irish, is this famous general, and as popular as any son of Erin. He was one of the few officers of high standing in the Sudan against whom I never heard a word of criticism when I was in the country. And yet, like most of his countrymen, he was unsparing in his chaff. I recollect an instance of this which occurred at dinner one night up-country. Among the members of the mess was a certain captain who possessed one of the most penetrating voices I have ever heard. He was rather sensitive in regard to this organ, although I must say he never appeared to make any attempt to modulate it. While we were talking during a change of courses there was suddenly a most appalling racket from the steps, up which a servant was falling with the entire change of plates. Mahon alone appeared to treat the matter as a most commonplace one. "Och, it's all right," he said, "it's only —— dropping his voice; thanks be to Providence." Then he turned to ——, who was sitting next him. "I beg your pardon, ——, I did not notice you were still here. It must have been a boiler bursting." For the only time on record the officer took the aspersion on his vocal powers in entirely good part.

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I was looking through a magazine the other day when all manner of strange caligraphy caught my eye. A paragraph in Turkish characters crowded away on an advertisement page with a brief note directing the readers to another page was the first to arrest my attention, and then I found the same paragraph repeated in no less than fourteen different languages. It ran:—

We shall not sheathe the sword which we have not lightly drawn until Belgium—and, I will now add, Serbia, recovers in full measure all, and more than all, which she has sacrificed; till France has adequate security against the tyranny of aggression; till the rights of the smaller nations are placed upon an unassailable foundation, and until the military domination of Prussia is wholly and finally destroyed.

Brave words these, and heartening, and uttered, moreover, by the Prime Minister of Great Britain. It is well to keep these words constantly in the minds of all, ourselves, our friends, and our enemies. Mr. Asquith, too, will probably be very grateful for the fullest publicity given to phrases which can by no possibility be misinterpreted, but which mean exactly what they seem to—perhaps more—certainly not less.

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What an extraordinary number of artists have taken to the production of landscapes and skyscapes of Egypt! I do wish they wouldn't. Very few pictures of Egypt, especially of the desert, are at all satisfying, although, of course, one or two artists can give us all that could be desired in this respect. But I am sick to death of the unenviable "Hand-painted desert scenes; framed complete, five shillings," which are dotted about at picture-dealers in various parts of London. The sun is always setting, naturally; equally naturally the Pyramids loom eternally in a vague sandy background, and the best of the five-shilling types always include at least one camel—trotting—a native, and several palm trees. The latter really don't count much, they are so easy to draw, but a camel with crossed legs is different, a special art is required for that sort of thing. Much of the art I have seen in this regard is very special indeed; the paintings would make excellent wedding presents to relatives of the artists, but they don't look well in shop windows. Perhaps the vendors do not hang them suitably; there is something wrong, anyway

CORSAIR.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

India and Mesopotamia.

Apropos of General Sir Arthur Barrett's return to India to take up an important command there, the *Indiaman* (May 19) observes:—

His return will be all the more welcome in that he was associated with what may be described as the earlier and happier phases of the Mesopotamian campaign. The evidence that accumulates about its later phases gives, alas! more and more occasion for general dissatisfaction. Not only were the relative operations unfortunate, but they also appear to have been gravely mismanaged. Why, for instance, should our generals have launched their men on attacks that were not adequately supported by artillery? Why, again, should they have been supplied with old and ineffective aeroplanes? These are questions to which the public is entitled to have some reply. We have no wish to anticipate such explanations as may be forthcoming. We venture to suggest, however, that if there proves to have been a shortage of the equipment indispensable to the various military responsibilities undertaken by India, the blame for this shortage assuredly rests with those who deliberately starved the Indian military administration for several years past far more than with the officials in India at the present time, who have had to improvise necessary material since the outbreak of the war.

Operations at Es Sinn.

The *Times* (May 23) refers to the announcement that General Gorringe has carried the Dujailar redoubt as "the best news we have had from Mesopotamia since General Townshend fought and won the battle of Kut-el-Amara last September." The paper presses for an early telling of the whole story of this campaign, and continues:—

Meanwhile, the dramatic and adventurous ride of the force of Russian cavalry, which has crossed the plain from Persia and joined General Gorringe, is a further indication that the tide is turning in Mesopotamia. The Turks are credited with the intention of trying to hold Baghdad, but the defence of such an open city will be no easy matter. Russian columns are traversing the heights on the Persian border at various points, and they may very soon be in a position to raid the Turkish communications between railhead and Baghdad. . . . The military interest of the situation lies in the fact that the Turks apparently propose to commit themselves to two separate campaigns in the Baghdad area and in the uplands west of Erzeroum. Their southern line of communications, furnished by the Baghdad Railway and the road and river route beyond, lies midway between their two main theatres. In course of time they may find that a position so perilous contains the seeds of defeat in one or both areas. But it must also be remembered that they are recovering their balance between Erzinjan and Erzeroum, that they have evidently made up their minds to resist the Grand Duke from the excellent base of Sivas in Anatolia, and that our troops in Mesopotamia are now fighting in one of the most trying climates in the world. Even if the tide is turning, we must not expect anywhere in Asia Minor this summer successes on a scale which will materially affect the course of the war in Europe.

The *Globe* (May 22) refers to the meeting of the Russo-British forces as "one of the most dramatic and inspiring in the history of the East":—

Orientals set little store by agreements, paper alliances, and so forth, but the sight of Russian and British troops fighting side by side is one which will alike convince their intellect and inspire their imagination. It will be to them a proof, as nothing else could be, that the age-long rivalry and the distrust so carefully fostered from Berlin have come for ever to an end, and that in Asia civilization will in future rest firmly upon two great pillars, of which these Russian squadrons are, as it were, the first stones of the mighty connecting arch. It is news which will ring through every bazaar from Samarcand to Cabul, and from Peshawar to Kandy, and everywhere it will be hailed with rejoicing.

The *Manchester Guardian* (May 22) says:—

It is a fine raid, of the kind for which this war has given the Russian cavalry few opportunities. In the autumn of 1914, when the Russians first drove the Germans back from the Vistula across Poland, some troops of Cossacks raided the Posen frontier in the rear of the retreating army and cut the frontier railway. But there has been nothing else of the kind, and the trench-lines, with their unturnable flanks, have exalted the gun and the infantryman at the expense of the Cossack. In Asia Minor and Mesopotamia the enemy has still a flank to be turned, and the horseman retains his liberty of movement. Perhaps the Cossack, like Russia herself, will regain here what he has lost in Europe.

Outposts of Baghdad.

The quotations which we reproduce below are taken from an interesting article which Mr. Perceval Landon contributed to the *Daily Telegraph* (May 23):—

Some ten miles out from Khanikin the Turkish frontier post, Kula Ismail, is passed, and twenty minutes later Kala Sabzi, the Green Fort of Persia. This, the Persian guard-house, is held by a man of no mean reputation, Ali Akbar Khan, whose personal authority and a long respect for his almost superhuman acts of daredevil bravery form a better guard than the two dozen Martinis which was all that the Persian Government allowed for its defence.

It is here that Von der Goltz must have set out his main outer defences. After a general description of the surrounding country, Mr. Landon continues:—

No doubt Von der Goltz has laid his defences with skill. But he has had along these low Zagros spurs no such chances as those which Nature provided in the Es-Sinn district near Kut. It is true that to the west are marshes, but eastwards the terrain is hard, and there are obvious possibilities of outflanking trenches, however extensive and however skilfully constructed. It would not be necessary to take Khanikin and its defences by storm; it would be helpless if a sufficiently wide detour was made and it were cut off from the south. After that Kisil Robat and Shah Roban would probably be taken without resistance, and, as Baghdad is indefensible, the final opposition at Bakuba would be in the nature of a rearguard action, as the Turks would by that time be steadily retreating to the Euphrates.

On the other hand, the difficulties of supplying the advancing Russians will be great, especially until the Mosul column has control of the Tigris. After that, with summer well begun and the Mesopotamian crops reaching maturity, there should not be any serious trouble, especially as the haughty and exclusive Kurds, through whose territory the twin Russian advance is being made, have a time-honoured vendetta against the Turks, who in all these centuries have never succeeded in making their writ run among these aristocratic mountain nomads.

The New Serbian Army.

Mr. Crawfurd Price, in an article contributed from Corfu to the *Daily Chronicle* (May 22), describes what he terms the miracle of the Serbian army's recovery:—

The wonderful physique of the Serbian peasant has combined with the organising genius of the British and French missions and the resources of the Grand Alliance to save from the Serbian retreat no fewer than 150,000 hale, hearty, and well-equipped fighting men, full of renewed courage and enthusiasm, and waiting impatiently for the order to march homeward.

The Corfiotes did not welcome their unbidden guests. They, who, on their beautiful island, live a tranquil life at the expense of a German potentate and passing tourists, rather resented the intrusion of French chasseurs, British Army Service men, and stricken Serbians. They feared disease, devastation, pillage, and outrage. But they have discovered that there are distinctions to be drawn between armies, and though they have suffered inconvenience enough, the inhabitants are unanimous in their praise of the Serbians, and marvel not a little that they have had to record no instance of theft or violation.

There were many difficulties encountered at first, but Mr. Price shows that French and British organisation overcame them all:—

The Serbian army was never so well equipped as to-day. In this connection, as in the bearing of the men, the enthusiasm of the visitor is necessarily aroused, for the contemporary Serbian soldiers are a living embodiment of our alliance. The infantry are garbed in British uniforms complete even to the buttons; puttees have replaced the gaudy native hose, and Balkan sandals have given way to English boots. A French rifle and overcoat add to the picture, and only the national head-dress remains of the familiar make-up of King Peter's battalions. The cavalry present a smart and businesslike appearance in the silver-blue tunics of the French horsemen.

The writer concludes his article with the following expression of belief:—

The depression which one might expect to find is non-existent, for there is not a Serbian on the island who regards his exile as other than temporary. To this race of peasant proprietors, deeply attached to their own little patch of earth, the call of home and loved ones left behind makes an ever-increasing appeal. They know that the way back will be arduous and bloody; but none can doubt that when once they see the shadow of the mountains which stand between them and reunion with farm and family they will sweep forward with such *élan* that neither Germans, nor Austrians, nor Bulgars will be able to withstand the fury of the onslaught.

Turkey, Bulgaria, and Peace.

The Right Hon. Sir Joseph Compton-Rickett, writing in the *Daily News* (May 19), says that a very little more will suffice to make it impossible for Turkey to conclude a separate peace. He emphasises the necessity of safeguarding the safety and dignity of the Khalifate in any and all circumstances. He continues:—

A settlement with Turkey means a redistribution of the Allied forces in every sense of the word, and Russia from first to last would benefit. Turkey knows that she can do no better; that a continuation of the war means continued loss of territory, social wreckage, and an impoverished future. The interests of the Mohammedan world are clearly in the direction of peace, the consolidation of Asia Minor, Syria, and its hinterland. Such a workable State would confer sufficient honour upon the supreme head of the Mohammedan world. It will be for Turkey and Persia, in spite of some ecclesiastical differences, to get together in a common understanding for the promotion of political reform suited to the races and religious sects they both control.

He shows that Turkey is not likely to get much further help from Germany, and concludes:—

It is evident that some understanding amongst the Balkan States must be set up, an understanding which may be provisional, but which ought to issue in a Federal Union. It is to the

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interest of Bulgaria to come to terms. She will get nothing in the future from an Austrian occupation of Serbia or of Albania, and a permanent estrangement from Russia is not to be desired. Whilst the Balkan States are quarrelling they are imperilling their future. A union of some sort is the one condition of political independence. Of all the Allied Powers Russia can do the most to bring Roumania and Bulgaria to terms. A generous settlement of territorial difficulties is really a question for Russian initiative. It is of vital importance for the Balkan States to find an outlet into the Mediterranean without passing through the Dardanelles. That natural outlet is at Salonika. If that city were mediatised, together with the railways approaching it, the Balkan States might share equally in the benefit of a free port, Greece would lose no commercial advantage, and in exchange for her nominal sovereignty she could be given compensation elsewhere.

German Aid to Russia.

The Petrograd correspondent of the *Morning Post* (May 22) concludes a despatch, dated the 19th inst., regarding the Russian operations against Turkey, with the significant paragraph which we quote below. He says that for the past few days news from the Asiatic front "has been of that very meagre, indefinite character which we here have come to regard as a certain augury of a new success now in course of preparation," and continues:—

Private advices, however, state that the Germans, if they have not contrived to spare many men to aid their unfortunate Ottoman Allies, have, at any rate, sent maxims and wire in vast quantities. This is particularly noticeable in the Diarbekr direction. Turkish methods of attack are reported to have changed with the arrival of the Germans, but the change favours Russia. The Turks are now hounded forward in masses to attack, whereas, when left to themselves, they used to come on in a formation which offered an unsatisfactory target for the Russian artillery. Their extensive use of wire also marks the presence of German direction and German technical war stores. As German stores and some German troops have certainly reached Diarbekr, it is possible also that they reached Mosul. In any case, the total number of the available reinforcements for the Ottoman Ally is small compared with the urgent requirements, and it is all to Russian advantage that they should be as widely dispersed as possible.

Attack in the Balkans.

To the *Evening Standard* (May 22) Mr. R. A. Scott-James contributes an article on the various means at our disposal for beating the Germans:—

Now, if we were willing to go on waging war indefinitely, almost any persistent military plan would enable us to win. But we cannot be content with the costly victory of attrition and siege warfare. The whole country demands the utmost energy and enterprise in war; it demands that the Allied Governments should create opportunities for effective offensive action; for beating the enemy, not merely for wearing him down.

With the lesson of Verdun before us, the writer inclines to the opinion that the West is, as yet, too strong to justify an offensive. There, as on the Russian front, the enemy has the advantage in communications. He goes on:—

Very different is their position in the Balkan Peninsula. Here alone is it possible for the British to engage Germans without being at a positive disadvantage in the matter of communications. It will be said that the sea-route is much longer, and that the available merchant shipping is limited. The reply is that we already have large armies in the Near East, and that the sea-route, though longer, is far more adequate than the tortuous single line across Serbia. And before the enemy can use this single line they have to traverse vast spaces of their own Austro-Hungarian territory.

In the initial stages of an advance from Salonika we have the advantage in every respect.

The enemy has to depend upon the single line, which runs along the valley of the Varda. The re-organised Serbian army will be sufficient to neutralise the effective strength of Bulgaria:—

Consider the effect, not merely military, but also political and economic, of an Allied advance in the Balkans. A comparatively short line, from Salonika to the Danube, cuts the enemy territories into halves. Oust the Germans and their allies from Serbia, and they can no longer send munitions to Bulgaria and Turkey, or receive food supplies in return. But this is not all. A victorious Allied force in the Balkans would make certain the intervention of Greece and Roumania on our side, and Austria-Hungary would find herself invaded from the Adriatic to the Russian frontier by an overwhelming force of Serbians, Roumanians, and Greeks, along with the armies of Great Britain and France.

Here, too, the Allies would be fighting on favourable ground. The Slavs of the Southern Empire are heart and soul with the Allies, and the discontent of the Hungarians is known to be increasing. Here is the real vulnerable point of the Central Powers—the point which they can least easily defend, where their strength would most quickly collapse.

It is not suggested by any competent critic that we should cease to press the war in the West or to develop our most powerful offensive there, and to deal in that quarter our most deadly and final blows. But in the meantime we can hurry on the conclusion by energetic action in that region where the enemy is unquestionably weakest, and where he is least sure of his allies, his communications, and his supplies.

Turkey's Destroyers.

Writing recently in *Le Matin*, General Cherif Pasha criticizes strongly the destroyers of Turkey—that is to say, the Germans and the so-called "Young Turks." We quote the following passage from his article, which is entitled "La Turquie après Trébizonde":—

Les historiens de l'avenir se poseront la question de savoir si, dans la guerre actuelle, c'est l'Allemagne qui a trompé les Jeunes-Turcs ou si ce sont les Jeunes-Turcs qui ont trompé les Allemands. A la vérité, les uns et les autres ont joué un jeu de dupeurs dans la pensée de tirer de leur concours réciproque le plus de profit possible, les Allemands en faveur de leur patrie et les Jeunes-Turcs en faveur de leurs intérêts personnels. On peut donc se demander qui sont les plus infâmes en l'espèce, les suppôts de Talaat ou les diplomates des puissances centrales.

In an interview which he accorded to M. Georges Régnier, of *L'Evenement*, a few days later, Cherif Pasha reverted to the same subject, and amplified his views:—

Sous le déguisement du nationalisme, me dit Chérif pacha, le Comité Union et Progres sème en Turquie la haine non seulement contre l'étranger, mais encore entre les diverses nationalités musulmanes et non musulmanes qui composent l'empire ottoman. Le Comité Union et Progrès se soucie peu de l'intérêt du pays. Le sien passe avant celui de la patrie.

La France et l'Angleterre ont eu l'imprévoyance d'encourager inconsciemment les Unionistes dans leurs appétits. Les hommes politiques de ces deux pays, amis traditionnels et séculaires de la Turquie, se montrèrent enthousiastes du changement de régime, sans prévoir que le despotisme ne ferait que changer de main. Moi-même, j'ai cru pendant quelque temps que l'empire était entré sérieusement, cette fois, dans la voie du progrès et des réformes, et j'ai travaillé au milieu des Unionistes pour l'accomplissement de cet idéal. Mes yeux n'ont pas tardé à être dessillés et j'ai vu que le plus grand souci des dirigeants du Comité Union et Progrès était d'accaparer le pouvoir, de se livrer à des spoliations envers le Trésor et envers les particuliers.

Articles to Note.

"The Dead March of Blood and Iron," in the *Field* (May 20).

"Greece in War Time," in the *Financial News* (May 23).

PERSIA'S FIRST RAILWAY.

"On March 7," writes the U.S. Commercial Attaché in Petrograd, "I had the opportunity of witnessing an extremely important event in the history of Persia—the opening of its first railway, which marked the first important step in the modernisation of this ancient nation. I came to Tabriz, travelling part of the way from the Russian frontier by the new railway, which was almost completed, and part of the way by carriage. Several days after my arrival at Tabriz the railway was completed, and the first train arrived in that city gaily decorated with the flags of Russia and of Persia. Thousands of people, including all the foreign Consuls and other officials in the city, came to witness the entrance of the first train into Tabriz, and there was immense excitement as the blowing of whistles announced its approach. In front of the locomotive was a huge emblem showing the Persian lion with the sword, with the sun in the background. The train consisted only of freight cars, the railway being at present intended not for carrying passengers, but for military purposes

"The great crowds waited to see the train start on its return trip. Through the courtesy of the Russian military authorities, I was permitted to be the first passenger on this first train on its return to the international boundary, one of the freight cars being specially furnished for my accommodation. The train left Tabriz about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and the distance of 93 miles to Julfa, on the Aras River, separating Russian Transcaucasia from Persia, was covered by 5 o'clock the following morning. The trip would have taken three days' travelling by carriage.

"After the train left Tabriz it was interesting to watch the excitement occasioned among the rural population. In the different villages the people climbed up on the roofs of their mud houses to see this great spectacle; it was probably the first time that most of them had ever seen a railway train. The sheep and cattle and teams of horses along the route were greatly terrified.

"When the train crossed the bridge over the Aras River, its trip on the Persian side was ended. As there is railway connection here for Tiflis, and thence for all parts of Russia, there is no reason why it might not be possible for trains to run from any part of Russia to Tabriz, the chief commercial city of Persia. The gauge of the new road is the same as that of the Russian railway system, and the railway is under Russian control and management. Possibly the railway may be extended to Teheran, and thence south-east to Ispahan, in Central Persia, and into Beluchistan, where it could connect up at Nushki with the railway system of British India. The railroad now follows between Julfa and Tabriz the line of the Indo-European telegraph system of India. From the town of Sophian, about 25 miles from Tabriz, a branch of the railway has already been completed to Lake Urmia."

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The news of the week concerns Roumania and the Balkans rather than Egypt, where everything seems to be following the even tenor of its way. As regards Roumania, the phenomenal success of the loan is reported elsewhere, and I agree with our Bucharest Correspondent when he points out that it is a wonderful proof of the economic stability of the country. Until a few years ago little was heard and less understood of the remarkable economic progress of the little kingdom on the Danube. A young country, untried in the arts of modern warfare, and just as inconspicuous in those of diplomacy and finance, it has risen to be a Power to be reckoned with. Its resources are being developed with energy and success: its industries are growing, its wealth is accumulating. Hitherto, owing to its youth rather than to its lack of self-consciousness, it has been financially dependent on the goodwill of Austro-German exploiters, on the forbearance of its neighbours up the Danube. The success of the loan, however, will come as a smack in the eye to the Central Powers, who always thought that in Roumania they had a willing tool. For the first time in her modern history, Roumania has asserted her complete independence of German machinations, and, judging by the Press, enthusiasm reigns in Roumania at the discovery. Since Italy joined us in the fight against the Huns, I do not think that the latter have received a more direct thrust. For their reign of terror, of intrigue, of corruption, and of illicit propaganda in Bucharest has come to an end, killed by Roumania's declaration of her own financial independence.

***

Other news from Roumania includes the running of the first through freight train from Germany to Bucharest. It will be remembered that one of the conditions of Roumania's second grain deal with Germany was that Germany should reciprocate by sending in exchange manufactured goods—at present sorely needed in Roumania—in trucks which were Roumanian property but which had been sequestered by the enemy. The first train, made up at Ratibor, in Silesia, and composed of 33 wagons, duly arrived at the Roumanian frontier, drawn by an engine called the "Carmen Sylva." The Germans and their champions in Roumania seized the opportunity to make a popular demonstration in favour of the Kaiser and his myrmidons. But they reckoned without the Roumanian Government, which promptly prohibited demonstrations of a nature calculated to infringe the sovereign rights of the State. So the Kaiser was not acclaimed!

***

Matters between Roumania and Bulgaria are not so hopeful, from the Bulgarian point of view, as Tontcheff, that arch-liar and paid agent of the Huns, would wish us to believe. He boasted about the conclusion of a Bulgar-Roumanian commercial entente on Roumanian initiative, but he was given the lie direct by Bucharest. This has had a salutary effect for the time being, but I wonder when the little whipper-snapper will bob up again to be again snubbed.

In recent notes, as early as the first meeting of the German Inland Navigation Association, and as recently as last week, I drew attention to the possibilities of a through waterway from the mouth of the Rhine to the mouth of the Danube across Germany and Austria. By a strange coincidence the report is now published of a second meeting of the association in which a resolution was adopted approving the construction of a navigable Rhine-Danube waterway, and urging the Government, in view of the great commercial possibilities of the new waterway from the Atlantic to the Black Sea, to hasten its construction. Whether the Prussian Government will rise to the occasion is not known, but I think it can safely be assumed that it will do so, in which case we must reckon with a prospective cheap transport competitor through the heart of Europe. The matter is not one to be regarded slightingly, though, in spite of our great trade interests, it is likely that the politicians, lawyers, and diplomats who draw up peace terms after the war will fail to realise the importance of the Canal scheme, and will do nothing to insure our interests at both ends of the waterway, namely, in Roumania and Holland. In last week's notes I referred to the changes which ought to be introduced in the Roumanian area—to the greater strength of that country. As regards the Dutch area, foreign to these notes, my only suggestion is that the much vaunted "German Rhine" is *not* German at all, and that the more we can reduce German arrogance on the banks of that river the better for France, Holland, Switzerland—and ourselves.

***

I understand (writes our Bucharest Correspondent) that the Bulgarian Ministry of Finance has approved the Budget of the National Bank for 1916. The Budget allows for expenditure amounting to 4,252,800 lewa on the personnel and 1,800,000 on the general side. Provision is made for an increase of the bank's branches in the Serbian territories now occupied by the enemy. There, prior to the war, the bank had eighteen branches, but arrangements have now been made for the organisation and upkeep of seventy branches. Of course, this economic exploitation of a territory temporarily and treacherously occupied by the enemy is a matter of little or no importance, and will be rapidly cancelled when General Sarrail comes into his own. In the meantime, I have a shrewd suspicion that the Bulgarian bank's activity in Serbia has more to do with rifling the peasantry (and other Serbs) of all their worldly possessions than with the economic development of the country. Because, as I learn from a good source, the Bulgars themselves are not at all convinced that the issue of the war will be in their favour. On the contrary, they are inclined to be despondent.

***

The editor of the *Journal des Balkans*, published in Bucharest, has received from a friend a letter written in one of the belligerent countries, and inscribed "d'une autorité qui ne saurait être soupçonnée." The writer, after devoutly hoping that "Fritz" is going to be punished as he thoroughly deserves, goes on to say (I translate his words textually):—"I am afraid, however, that no civilised nation will ever be able to treat him as he deserves. His most recent way of treating his dead is simply revolting. He sends them in train loads to the rear, nominally to cremate them, but in reality they are cooked, the fat is extracted, transformed by some chemical process into glycerine, and then used in the manufacture of shells! Is it possible to imagine a more ignoble and disgusting action? Dead or alive, Fritz is simply an article of military utility. Happily the dear dead cannot provide the army with cotton."

***

Pending the great international industrial fair which it is suggested should be held after the war in Paris (the Germans and Austrians being barred from exhibiting), the idea of local exhibits is being pushed forward in various countries, Egypt among others. Thus, according to the *Egyptian Gazette*, the Industrial Commission recently appointed by the Government, under the presidency of Sidki Pasha, has decided to organise an "industrial exhibition" in Alexandria, presumably in August next. Emin Yahia Bey, one of the members of the Commission, has been appointed to arrange all preliminary measures, and it is believed that the exhibition will be open at least a month. The exhibits will include all manufactured articles made in Egypt and every kind of raw material produced by the country for industrial purposes. The idea is certainly an excellent one, but unless facilities are given to the merchant importers abroad to visit Alexandria and study the possibilities of the country from a merchant's point of view I fail to see to whom the exhibition will appeal, or how it will benefit Egypt's foreign trade. Apart from this, however, and supposing the above difficulty to have been removed, I should like to make one suggestion, namely, that the Sudan be invited to participate in the exhibition on a generous scale.

***

The torpedoing of three Greek steamers by the Boches in the Mediterranean last week is, let it be hoped, one of the last flaps of the fish tail in the Mediterranean. That the revolting pirates, in their rage at being unable to wound—much less to sink—every British steamer of consequence in the great inland sea, should vent their spleen on small Greek steamers is a natural procedure, but I doubt whether it will have the desired results. The Greeks, be it said in their honour, are fond of their ships, and it is not by destroying them that German prestige will win at the Piræus. Judging from the protest issued by Greek shipowners in that port, it would seem as though the contrary effect has already been achieved.

***

At a public meeting of the Suffolk Herb Growing Association, held at Ipswich recently, the aims of the society were ably exposed by Miss Alice Stanford, who said that it was not until last year that it was discovered how serious was the shortage of drugs, due to the fact that herb-growing had long been practically a monopoly of Central Europe and the Balkans. It was, therefore, incumbent on us to grow our own medicinal herbs, so as to be independent of the foreign, including the Near Eastern market. Most of the herbs necessary for drugs, continued the speaker, were indigenous to England, and the English plants were more profitable from the chemist's view than foreign herbs.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Imperial Institute.

The control of the Imperial Institute will by the new Act which has recently passed through both Houses of Parliament rest with the Colonial Office. The change is explained in detail in the current number of the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*. By the establishment of an Executive Council a Board of Management will be created, which, subject to the control of the Colonial Office, will be responsible for the operations of the Institute. The relationship between the Colonial Office and the Institute will thus be analogous to that between the Colonial Office and a Crown Colony. Matters of important policy will have first to receive the sanction of the Colonial Office, but subject to this the Executive Council will possess a general executive authority.

Some idea of the importance and extraordinary variety of the work which the Institute is asked to perform may be gathered from a perusal of the last annual report, which has just been presented to Parliament and published. This annual report is a mine of information on new or not generally known Colonial and Indian raw materials. Particular success has been achieved by the Technical Information Bureau of the Institute, which forms a kind of agency between the producer in the distant colony and the manufacturer at home. The arrangements for starting this bureau were fortunately so far advanced on the outbreak of war that it was in full operation before the conflict was many weeks old, and was able at once to indicate markets for the many Indian and Colonial raw materials which before the war had gone to Germany.

The following are extracts from the report dealing with our colonies in the Near East. It is regrettable, however, that the report itself does not cover the activities of the Institute in 1915, because of the greater importance of the work done during the past twelve months. It is to be hoped, however, that a further report, dealing with the year in question, will be issued before 1917.

Egypt.

Investigations.—A large number of samples of cotton were examined and reported on during the year. Ten samples, representing earlier and later pickings of different cottons, were of special interest. They were all of satisfactory quality, though the later pickings of each cotton were somewhat inferior to the earlier pickings.

Twenty-two specimens, representing the results of selection experiments, and fifty-six obtained in a series of manurial experiments, were also examined and reported on.

Three samples of sisal hemp were of excellent quality, being comparable with the highest grades of commercial sisal hemp, and represented fibre which would be readily saleable in large quantities.

Three samples of wheat were of qualities suitable for this market.

A report was furnished on the volatile oil obtained from *Santolina Chamæcyparissus*. Specimens of Egyptian henbane (*Hyoscyamus muticus*) and stramonium were under examination at the end of the year.

Inquiries.—Information was supplied as to market conditions in the United Kingdom for the following Egyptian products:—Sisal hemp, wheat, maize, barley, rice, lentils, sesame, ground nuts, and apricot kernels.

A great deal of attention has also been given to the question of creating a market in the United Kingdom for a number of important Egyptian drugs, the trade in which had been allowed to drift into the hands of German merchants before the war. Among these are senna and Egyptian henbane. From the latter the alkaloids atropine and hyoscyamine are prepared. British chemical manufacturers have now been placed in touch with Egyptian exporters of henbane, and it is anticipated that the manufacture of these alkaloids, hitherto mostly carried on in Germany, will be extended in the United Kingdom.

A number of other matters relating to Egypt were dealt with, among which drugs and indigo may be mentioned.

The Sudan.

Investigations.—Fifty-one samples of different varieties of Sudan cotton were examined. The cottons, which represented both Egyptian and American varieties, were all of good quality.

A sample of kapok (*Eriodendron anfractuosum*) consisted of clean, lustrous floss, comparing favourably with a standard commercial sample of Java kapok. A specimen of Ushar floss (*Calotropis procera*) was examined and submitted to commercial experts, who reported that it should be possible to dispose of consignments at satisfactory prices. Information was also supplied as to possible uses for this material.

Leaves of the dom palm (*Hyphæne thebaica*) were examined, and it was found that a very satisfactory paper could be made from them. The leaves were also tried by a manufacturer as a material for the production of braiding for straw hats; he reported that they were satisfactory for that purpose, but the manufacture of braid from them would only be practicable if labour and other conditions would allow of its being undertaken as a local industry in the Sudan. Inquiries on this point are still in progress.

A trial sale consignment of "Sant" pods (*Acacia arabica*) was sold at £7 per ton (February, 1914), and there is little doubt that a regular market could be found in the United Kingdom for this product as a tanning material.

A trial consignment of Ceara and Landolphia rubbers was sold through brokers at 1s. 9½d. per lb., with fine hard Para at 3s. 0½d., and first quality plantation Para at 2s. 4⅞d. per lb.

Other materials from the Sudan dealt with during the year included sugar-cane, frankincense, and pearl shells; a supply of Sudan pearls was being dealt with at the close of the year, and volatile oil from *Cymbopogon senaarensis* grass was being fully examined.

Inquiries.—Information was supplied to inquirers regarding a number of Sudan products, including senna, gums, sant pods and other tanning materials, ground nuts, dura, hides, and skins. The attention of British merchants and manufacturers was drawn, by means of a notice issued to the Press, to a number of Sudan products capable of replacing similar materials, the supply of which from the usual sources had become restricted owing to the war. The interest of a number of firms in the United Kingdom was aroused, and several, at their request, were placed in communication with exporters in the Sudan. It is understood that this action has already resulted in increased trade in Sudan produce with the United Kingdom.

Exhibits.—The reorganisation and development of the Sudan Court has been proceeded with. A series of photographic transparencies has been fitted in the windows of the Court, and a number of large photographic pictures, framed and glazed, have been added. The scale-model of Port Sudan has been completed and placed in the centre of the Court.

The Sudan Government exhibit at the Fourth Rubber and Allied Industries Exhibition has been installed in the Court.

The glazed screen carrying the plans of Khartoum and Omdurman was lent to the Victoria League for display at a Town Planning Exhibition held at the Imperial Institute during May. A collection of typical Sudan products was prepared for exhibition at the Bristol International Exhibition, 1914.

Somaliland.

Investigations.—Among the Somaliland products examined were crude petroleum, a series of minerals, specimens of *Calotropis procera* and *Acacia arabica*, gum from the last-named plant, and bast fibre from the Galol acacia.

At the close of the year samples of salt were under examination.

Inquiries.—Information was supplied regarding the cultivation of date palms.

Exhibits.—A case containing a number of samples of Somaliland produce was in course of arrangement at the end of the year.

Cyprus.

Investigations.—A sample of salt from the Salt Lake at Larnaca was analysed, and a report furnished to the High Commissioner. A memorandum on the refining and marketing of this salt was in preparation at the close of the year.

A sample of barley, forwarded from Cyprus with a view to ascertaining its suitability for malting, was regarded by commercial experts as of good quality for that purpose. It contained a low percentage of nitrogen, which is a good feature in malting barley.

Inquiries.—Among inquiries relating to Cyprus products which were dealt with, Cyprus origanum oil may be specially mentioned. This oil contains carvacrol, which possesses antiseptic properties similar to those of thymol, and it was suggested that in view of the shortage of the latter material owing to the war, carvacrol might be prepared from the oil for use as a substitute.

Exhibits.—The exhibits received during the year for the Cyprus Court comprised carobs, olive oil, cotton and cotton yarns, soy beans, orange oil, and silk. The representation of Cyprus products in the Court has been much improved by the addition of these samples.

***Regarding Cyprus salt, this product has for a long time been extracted for local use in Cyprus. It is obtained from two salt lakes, and is a Government monopoly. There is no regular market outside the island at present for the crude salt, though a certain quantity was exported to Turkey and Bulgaria before the war. The result of the examination of Cyprus salt at the Imperial Institute alluded to above has proved very satisfactory, and it is now considered that when refined it should, at a suitable price, find a ready market in the salt-importing countries along the Mediterranean, and possibly in India and East Africa.

SINKING OF GREEK SHIPS.

Reuter reported from Athens on Wednesday that the torpedoing of the two Greek steamers Adamantios Korais and Anastassios Coroneos by Austro-German submarines had caused indignation in Greek maritime circles. The Piræus shipowners held a meeting on Tuesday and sent a telegram to the Premier protesting against the unjustified torpedoing of Hellenic steamers, and begging the Government to make representations to the German Government.

*** Since the above message was despatched, news has been received in London of the sinking of another Greek steamer by the Huns, namely, the s.s. Istros. She was sunk by a submarine off Tarragona. The captain states that three sailing ships were also sunk by the same submarine. The crew of the Istros have been saved.

The *Times* City Editor, commenting on the sinking of the above three Greek steamers, says that underwriters have not failed to note it. Until lately Greek steamers seemed to have charmed lives, and a discrimination of about 10s. per cent. in the rate of war risk premium was made in their favour. Now that the enemy seems to be treating them in the same way as other neutrals, underwriters are no longer disposed to discriminate.

Latest news concerning the steamers sunk states that the crew of the Anastassios Coroneos, previously reported sunk, have been saved.

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Mineral Wealth of Asia Minor

On Wednesday last Dr. Soll, the German Secretary of State for the Colonies (sic) delivered a lecture in Berlin on Germany's colonial policy, and came to the conclusion that "the original reasons for an active German colonial policy not only still exist, but have even become more weighty." In continuation he stated (1) that "supremacy of the seas is not an absolutely necessary preliminary condition for the possession of colonies," and (2) that "an inter-Continental economic union between Berlin and Baghdad would prove an important adjunct to Germany's Colonial Empire."

The "adjunct" in question, namely, Asiatic Turkey, is remarkably wealthy in more ways than one. The natural resources of the country are both agricultural and mineral. As regards the latter, attention can be appropriately drawn now to an article by Leon Dominian, of New York, on the "Distribution of Mineral Products and Railways in Asia Minor," which appeared, together with an excellent map, in *Cartographic Documents of Economic Geography* (Geographischer Kartenverlag, Bern), No. 2, 1913. A perusal of the expert's opinion anent the mineral resources of Asia Minor will enable us to realize more fully why Germany desires to make the region in question and "adjunct" to its obliterated Colonial Empire. We, therefore, reproduce the following extracts:—

Coal.

Coal is of widespread occurrence in Asia Minor. The north-westernmost projection of Asia Minor forms part of a district wherein lignite deposits have been worked in a number of localities The lignitic beds occur mostly in Tertiary lacustrine deposits and appear to belong to a zone of transition between the Miocene and the Pliocene. A typical deposit is worked at Manjilik. The seams outcrop here for a distance of 4 kms. The product is used as fuel for an electric power station feeding the smelter and workings of the Balia lead silver mines. The Lampsacus seams have not been mined. In the Troad, this variety of coal is extracted near Edremid. Farther south at the short distance from Soma, the terminal of a branch line from Manissa, a fair quantity has been mined on a small scale. Lignite outcrops are also known at Demirtash, 20 kms. north of Brusa. The most westerly extension of this Tertiary lignite is found in the mountains environing Chai near Afiunkarahissar. The thickness of the coal here attains 2 m.

A number of seams are known to occur in the region extending east of the 34th meridian east of Greenwich to the Russian and Persian boundaries. In the Erzeroum province an attempt has been made to mine lignite in the past few years. About 1,000 tons are produced annually from various localities. The south-western coast of Asia Minor with its hinterland does not appear to be devoid of coal. In the province of Smyrna, the Sokia and Nazili beds have been developed for local use. Coal was mined about half a century ago in the northern section of Mesopotamia, near Jesireh. Some work was also undertaken in the Hamrin mountains. The deposits near Mosul have not been worked. In the hills lying east of Kifri, the natives indulge in occasional desultory exploitation of this fuel: In Syria and the Lebanon a number of native exploitations are encountered. Some of these were undertaken to supply the small silk factories with fuel.

The best developed Turkish coalfield is found at Heraclea. The coal is bituminous and occurs in a belt about 60 kms. in length. The coalbeds outcrop near the coast. They overlie carboniferous limestones and are in turn unconformably overlaid by cretaceous beds of great thickness. The output for 1912 from this field exceeded 700,000 m.t. It is expected that it will attain 1,000,000 m.t. before long. Occurrences of bituminous coals are also reported from the eastern section of the peninsula. The district between Lake Van and the Persian frontier appears to be favoured in this respect.

Gold.

Very little gold is produced at present. The precious metal is known to occur at Serjiller, south of the Dardanelles. The abundance of gold jewellery found in the excavations on the site of the several cities of Troy indicates a large production from near by localities. An ancient locality which was famed for the gold mines in its vicinity is Astyra, the site of which is now marked by mines which existed already at the time of Strabo's explorations. This geographer refers to numerous traces of ancient workings. At this point modern geologists have detected in this locality. Tertiary igneous rocks in which the presence and successions of rhyolites, andesites, and basalts are remarkably similar to the sequence of events observable in certain districts of the Great Basin region, such as the south-western portion of Nevada, where much gold has been recovered from the subsoil.

The valleys of the Hermos and the Pactolus in Anatolia* have been the site of ancient placer mines. How prolific in their yield of the precious metal the banks of these rivers must have been may be inferred from the frequent allusions in ancient literature to the gold-bearing sands of the district, which is known as the valley of the Gedis river. In recent times peasants living in the vicinity of Boz Dagh make a scanty livelihood by washing the gravels brought down by the rivers.

Throughout the nineteenth century small quantities of gold were mined intermittently from the Bulgar Dagh workings. This is a region which bids fair to become the site of heavy producers of gold, silver and lead.

Lead and Silver.

The best developed silver-lead mines are found near Balia, at a distance of about 100 kms. from the sea. The ore occurs in a contact-zone between Tertiary augite, andesite and carboniferous limestone. The contact-zone varies between 2 and 5 mts. in width. The limestone at the contact is silicified, but barren. In the andesite, on the other hand, are found accumulations of pure galena, which seem to be connected with fissures parallel to the contact-zone. The ores carry galena, blende, and pyrite, and contain on an average from 16 to 20 per cent. Pb and 8 per cent. Zn.

Copper.

The existence of a rich belt along the eastern portion of the Black Sea shore is suspected between Fatissa Bay and Trebizond. A good deal of exploration work has been undertaken in that region, which is thickly studded with old workings. The Argana mines in the basin of the Upper Tigris are favourably known. From all accounts very high-grade ore is mined at this point within an area 12 kms. square. The deposit is known to have been exploited since the year 1096 A.D.

Manganese

A notable quantity of pyrolusite is mined from the Phlinika district. Producer of the ore assays 52 per cent. Mn. At the Zengan mines the Mn contents attain 83 per cent. This ore is also known to occur near the Russian frontier in the eastern Pontic area.

Antimony.

The two important centres of production are Odemish and Jinlikaya. High grade ore often carrying as much as 65 per cent. antimony is found in both. At Jinlikaya the veins occur cutting through crystalline schists. Shipments are made chiefly to England by way of Smyrna.

Chrome.

Asia Minor has contributed largely to the world's supply of chrome ore. The Turkish ores are soft, rich in chromic oxide, have a low silica content, and are free from objectionable impurities. Although the production has fallen off in recent years, the mineral is of widespread occurrence in Anatolia.

Borax.

Extensive beds of pandermite, a massive and not entirely pure variety of colemanite are mined at Sultanchair. The mines lie on the mail-route leading from Panderma harbour to Balikesser. The pandermite occurs in Tertiary sedimentaries lying in a basin surrounded by steep hills of gabbro, granite, and crystalline schist. The productive beds consist of a brownish to bluish-gray gypsum, containing nodules of variable sizes dispersed within the gypsum, and forming from 10 to 20 per cent. of the aggregate mass.

Emery.

The production of emery from Asia Minor and the islands of the Ægean Sea practically constitute the bulk of the world's supply. The output of the former exceeds that of the latter. The mines lie in a belt extending south and south-east of Smyrna. The ore is found in lumps up to 15 cm. in diameter embedded in a red-brown clay and associated with calcite.

Meerschaum.

The plains near Eskichehir constitute one of the most important localities in the world from which this hydrous silicate of magnesium is mined. The meerschaum district extends from the town of Eskichthir almost due eastward to the city of Angora. The mines lie at a distance of about 22 km. from the railroad station to which the ore is packed by camel trains. The two chief producing mines are those of Sarasu and Sepki. The deposit occurs in a valley filled with drift material from the surrounding mountains. The sepiolite is scattered through the drift in rounded nodular masses with fragments of magnesian and hornblendic rocks. As a rule the nodules do not exceed 10 cm. in diameter, but a few attain larger dimensions. In the raw condition the mineral is soft, light and non-transparent. The colour is white with occasional blending of yellow, red or gray. The thickness of the meerschaum-bearing strata varies between 30 and 40 mts.

Mercury.

Two deposits of cinnabar are worked at present. The Karaburmu mines situated about 30 km. from the town of Smyrna produce about 3,000 flasks annually. The deposit lies in the vicinity of basaltic flows and consists of metamorphic silicious schists impregnated with cinnabar. Mining is done entirely in open-cuts on ores containing as little as 0.25 per cent. Hg. When sorted, the cinnabar appears to be concentrated in the fine, and the ore is accordingly screened. The concentrated assay from 0.75 to 2 per cent. Hg. The plant at the mine comprises two double Spirek tower-furnaces for broken ore and a Cermak-Spirek furnace for fine. This installation has a capacity of thirty tons per day. The other deposit occurs in the vicinity of Konia. Here the ore is found in veinlets, nodules, and small particles, in a crystalline limestone close to schist, at no great distance from old eruptives. The mineral appears to be present whenever the limestone becomes silicified. Some stibnite is associated with the cinnabar.

Other minerals have also been mined or are known to exist in various districts of Asia Minor. Arsenical pyrite has been found near the Odemish deposits. Lithographic stone occurs in extensive massive beds north of Mihailich, also east of Kimasti and south of Abulonia Lake. Iron is formed in almost every district. The region east of Adalia Bay may soon become the site of exploitation.

Although it is difficult to obtain statistics in Turkey, the following table reveals the approximate yearly production of the more important ores mined in Asia Minor:—

Kind of Ore.	Production.
Antimony ore	1,500 met. tons.
Asphalt	7,000 ,,
Bituminous coal	730,000 ,,
Boracite	16,000 ,,
Chrome ore	15,000 ,,
Copper	1,500 ,,
Emery ore	15,000 ,,
Gold	45 kgs.
Iron pyrite	20,000 met. tons.
Lead	13,000 ,,
Lignite	30,000 ,,
Manganese ore	12,000 ,,
Meerschaum	250 ,,
Mercury	4,500 flasks.
Silver	250 kgs.
Zinc Ore	2,000 met tons.

Oil.

Noteworthy is the N.S. spread of an oil-bearing region which extends from the Black Sea to the Persian Gulf, and which is particularly well defined throughout its southern section—along the Turco-Persian boundary.

* The term Anatolia is employed here in the sense generally accorded to it by European writers, and whereby it refers to the Western section of Asia Minor. The Turkish name "Anadolu" is used, however, by the Turks and Turkish-speaking races to designate the entire peninsula.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

H.M. Consul at Cairo has forwarded conditions of a contract in connection with a call for tenders by the Egyptian Ministry of Finance for the supply of stationery articles required for the use of the various Government Administrations during the year 1916-17, including pencils, penholders, pen wipers, pins, gum, paper clips, sealing wax, ink, etc. Copies of the conditions and form of tender may be obtained from the "Economat Central, Ministère des Finances," Cairo, at which address also sealed tenders, made out on the proper form and accompanied by samples (in duplicate) of the goods it is proposed to supply, will be received up to noon on June 1.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-18). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Date, June 1.

The Superintendent of Stores, Ministry of Education, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 10,000 dozens of Arabic reed pens required for the school year 1916-17. Persons unable to tender for the supply of the total quantity required may submit tenders for any substantial portion thereof. Date, May 31.

Tenders will be received up to June 10 for the supply and delivery of linen and table requisites, including towels, linen sheets, tulle for mosquito-nets, tape, blankets, plates, dishes, tumblers, cups and saucers, spoons, carafes, serviette rings, salt-cellars, sugar-basins, and metal knives. Samples may be inspected and the *cahier des charges* and form of tender obtained at the Central Stores, Ministry of Education, Darb el Gamamiz, Cairo. Sealed tenders, accompanied by a deposit of 2 per cent. or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent. of the value of the offer, will be received up to the date mentioned above at the Central Stores, Minstry of Education, Cairo. A copy of the *cahier des charges*, etc., may be inspected by United Kingdom manufacturers of the above-mentioned goods at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The Ministry of War, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 750 lamps, candle, with globes, and 1,000 globes, spare, for them, at the Citadel Stores, Cairo. Date, June 1.

The Ministry of War, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 4,000 tins of petroleum at the Citadel Stores, Cairo, and 300 tins to be handed over to the Stores Officer, Egyptian Army, at Alexandria; also 1,600 gallons of petroleum in bulk at Cairo. Date, June 15.

Notice is given in the *Official Journal* that the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief has appointed Mr. E. D. Joyce, of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Alexandria, to be receiver of the business and property in Egypt of the "Prima Fabbrica Birra di Graz," with power to take all such measures as are necessary to liquidate the business, which he is hereby required to do with as little delay as possible. The Receiver will take legal proceedings, where necessary, for the recovery of debts or otherwise, and will realize by sale, in such manner as the licensing officer may direct, all the assets in Egypt of the above business.

Notice is given that the licences granted to the Deutsches Kohlen Depot, Port Said, and Mr. Jacob Lanz, Alexandria, have been withdrawn. Further, that the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief has appointed Mr. F. Lloyd Jones, of Port Said, receiver of the business in Egypt of the Deutsches Kohlen Depot, with instructions to liquidate the same.

Greece.

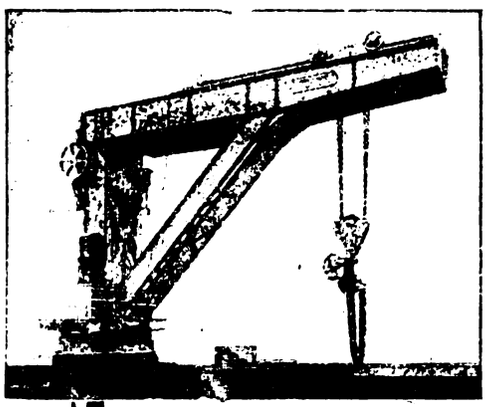
H.M. Consul at Piræus has forwarded to the Board of Trade a copy of the "Greek Government Gazette" (No. 63) of March 30/April 12, containing the text of an agreement, in the French language, made between the Greek Government and an American steel company, concerning the supply of rails, sleepers, and accessories for the Greek railway between Papapouli and Topsin, now in course of construction. Attached to the agreement is a schedule of the various materials required. United Kingdom manufacturers may consult the above-mentioned "Gazette" at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Cyprus.

Tenders are invited by the Government for the making of approximately fifty-four winter and fifty-four summer uniforms. The winter uniforms to be delivered not later than September 15, 1916, the summer uniforms not later than March 15, 1917.

The uniforms should consist of the following:—

Winter Uniforms.—Serge coat and waist-



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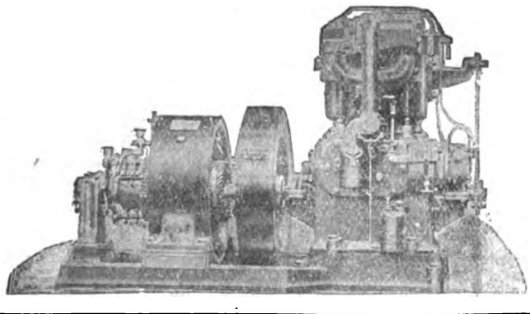

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coat, coat to be lined (serge and buttons supplied by Government); corduroy riding breeches (corduroy supplied by Government).

Summer Uniforms.—Khaki coat, coat *not* to be lined (khaki and buttons supplied by Government); khaki riding breeches (khaki supplied by Government).

All other material, such as knee buttons for riding breeches, linings, etc., required for the making of the uniforms, should form part of the cost of making, and should, therefore, be included in the tendered price.

All tenders should be sealed, and should be addressed to the President of the Tender Board, the Office of the Treasurer, Nicosia. Tenders should be marked "Tender for Uniforms, Treasury Department," in the left-hand top corner of the envelope, and should reach the Office of the Treasurer not later than 11 a.m. on June 8, 1916.

THE EDFOU COAL DISCOVERY.

According to the *Egyptian Gazette*, the recently reported discovery of coal beds in the vicinity of Edfou appears to be more important than was at first supposed. The Government has taken up the question very seriously, and has appointed (as previously announced in THE NEAR EAST) Mr. Wells, formerly Director-General of the Mines Department in Egypt, to make a complete study of the district and report on the extent of the coal beds, the nature of the coal found there, and other necessary details. A special credit of £E5,000 has been earmarked by the Ministry of Finance for this work, and it is expected that Mr. Wells will be able to complete his investigations and submit his report on them within the next two or three months.

The first coal bed was discovered by one of the officials of the Survey Department in the close vicinity of Edfou Town, at a depth of only 30 ft. Other shafts have now been sunk a few hundred yards distant, and the work is being carried out in a most energetic manner.

THE EGYPTIAN SMALLHOLDER.

The following amendments (in French) to the law governing the inviolability of the Egyptian smallholder appears in the *Official Journal* of April 10:—

NOUS, SULTAN D'EGYPTE.—Vu le Décret en date du 14 juin 1883, portant réorganisatiou des Tribunaux Indigènes: Vu la Loi no. 4 de 1913 instituant l'insaisissabilité de la petite propriété agricole. Sur la proposition de Notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de Notre Conseil des Ministres. Décrétons:—

ARTICLE PREMIER.—Le dernier alinéa de l'article 2 de la Loi no. 4 de 1913 sus-visée est remplacé par la disposition suivante:—

"Les créanciers originaires ou substitués pourront, sans perdre le bénéfice de la réserve établie en leur faveur, consentir au débiteur, même par substitution d'un titre nouveau au titre originaire, un ou plusieurs renouvellements ou prorogations de terme, pourvu que la dernière échéance ne soit pas reportée au delà de cinq années après la date fixée par le titre originaire et que le titre originaire soit représenté et porte mention du renouvellement avec indication précise du ou des titres nouveaux."

OIL MONOPOLY IN ROUMANIA.

In view of the artificial rise in the price of petroleum since the beginning of the war, the Roumanian Government on several occasions vainly asked the producers, mainly firms worked by German capital, to make a reduction in their prices. Owing to their refusal, and in face of strong pressure, the Minister of Industry has fixed a maximum price for the sale in Roumania of petroleum and of its products. Writing in the *Independence Roumaine*, M. Vintilia Bratiano, the Premier's brother, and leader of the movement, for the financial and economic independence of Roumania, openly advocates the institution of a petroleum monopoly, without which, he says, according to Reuter, the economic emancipation of Roumania is impossible.

A special service for the general census of the population of Egypt has been created in the Ministry of Finance. The Controller, Statistical Department, is placed in charge.

Engineering Notes.

Bulgarian Railways.

The Bulgarian Government has decided that the Ferre-Oksilar Railway, which formerly was in French possession, is to pass under the Bulgarian State management. This means, says *Engineering*, that, as the Svilengrad-Kuheli, Burgas-Dedeagatch line of 186 kilometres length was taken over by the State last October, all the Bulgarian railways are now being worked by the State. The two lines Ferre-Oksidar (158 kilometres) and the Dedeagatch line (9.3 kilometres) form a section of the so-called connection line Salonika-Constantinople, which originally was built by the Turks for strategical purposes. With the two new lines the extended Bulgarian railway system has an aggregate length of 2,560 kilometres, normal gauge, besides a normal-gauge industrial railway from the Sindel station, on the Rustchuk-Varna line, to the Tsali-Meschle station, in the interests of the timber of the district.

The Salonika Zeppelin.

Reuter's News Agency sends the following particulars of the Zeppelin brought down at Salonika, which are alleged to be official:—"The vessel was No. Z85, and was built at the latter end of 1915. Her length was 170 metres (560 ft.), and she had four engines, each of 100 h.p. Her speed was 95 kilometres (60 miles) an hour. The tanks held 2,500 litres of petrol. She was recently engaged in bombing Riga, Minsk, and Dvinsk, and attempted at the end of February and in the middle of March to approach Salonika, but was driven off near the frontier. The Zeppelin was hit three times, once in the reservoir, once in a balloonet, and once near the stern." There seems to be some mistake about the engine power, says *Aeroplane*, as 180-200 h.p. Maybach motors are standard, and 400 h.p. would not produce 60 miles per hour. Also, she was probably "LZ85"—that is to say, the eighty-fifth Zeppelin built, according to shop numbers. "Z85" would be the military number, and it is impossible that the German Army alone should own eighty-five airships of Zeppelin class. [There is no reason why the German Army should not be in possession of eighty-five Zeppelin airships at the present time.—ED.]

Projected Union of the Rhine with the Danube.

In last week's "Notes" reference was made to a contemplated international conference in Vienna concerning the Danube navigation. The subject is, of course, of great importance to Germany and her schemes in connection with the Central European Commercial Union; but it is, at the same time, an international matter concerning the rival interests of Austrian, Hungarian, and German towns on the Danube. If any new regulations are voted at this Conference altering the *status quo ante bellum* on the Lower Danube, such regulations will be of no value without the consent of Great Britain, France, and Russia. Of more general and greater importance at present, in view of the Allies' preparations for a trade war, is the project which, according to the American Consul at Brunswick, is being considered for the improvement and extension of the German canal system. At a recent meeting of the Central Association for German Inland Navigation, the second held since the outbreak of war, a large part of the session was devoted to the consideration of two important waterways. These are the Danube-Oder Canal and the great project of the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal. After a thorough discussion of the commercial and other advantages of these canals, and their possible profits, a resolution was adopted approving the construction of a navigable Rhine-Danube waterway, regarded as essential to the promotion of Germany's foreign commerce. It is further suggested to open up in connection with the western canals a north-west and south-east route. The enterprise is recommended because a Rhine-Danube canal can be technically carried out, and its geographical course will assure Germany a commercial route, which cannot be blockaded or cut off in war, and in time of peace will provide the most effective means for the strengthening of middle European commerce. It is obvious how this new waterway will affect British trade with Southern Russia, the Near East, and even Middle East. Heavy goods, such as engines, machinery, etc., will not be sent by rail to Hamburg or Trieste to be shipped for those regions, but by this new waterway, viâ the Rhine, the Danube, and the Black Sea, will reach their destination at, undoubtedly, very cheap rates.

The Importance of the Danube.

The Danube is the second largest river in Europe. It rises in the Black Forest, is 1,740 miles long, and has over 400 tributaries. Its delta on the Roumanian coast is enormous, two of the mouths in the Black Sea being sixty miles apart. For centuries this river has been the path for conquering nations; the Huns, Slavs, Magyars, and Turks poured from the East, only to be thrust back again slowly by the advance from the West of the Romans, Franks, and Bavarians. For centuries, again, the trade of Central Europe concentrated along this natural commercial route, the chief connecting link between East and West. The Danube is navigable from Ulm, the manufacturing town of Wurtemberg, where 100-ton boats begin to ply; but from Passau, on the Austrian frontier, larger boats, carrying passengers and cargoes, run to Linz, Vienna, Pressburg, Buda-Pest, and other secondary towns eastwards. The two dangerous spots of the river—the Strudel and Wirbel whirlpools, near Grein, and the rapids at the Iron Gates—have been scientifically harnessed, the former by blasting away some of the rocks in the stream, and the latter by diverting the river into a new channel, opened at enormous cost in 1893. To what importance, therefore, this natural commercial route will rise when it is linked with the Rhine, which runs through the most important manufacturing centres of Germany, is too obvious to be emphasised.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, May 25.

Currants.

There has been a steady demand for all qualities this past week, but a shortness of supply of almost all kinds is evident, whilst provincial in bags and smalls are very scarce. Reports from Greece concerning the prospects of the new crop are very unfavourable. Prices of all grades are unchanged.

Sultanas.

Only small business done during the week, mostly in Greek and Afghan fruit, at steady rates, the demand being generally for immediate requirements.

Figs.

The demand is moderate, but the market is steady, all transactions being effected at full prices.

Dates.

There is a better demand, with a tendency for higher prices for Khadrawi and Siar.

Seeds.

Linseed is stead. London-Calcutta spot is quoted 73s., afloat 72s. 6d. May-June and June-July also 72s. 6d.; Bombay ordinary, May-June, 74s.; small grain, 73s.; La Plata-Hull, May-June, 69s. Rapeseed is quiet. Toria, May-June to Hull, 68s. 6d. Cotton-seed is firm. London Egyptian, May, is quoted at £14 10s. and Sakeloviedes £14 ton.

Oils.

Linseed oil is quiet, spot pipes being quoted £35 5s., barrels ditto £36 5s., landed terms. Rape oil is very quiet. Ordinary brown, naked, spot, £49; English refined, barrels, £52 to £53. Cotton oil is well maintained. Crude, spot, in pipes, £45 5s.; refined pale, pipes, £49 10s.; and barrels, sweet, £54 to £55 as to make.

Oilcakes.

Egyptian oilcakes are very scarce, while for June shipments £9 17s. 6d. to £10 is asked, ex ship. English are in very small supply, and firmly held at £10 18s. 6d. to £10 10s. per ton. Linseed cakes are in scarcity both for foreign and home-made descriptions, and owing to a better inquiry quotations are 10s. per ton higher since last week. Best London made is selling at £12 15s. to £13, ex mill, while fine quality Calcuttas are held at £13 to £13 5s. per ton.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
BUCHAREST, May 2.

Cattle Contraband.

The contraband of cattle, which took place on such a large scale all through last year, and caused a loss to the country which is now making itself heavily felt, has ceased completely, it is said, since the new prohibitive law has come into force. This law inflicts heavy punishment upon contraveners, and renders compulsory the registration of all cattle in the districts contiguous to the frontier, so as to enable the Government to requisition the same at a moment's notice.

Bulgarian Tobacco.

Some time ago a Commission was sent to Sofia for the purpose of acquiring a stock of Macedonian tobacco for Roumania. The Commission has now returned, having completely failed in its mission in consequence of the ill-will of the Bulgarian officials and the difficulties created by them. It is reported that the Roumanian Government has decided to prohibit the passage through the country of goods destined for Bulgaria until the Bulgarians consent to provide Roumania with the tobacco she requires.

Export of Grain.

The Central Commission of Exports met to-day under the presidency of M. Constantinescu, Minister of Domains and Agriculture. In order to assure the necessary supply of cereals for internal consumption, the Commission resolved to annul all individual permits for the export of Indian corn. Agriculturists and merchants owning such permits have to notify the quantity of grain of which they dispose, in which case they will be allowed to participate in the second Austro-German sale.

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COMPANY REPORTS.

Land and Mortgage of Egypt.

The report of the directors for the year ended March 31 last states that the gross earnings amount to £32,690. Deducting total expenditure, including interest on debenture bonds and debenture stock, £27,794, the net earnings are £4,896; add brought forward, £6,550, the balance carried forward is £11,446.

North British and Mercantile.

Though the Life business of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company no more escaped the adverse influences of war conditions last year than that of other offices, the management is able to report extremely satisfactory results in practically all other departments. The Fire branch makes a particularly fine showing. The premium revenue at £2,146,800 approximates remarkably to that for 1914, which amounted to £2,146,300, but the claims dropped from £1,407,500 to £1,097,200, representing a decline in the loss ratio from 65.57 to 51.10 per cent. This is the best outcome of trading since 1909, when the ratio was 50 per cent., and how favourably it compares with the general experience of the company can be seen from the average for the decade, which works out at 56.70 per cent. In the Life department new proposals completed fell from £2,259,100 to £1,324,700, a decrease rather above the average registered by most offices. The increase in death claims, however, was below the general average, the payments going up from £820,300 to £948,200. The war was responsible for £153,600 of the latter and for £79,600 of the former sum. Thus but for these exceptional obligations the mortality rate would have been gratifyingly low last year. Annuity and sinking fund business was also smaller. In the Accident department, in which the Railway Passengers Company operates, premium revenue amounted to £399,300, or within £20,900 of that secured in 1914, while claims went down from £182,300 to £160,600, every section exhibiting a decline. The Marine branch, represented by the Ocean Marine Company, likewise did astonishingly well, premium income rising from £309,700 to £429,700, and claims from £120,900 to only £173,300, a much less proportionate advance. The final result of 1914 underwriting now brought to account is £57,600, as compared with £40,100 in respect of 1913. Assuming the total loss ratio to be the same for 1915 as for 1914, the eventual profit for the past year should be about £150,000.—*Financial Times.*

Indo-European Telegraph.

The report of the Indo-European Telegraph Company for 1915 states that owing to the continued interruption of the company's route during the whole of the year the actual receipts were confined to local traffic. In consequence of the war it has been impossible to make final arrangements for the re-establishment of the route. Under the existing arrangements with other companies and administrations, this company's receipts for 1915 have not been prejudicially affected, but the directors foresee a diminution in the receipts for 1916. The directors hope shortly to conclude an agreement for the acquisition of a substantial interest in a prominent manufacturing firm under which that firm will manufacture and develop apparatus for radio-telegraphic transmission and reception covered by the several patents now owned by the company; these will under the proposed agreement be transferred to that firm. The revenue from message account and other sources amounts to £204,190, an increase of £14,806. The expenses are, on commercial and general account £58,442, and on maintenance account £23,776, making £82,218, a decrease of £6,177. The revenue account therefore shows a balance of £121,972, which is carried to profit and loss account, 1915, and after deduction of income-tax and payment of excess profits duty for 1914 is reduced to £101,705. To this is added the balance brought forward of £20,592, making £122,297. Deducting £35,000 provided for investment fluctuations, £15,000 provided towards excess profits duty for 1915, and the interim dividend of £10,625, there remains £61,672. An interim dividend of £2 12s. 6d. per share was recently paid. This payment, amounting to £44,625, the shareholders will be asked to confirm in the form of a final dividend and bonus of £1 17s. 6d. per share, amounting to £31,875, with a special distribution of 15s. per share, all free of tax, amounting to £12,750. The latter sum is derived from interest on unappropriated investments and advance accounts, and it would be necessary to provide out of profit only £31,875, by which sum, therefore, the balance of £61,672 above referred to would be reduced. It is proposed to provide a further £10,000 for wireless and other technical development work, carrying forward £19,797.

TURKISH LAW OF SECURITIES.

The law passed by the Ottoman Parliament on January 27, 1916, regarding the interest and amortisation of securities held by the nationals of enemy States and their Allies, and also of neutral States, contains, among others, the following provisions:—

"The interest and amortisation of loans and Treasury notes issued by the Government or by municipalities, and which are owned either by individuals or corporations of the nationality of the enemy States and their Allies, will not be paid from October 15-28, 1914, until the restoration of peace. In like manner Ottoman joint-stock companies are forbidden to pay during the said period and to the said nationals the interest, amortisation, and income of shares, bonds, and other obligations which they have issued. Nevertheless, the said companies, upon an order to be given by the Ministry of Finance, will be obliged to deposit, in a bank designated by the Government, the amount of the said interest, amortisation, and income. Companies which fail to observe this law will be liable to punishment.

"The interest and amortisation of loans and Treasury notes, which are in the possession of the nationals of neutral States, will be paid at Constantinople, at the Ministry of Finance, except that the interest and amortisation of loans which the Imperial Government contracted in Germany and in Austria-Hungary will, in conformity with the former obligations and agreements, continue to be paid in the established places, except in enemy countries.

"The manner in which the nationality of the holders and the mode in which they acquire possession of these securities is to be established will be determined by a special regulation."

THE ROUMANIAN LOAN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 2.

The Roumanian Government have issued their loan of an unlimited amount. The National Bank has underwritten 50,000,000 lei and other local banks 100,000,000 lei. The loan, bearing interest at 5 per cent., is issued at 84. The lists open on May 4, new style, and close on May 18, but the Minister of Finance can close them before that date if he thinks fit. Financial circles are sanguine as to the results, and it is believed that the subscriptions will total 200 to 250 million lei.

The object of the loan is to repay the National Bank part of the money borrowed against Treasury bills, so as to reduce its circulation of bank notes.

The Public and the Loan.

May 3.

"It is the duty of every Roumanian to subscribe to the public loan." Such is the motto adopted throughout the country, not only by the Press, but by many State institutions. The public has the impression that it is, by subscribing to the loan, participating in a national and patriotic work, and this attitude is warmly encouraged by the Press, for the papers, regardless of their political colour, not only reproduce a full-page prospectus in every copy printed, but offer their readers daily leaders and articles on the subject. In shop windows the prospectus is posted up so as to attract the eyes of those who pass. Rich and poor alike are urged to bring their economies to swell the amount of the loan, for thus, they are told, will they best proclaim Roumania's financial independence before the world.

Facts such as the following may be mentioned as evidence of the popularity of the loan. The committee of the Union of Native Israelites has published a warm appeal to all Jews born in the country to subscribe to the public loan. The Apothecaries' Bank makes known to all chemists and druggists that it receives subscriptions, pointing out that it is the duty of the pharmaceutical and medical corps to support the project. His Holiness the Metropolitan Pimen of Moldavia has addressed a circular to the priests of his diocese calling upon them all to subscribe a sum, however small, and urging them to use their influence in the same sense among their parishioners.

Initial Success.

May 9.

One hundred and seventy-seven million lei were subscribed by the Roumanian people on the very day that the subscription was opened. His Majesty King Ferdinand personally subscribed to nearly one and a-quarter million lei. On the second day the total subscriptions rose to 220,000,000 lei, and by the end of the third day the total is said to have attained the imposing figure of 250,000,000 lei, or 10,000,000 sterling.

In financial circles people had been sanguine as to the result from the first. A leading Bucharest banker with whom I conversed on the subject was of opinion that the figure might ultimately reach 200,000,000 or 250,000,000 lei. But the call of the State for subscriptions has been responded to in a measure so generous that now, on the third day of the loan (for the two intervening holidays cannot be counted), the higher of these two figures has already been attained.

Many agriculturists were unable to subscribe, for they are still awaiting payment for

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

Head Office: ATHENS.

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the cereals sold to the Austro-German consortium and the British Bureau. Had the loan been delayed until after the execution of these contracts the amounts subscribed would, without a doubt, have been considerably greater. Nevertheless, and as matters now stand, we are in a much better position to form an opinion regarding Roumania's financial situation, which is in every way excellent. Moreover, the sums due from the two grain sales assures the existence of a large reserve on which the Government can count in case of necessity.

GREEK FINANCES.

Reuter reported from Athens on May 21 as follows:—

"Parliament has adjourned for ten days, on the proposal of the Finance Minister, in order to enable the Government to draft bills relating to new general taxation. Negotiations with the National Bank for an internal loan are not finished. Official circles now state that a convention will be signed on Wednesday and submitted to Parliament when it reassembles. It is stated that the amount of the loan will be 115 million drachmas (£4,600,000).

**Central News reported from Athens on Wednesday to the effect that it is stated that a contract between the Government and the National Bank for an internal loan of 115,000,000 fr. will be signed this afternoon at five o'clock. The issue price will be 88½ and the rate of interest 5 per cent. The terms include an extension of the privileges enjoyed by the bank for a period of twenty years. The forthcoming deal has already occasioned a heavy rise in the shares of the National Bank.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for the week, 169 tons (last week 89 tons); Hurgada production for the week, 555 tons (last week 555 tons).

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended April 30 amounted to £E4,426, as against £E3,713 for the corresponding period of last year.

GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held in Cairo on Wednesday, May 31.

INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held at 10, Old Broad Street, on May 30, at 12 noon.

LAND AND MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel on June 2, at 12 noon.

ROUMANIAN FOUR PER CENT. REDEEMABLE LOAN OF 1890.—The numbers are announced of 4,671 bonds drawn for redemption on April 1.

ROUMANIAN FOUR PER CENT. REDEEMABLE LOAN OF 1891.—The numbers are announced of 400 bonds drawn for redemption on April 1.

ROUMANIAN FOUR PER CENT. REDEEMABLE LOAN OF 1894.—The numbers are announced of 899 bonds drawn for redemption on April 1.

The U.S. Minister in Teheran, writing on March 13, says that the cost of the Persian toman is at present abnormally high. The Persian silver kran is of the normal value of $0.0875, and the toman, therefore, of the value of $0.875, but at the date of writing the Imperial Bank of Persia pays 8½ krans per dollar for fifteen days' sight draft on New York, which makes the value of the toman about $1.17, or more than one-third higher than normal. While American dollars are low, English pounds are even lower, the bank quoting a rate of 40 krans for the pound sterling, but not buying at any rate.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 31 Mars.

Prêts Existants:

	1915. £E.		1916. £E.
Prêts à court terme	5,831	..	4,197
Catégorie "B"	5,489,935	..	4,960,981
Total	5,495,766	..	4,965,178
Echéances:			
Dues	—	..	—
A échoir	999,109	..	819,509
Total	999,109	..	819,509

Perceptions:

	1915. £E.		1916. £E.
Arriérés au 31 janvier	1,394,546	..	1,209,186
Restant	1,322,530	..	1,156,481
Perçu	72,016	..	52,705
Echéances:			
Perçu	—	..	—
Total perçu sur annuités échues	72,016	..	52,705

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 29 Février, 1916, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

	£E.
Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien	3,871,942
Titres divers	401,663
Comptes-Courants	304,441
Avances sur Marchandises	753,860
Avances sur Titres	1,285,951
Avances sur d'autres garanties	881,777
Effets sur l'Etranger	3,844,283
Effets sur l'Egypte	181,982
Immeubles et mobilier	235,671
Placements à courte échéance	897,000
Comptes Banques	860,477
Gouvernement du Soudan	456,043
Comptes Divers	100,713
Encaisse:	
Billets de Banque £E.1,013,839	
Or £E.193,532	
Argent, nickel, etc. £E.36,430	
	1,243,801
	£E.15,319,004

	£E.
Capital 300,000 actions de £10 chacune entièrement libérées	2,925,000
Fonds de Réserve:—Réserve Statutaire	1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	5,652,489
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,249,768
Gouvern. Egyptien	3,460,974
Do. Compte spécial	6,611
Comptes Banques	221,697
Chèques et effets à payer	194,480
Comptes Divers	540,485
	£E.15,319,004

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Or	£E.7,009,104
Titres	5,390,896
	£E.12,400,000
Billets émis	£E.12,400,000
	£E.12,400,000

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Côtes du 5 Mai, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt		11⅜ to	—
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	86 ,,	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11½ ,,	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5 ,,	—
priv.	L.E.	2⅞ ,,	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	126 ,,	127
Bons de Panama	Frs.	96 ,,	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs.	46½ ,,	
Privilégiée	Frs.	92 ,,	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	75 ,,	—
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2 5/16 ,,	—
Comptoir Financier and Commercial d'Egypte	£	11/32 ,,	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	11/32 ,,	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	9/16 ,,	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	3 3/16 ,,	—
Bonded Warehouse	L.E.	4¼ ,,	5
Unifiée	L.E.	78½ ,,	78¾
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4⅛ ,,	—
Fondateur	£	18 ,,	—
Pressage et dépôts	£	27½ ,,	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	1 1/16 ,,	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	4 ,,	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3 1/16 ,,	3/32
Ord.	£	14/6 ,,	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3½ ,,	—
Egypt. Delta Light Railway	£	5 ,,	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£	105 ,,	—
Jouissance	£	150 ,,	—
Egyptian Markets		22/9 ,,	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	145 ,,	—
Div.	Frs.	93 ,,	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	88 ,,	90
Egyptian Salt and Soda		15/6 ,,	15/9
Crédit Foncier d'Egypte	Frs.	572 ,,	—
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	306 ,,	307
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	249 ,,	—
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	252½ ,,	—
Delta Land	£	3/32 ,,	—
Port Said Salt		31/9 ,,	32/-
Cotton Ginners	£	1/32 ,,	½
New Egyptian	£	6/- ,,	—
United Land	P.T.	4 ,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.		24/6 ,,	25/-
Fondateur		85/- ,,	90/-

Marché nul.

LONDON EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	—	80
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	85	76½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	78	66½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	63xd
Do. 4½% State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5%, 1881	57	52	56
Do. 5%, 1884	56	52	53½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	45	49
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	40	42½
Do. 5%, 1890	56	52	52½
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	48½
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	66
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	—	76½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	68½
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	64
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4%, 1909	69	—	47 7/16
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3½xd
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½% Bonds Red.	80	—	69xd
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	11⅛
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	—	3½xd
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	11⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	—
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	4 15/16
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½% Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅜
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirsæus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	—
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	—	11/16
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	⅛	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2½
Do. Do. Def.	⅛	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8⅛	—	5⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/-
Do. Def.	⅜	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/4½
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	—	84
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	⅝
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅛
,, ,, Founders	⅛	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5% Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6⅜
Do. 4½% 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	72½
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	7/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅜	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	12/6
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	5/32
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	⅞
Do. 4½% 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	—	24/-
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1 1/16	—	17/-
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	20/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3⅜
Do. do. 4½% 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	1½

OIL.

	Price on May 17.	May 24.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/-	6/9
Anglo-Persian	20/-	20/-
European Oilfields	4/-	3/9
Roumanian	12/9	12/9

PARIS BOURSE.

	May 16.	May 24.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	442	445
Canal de Suez	4400	4500
Credit Foncier Egyptien	610	615
Turkish Unified 4%	59 50	59.40
Egyptian Unified 4%	90	90
Serbian, 1895	66.70	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 265.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Bulgarian advance into Greek territory is calculated to throw Greece into a ferment; but the Government will probably hold its hand until the intentions of the Germans and Bulgarians are more clearly revealed. According to the German official *communiqué*, the troops have been moved across the frontier "as a safeguard against an obviously intended surprise by the Entente forces." This is a plausible explanation of the occupation of Fort Rupel, but would not account for any large concentration at the eastern end of the frontier. The censorship on telegrams from Athens is a noticeable feature in the situation. So far, most of the news arrives from Salonika, which does not necessarily reflect the whole of Greek opinion. Not only is the town favourably disposed towards the Allies as a result of the presence of a large and well-paying army, but it has also become a strong centre of the Venizelist party. Feeling would in any case run high in Macedonia, and we must wait for fuller information from Athens before we can gauge the extent of the following which the Government can still command for a policy of neutrality.

Even if the German-Bulgarian force remains content with the ground it has already occupied, it is certain to lay hands on all foodstuffs within reach. Since the destruction of the Demir Hissar railway bridge by the Allies the inhabitants of this portion of Greece have relied for their supplies in part on French motor-vans. They will now be cut off from this source of supply. Consequently, although the Greek Government might affect to ignore the military aspect of the invasion, it will be confronted with the problem of alleviating distress in the neighbourhood. King Constantine and his advisers chose a policy which promised to follow the line of least resistance. It has proved a particularly thorny path, and the latest development opens up the prospect of the difficulties in the way increasing, the longer they persist in the policy.

The reference in these columns last week to Ali Dinar, the Sultan of Darfur, has been followed rapidly by news of the complete success of the expedition sent against him. Early in February Ali Dinar had concentrated a force near the Kordofan frontier at Jebel-el-Hella. A mixed force of all arms was despatched against him, and by the end of March had occupied Umshanga and Jebel-el-Hella. The official statement makes no mention of encounters with the enemy until the neighbourhood of the capital was reached. Starting from Abiad, ninety miles away, on May 15, Colonel Kelly's force engaged and defeated Ali Dinar's main body at Beringia, a village twelve miles to the north of El Fasher, and entered the town the following morning, May 23. The enemy are reported to have held a strongly entrenched position at Beringia, which they were "successfully induced" to leave by the Camel Corps. They then attacked the British column with the utmost rapidity and desperation. Their onset was met with withering fire, but a few penetrated to within ten yards of the Anglo-Egyptian lines. A counter-attack completed their discomfiture, and they are reported to have lost a thousand out of a force numbering between two and three thousand. All the Sultan's best troops and commanders took part in the battle. Ali Dinar himself fled with a small following in a south-westerly direction, the movements of his party being expedited by the attentions of a British aeroplane.

Whatever may be the end of Ali Dinar, his name helps to swell the already long list of German dupes in connection with this war. It is true that he has long been an obstreperous neighbour for the Sudan Government, but his final revolt must be attributed to Turco-German intrigue. On May 19 the *Deutsche Tageszeitung* gave some interesting information about the Sultan of Darfur. News had been received, it stated, from Constantinople that he had proclaimed a "holy war," and was advancing against Kordofan. Indian and Egyptian troops had been sent against him, but had been defeated, and Ali Dinar's "next objective" was El Obeid. The writer warned his readers against basing exaggerated expectations on these "conquests," but pointed out that they were a serious sign of the break-up of British power in the Sudan, the more so as Ali Dinar was a particularly true friend "of Kitchener and Sir Reginald Wingate!" Not the least instructive part of the article comes at the end, where the assurance is given that in this business the Sultan of Darfur is not acting alone. German information regarding the course of events in Darfur seems to have covered the period up to the concentration of Ali Dinar's forces on the borders of Kordofan. Having persuaded the misguided fanatic to take this step, German agents doubtless left him to his fate, buoyed up, it may be, with fantastic accounts of the support he was to have

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from the Senussi and the Turks. When the capture of El Fasher was announced, the Germans adopted the simple course of denying the statement and declaring that Ali Dinar was marching on the Sudan.

A question in the Reichstag regarding the statement of the Turkish Minister of the Interior to the effect that Turkey had formally taken her place in the reconstituted Triple Alliance elicited the information that a defensive alliance for a long period had been offered Turkey by Germany at the beginning of the war, had been accepted by the Porte, and had been duly signed and ratified. Its terms were secret, and could not, therefore, be divulged. At the present time various conventions were under the consideration of the two Governments and were on the point of being signed. These would in due course be presented to the Reichstag for ratification.

The Austro-Hungarian Government continues to provide the strongest argument for the formation of a Southern Slav State at the close of the war by its persecution of those who are suspected of separatist leanings. For treasonable acts and utterances the authorities have every right to enforce the penalty of the law; but, as far as can be gathered, the wholesale condemnation of its prominent Slavs is being carried out solely to serve political ends and not with reference to their individual guilt. Five trials, in all, of Bosnian Serbs have been held in the Austrian Courts, and at the last one the accused numbered 154. Sixteen of these were sentenced to death. Most of, if not all, the defendants had been arrested at the beginning of the war. If it were not so, there would be good reason for those who are conducting the Southern Slav movement to deprecate any act on the part of Austrian subjects which brought them within the clutches of the law. Their cause has now been taken out of the hands of the people in the country, and no good purpose would be served by sacrificing their lives unnecessarily. The spokesmen of the movement in this country have done good service in explaining to the world Southern Slav aspirations; but they have still to be careful to avoid creating the impression that there must needs be antagonism between Italian interests and the realisation of these aspirations. In this connection we are glad to learn on the authority of M. Pashitch that no serious discord exists between Italy and Serbia, and that all Serbians were bound to recognise "Italy's incontestable right to a hegemony of the shores of the Adriatic." He added, according to a correspondent in the *Morning Post*, that the only difference was as to the number of naval bases necessary to Italy for her defence in the Adriatic, and that this difference was one of minor importance.

Little or no information has been published regarding the domestic situation in Persia, but there is reason to suppose that some headway is being made in placing the affairs of that country on a more satisfactory basis. The first step to be taken was naturally the restoration of order. As far as the Russian sphere of influence is concerned, this work may be regarded as having been practically finished. A number of German and Austrian agents made their way south of Ispahan; but these are gradually being rounded up, some of them after experiences which have made them welcome arrest and subsequent imprisonment in India. In the South British forces, we may infer from an occasional *communiqué*, are now engaged on work that ought to have been undertaken long ago. The success achieved by Turco-German agents before the war and during its early stages encouraged the Germans to believe that a Turkish army had only to march into Persia in order to make the Persians declare war on Russia and Great Britain, and that it could then make its way to Afghanistan and stir up trouble in India. That this programme failed was due entirely to Russia's resolute action in sending troops to Teheran and subsequently clearing the enemy out of north-western Persia.

Great Britain's soundest course to pursue would have been to have carried out simultaneously in the South what the Russians were doing in the North. By this means the activities of the enemy agents would have been curtailed. As things are they have been able, in many cases, to transfer their intrigues from one sphere to another and the work of counteracting their propaganda has been made more difficult. Fortunately, the Russians have performed their share so thoroughly that the capacity of the agents for mischief even in a new region has been circumscribed. It is, however, only by a show of force in the South that order will be restored in Persia. Some idea of the state of anarchy into which the country had been allowed to drift may be gathered from the ease with which the Gendarmerie, officers and all, changed from guardians to disturbers of the peace. They formed the sole embodiment of law and order for a considerable portion of Persia, and one of the greatest mistakes that the protecting Powers could have made was to entrust the force to subjects of a neutral State which had no interest in the country. If the Gendarmerie had been under British officers in the South and Russian officers in the North order would have prevailed over all, or the greater part of, the country. It would go far to reassure those interested in the affairs of Persia if the British Government would issue a statement explaining some of the steps that are being taken to carry into effect the complete understanding which, Mr. Asquith announced to the members of the Duma and the Council of State recently on a visit to England, had been arrived at between Russia and Great Britain in regard to Persia.

In order to meet criticism of the decision to send General Townshend with an inadequate force against Baghdad the Government has issued in the form of a White Paper "Papers relating to Major-General C. V. F. Townshend's Appreciation of the Position after the Battle of Kut-el-Amara." These documents purport to throw light on the statement made in *The Times* that General Townshend protested against moving on Baghdad with the insufficient forces at his command. Reference is made to a version of an "appreciation" of the situation by General Townshend; but in returning to the charge *The Times* indicates that the wording of the original was far stronger than this version implies.

It is difficult to understand the Government's object in publishing this incomplete instalment of papers relating to the Baghdad advance. There is no question that the whole campaign was mismanaged, and the demand to know the reason why is prompted by the desire to prevent a repetition of the mistakes and to see that no injustice is done to individual commanders. The Government has already announced through the mouth of the Secretary of State for India that the British Cabinet, the Imperial General Staff, the Indian Government, and the Indian General Staff all approved of the advance on Baghdad. This assumption of responsibility, it would have been thought, would be at once followed by a readiness to court the fullest inquiry and to have the matter cleared up with the least possible delay. But Mr. Chamberlain's statement is now shorn of much of its meaning, for not one of the authorities quoted, in according their approval to the advance, appears to have taken sufficient interest in this particular campaign to inquire of General Nixon whether he was quite satisfied that the move had a chance of success. The point is just this: if General Nixon alone was to decide on the wisdom of an advance, let the sole responsibility be left to him; if, on the other hand, there is felt to be a need for the British and Indian Governments, the Imperial and Indian General Staffs, to have a say in the matter, then, before they give their approval, which *ipso facto* relieves General Nixon of his responsibility, they ought at least to examine the conditions under which the advance is to be made and not merely echo General Nixon's opinion. The former course is at least sound devolution of authority; the latter appears to be wasted interference.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 17.

The Bomb Outrage Trial.

The trial of the two men implicated in the throwing of the bomb at H.H. the Sultan in Alexandria last July is still unfinished. The Court sat throughout the whole of the last week—the trial started on the 8th inst.—and adjourned to Alexandria on Saturday for an examination of the premises from which it is alleged the bomb was thrown and for a reconstruction of some of the incidents connected with the question of identification which took place in the course of the inquiry. The hearing was resumed on Monday, and to-day the examination of the witnesses for the prosecution was concluded. There appears to be some slight confusion in the evidence of some of these witnesses, especially in that of the barber and the schoolboy whose information led to the arrest of the accused. The witnesses for the defence have still to be called, and then the prosecution and defence will have to address the Court, so there is every likelihood that the trial will last the full fortnight. The little interest that was evinced in the case by the general public seems to have evaporated, and the sole regular attendants in the audience are the reporters of the vernacular Press, whose readers have also lost their interest in this protracted case.

The Anglican Cathedral.

The resolution of the Anglican community of Cairo to rebuild All Saints' as a cathedral, and the announcement of the forthcoming holding of a meeting of the Anglican community of Alexandria, have raised the question as to why the latter city should not be given preference in the matter of the choice of a site; and several letters have appeared on the subject in the local Press. Apart from the fact that Alexandria already has a church of stately proportions, which is quite adequate for its immediate and future requirements, and that the permanent and winter Anglican population of Cairo is larger, there are many other considerations in favour of the selection of a site for the new Anglican cathedral in the capital of the country in preference to its senior port. No doubt all the arguments for and against the present decision will be developed at the forthcoming meeting, which for that reason alone will be of interest to the community in general; but as far as one can see at present there can be no question as to the soundness, from every point of view, of the decision to erect the cathedral in Cairo.

The Financial Adviser's Note.

Lord Edward Cecil's Note on the Budget for the current year has been exceedingly well received. I am not judging by the Press comments, which, in the present circumstances, are not to be relied upon as a true expression of opinion, but by the views expressed privately by prominent financial and commercial men. Perhaps the Financial Adviser's Note has received an extra warm welcome because, apart from the fact that it demonstrates to the world Egypt's solvency and extraordinary recuperative powers, it confirms in every respect the opinion freely expressed during the past year by local financial authorities as to the satisfactory economic situation of the country and the confidence that should be reposed in the future.

The Coal Question.

The Government has come to the rescue of the cultivators in the matter of the coal required by them for the driving of their irrigation pumps. A fairly large consignment of coal has been secured by the Ministry of Finance, and will be distributed through the Ministry of Public Works to all bonâ-fide consumers for irrigation. No cultivator will be allowed to obtain more than two months' supply. The price has been fixed at P.T.550 per ton, plus freight from Mex to the interior, subject to alteration a month hence. Sales will be on a cash basis, but in exceptional cases and on certain conditions credit will be allowed. Considering that the latest quotation in Cairo is £8 per ton, the Government price, although three times the normal rate, is an exceedingly favourable one. It remains to be seen whether the stock held by the Ministry of Finance will be adequate to meet the bonâ-fide irrigation demands.

Up to the time of writing there is no news of the investigations which Mr. Wells is carrying out at Edfu, and we may have to wait some little while longer for an official statement.

Egyptian Crafts: A Suggestion.

In these days when efforts are being made to find fresh outlets for the activities of Egyptian industry one comes daily across articles of purely European manufacture which Egyptian craftsmen could quite easily produce. A recent letter appearing in the *Egyptian Mail* suggests one such line of activity. The letter was from some British soldiers asking for a chessboard and a set of chessmen wherewith to while away the tedious evening hours in the desert. The obvious thought that strikes one is: Why has no Egyptian as yet made it his business to produce sets of chessmen fashioned after celebrated characters in Egyptian history? As a visit any day to the bazaars will show, the Egyptians are excellent carvers in ivory, wood, stone, or metal; and industrious and ingenious craftsmen ought to be able to make quite a good thing out of sets of, say, "Egyptological" chessmen, for which all the model material is to be found on the tombs and ancient monuments, and which, seeing that chess is a cosmopolitan pastime, would by their originality attract purchasers from the four corners of the earth. I commend this modest idea to the attention of the gentlemen who are now engaged on the task of finding new fields of activity for Egyptian industries, in the hope that it may suggest other similar articles in the production of which the Egyptian craftsmen could successfully compete.

After seventeen days' hearing the trial of Shems-ed-dine and Helbawi on the charge of conspiring to assassinate the Sultan of Egypt concluded on Saturday. Both prisoners have been found guilty and sentenced to death.

The Syrian community in Cairo has requested the good offices of the United States to obtain alleviation of the great sufferings of their compatriots. Refugees from Syria bring harrowing details of distress among the people.

We are informed by a Swiss correspondent that the ex-Khedive Abbas Hilmi has arrived at Zurich for a short stay. The same correspondent reports that Farid Bey, the notorious Egyptian agitator and self-styled leader of the Egyptian "Nationalist" Party, has returned to Geneva from Constantinople.

Of the state of Egypt Bishop MacInnes, who has had sixteen years' experience in the country, wrote on February 24: "Last year there was a great deal of talk in native circles, and both the conviction and the desire that the Turks would succeed in ousting us from the Nile Valley were widespread. The desire may remain, but the conviction is gone, and, speaking generally, I have never known Egypt more quiet. Numbers of Egyptians are beginning to realize that even if the Turks do take Egypt they will only be allowed to rule it under the strict watch and ward of the Germans. The Turk is popular, but the German is very much the reverse, and Egyptians may now be heard saying, 'If it's only changing one Western master for another, we'd much prefer to keep the English.'"

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SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, May 7.

A Storm in the Ice Chest.

Years ago, before there was any railway to Port Sudan, and communications were less precise than now, the installation of an ice factory at Khartoum was looked upon as a piece of speculative enterprise, and people gladly paid whatever was asked for the commodity; for, indeed, once the thermometer goes over 105 deg. F. ice becomes a veritable necessity—the necessity increasing with every degree of heat. Thus, one firm enjoyed a practical monopoly in Khartoum until, with that healthy spirit of competition which gladdens the heart of the consumer in anticipation of lower prices, another firm set up a plant, and the price was reduced by 50 per cent. An enterprising native, moreover, who had a permit for an ice factory in Omdurman also assisted to this end, because he found he was able to undersell both firms in Khartoum.

Now the water supply of Khartoum is the result of extensive research into the bowels of the earth, and the water rate is high. In Omdurman there is a small water supply laid on from shallow wells, but most of the population use the wells in the old-fashioned way, and carry their water on donkeys or by hand. So the rate is low or nil. Authority stepped in and declared that ice made in Omdurman, not being of the strict purity of the Khartoum water, must not be sold in Khartoum. The proprietor of the ice factory saw one rival removed, bought out the other, and adjusted the price to suit himself. The consumers were dismayed; representations were made. It was pointed out that the Omdurman ice had never done any harm; that what was good enough for Omdurman was surely good enough for Khartoum; and if Omdurman ice were not good enough for Khartoum, what made it sufficient for Omdurman?

The matter came under serious consideration. Several prominent bodies met and deliberated, with what result is not yet known. Meanwhile the consumers reluctantly pay the enhanced price and hope for better things.

Hot Weather: Mails and Storms.

The hot weather train service begins on May 1, and mails arrive and leave on Mondays and Fridays, instead of Tuesdays and Fridays. The change was heralded this year by storms of rain, which resulted in some delay, so that the mail train arrived at noon on Tuesday, May 2, instead of Monday afternoon. There was a washout between Abu Hamed and No. 6, which was, however, immediately repaired. In Khartoum a considerable "hubbub" or duststorm was seen approaching from the North on Wednesday afternoon, but it was fortunately cut short by a shower of rain.

It would doubtless allure our enemies, though it ought equally to depress him, to peruse the list of travellers northwards on their way to England. A large number of officials' wives have left, regardless of submarine dangers.

Official Movements.

H.E. the Governor-General and staff returned from Erkowit to Khartoum on May 5. Mrs. Symes, who has recently joined Major G. S. Symes, the Private Secretary, also came to Khartoum.

Mr. R. E. More, the Governor of Khartoum, and Mrs. More have gone to Alexandria. After a month's change of air he will return to Khartoum, and Mrs. More will proceed to Europe.

Major R. M. Fielden, the Governor of the Bahr el Ghazal Province, has arrived in Khartoum, and will proceed on leave on medical grounds.

Major E. H. Ross, who has been absent on leave owing to persistent phlebitis, has returned to Khartoum, and has taken up his duties as Assistant Civil Secretary. The position of Senior Inspector, Kordofan, which was to have been his appointment had health permitted, has been filled by Mr. E. N. Corbyn.

Now that the San Stefano Hotel is open near Alexandria a number of Sudan officials and their wives are going there for a short change, to brace them against the hot weather.

SUDAN APPOINTMENTS.

(From a Sudan Correspondent.)

The granting of the rank of Lewa (Major- or Brigadier-General) to Colonel G. F. Clayton, has occasioned general satisfaction among those who know this capable and obliging official, and have had relations with him in connection with the important position which he holds in Cairo as Sudan Agent and Director of Intelligence. As a member of the Sudan Government, Brigadier-General Clayton has long been popular, and, although but rarely seen in Khartoum, practically every minor official and distinguished visitor to the capital of the Sudan has, perforce, to make his acquaintance before proceeding to the South from Cairo. General Clayton has been in the service of the Sudan Government since the end of 1902, and he has occupied his present position, with a short interruption, since August of 1906. The duties of his office are very important, and sometimes onerous; the responsibilities attached are likewise heavy, and while the Governor-General is in Cairo (usually during a portion of the months of September and October) the time of the Sudan Agent is particularly occupied. At all times he is the responsible official, acting as "intermediary" between the Palace at Khartoum and the British Residency at Cairo.

Mr. E. N. Corbyn, who has been appointed Acting-Governor of the Kordofan Province during the absence of Captain R. V. Savile, has been permanently raised to the post of Senior Inspector of this province, such appointment to date from April 1. Formerly an Inspector in the Finance Department, Mr. Corbyn has had some twelve years' experience of Sudan official life, and he has earned for himself a sound and enviable reputation as a very earnest and dependable officer. The Kordofan Province, the third largest of the fourteen political departments of the Sudan (the Bahr-el-Ghazal and Dongola being the first two), employs the services of one senior inspector, five second inspectors, and three third inspectors, as well as a resident district judge. Besides the Governor, two of the junior inspectors are at the present time away from their posts, while one other, Mr. W. E. Jennings Bramly, is temporarily detached.

Mr. A. G. Pawson, who will, in September next, complete five years' service with the Sudan Administration, has been transferred from the Legal Department, wherein he held the post of a District Judge, to the Province of the Upper Nile, where he will act as one of the three Second Inspectors of the province, with residence at Renk. This is one of the eight Mamurias of the Province of the Upper Nile, and the terminus of the Gule-Renk road, a thoroughfare which, in spite of the difficulties arising from its forty-five miles of waterless stretch, is constantly used in the dry season, and proves a great boon to the merchants who must traverse it.

The appointment of Mr. H. P. Hewins to be Custodian of Enemy Property under the Trading with the Enemy (Custodian of Property) Ordinance, which was enacted this year, is quite in conformity with the value of the services which this useful official has already rendered in his capacity of Director of Commercial Intelligence. This branch of the Central Economic Board was established in 1914, and it has long since justified the high hopes entertained by its promoter, Colonel E. E. Bernard, C.M.G., who also is its president. In speaking of the work done by the Board, and more particularly by the Commercial Branch, during the first year of its existence, the Governor-General, Sir F. Reginald Wingate, said: "The services of the Central Economic Board have been of the greatest value in considering economic and similar questions, while an interesting development has been made by the formation of a Commercial Intelligence Branch under the direction of Mr. H. P. Hewins, who continues to discharge the functions of secretary to the Board in a very efficient manner." Mr. Hewins, who will be remembered by readers of The Near East as the author of the excellent paper "Economic Developments in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan," which was read at the International Congress of Tropical Agriculture held some time ago in London, has been twelve years in the service of the Administration, and is regarded as one of its most valuable members.

SAN STEFANO.

(From a Correspondent.)

Alexandria, May 15.

The Hotel Casino, San Stefano, Ramleh, is to be reopened on June 1. Those who have known it only as a military hospital will marvel at the transformation, whilst old habitués will welcome it in its more familiar guise. In any other circumstances, Cairo residents would have been inclined to grumble at being deprived of their favourite resort during the summer months; but they suffered in a good cause last year, and will reap their reward when they see what the army of workmen have accomplished in the way of renovation since May 1. The entire premises have been disinfected by the Municipality, every particle of woodwork has been repainted, the walls of the bedrooms re-papered in exquisite taste, and, to make assurance doubly sure, all the soil in the neighbourhood of the hotel has been removed and replaced.

Already every bedroom in the establishment has been reserved for June 1, by which date the bathing establishment will also be reopened, and there is every promise of a prosperous season. A special tariff is being arranged for military guests.

It is to be hoped the management will succeed in recruiting a good orchestra. Among local musicians, the older men, who have not been mobilized in either Italy or Greece, must have felt the pinch of circumstances since the outbreak of war.

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DARFUR.

THE STORY OF THE EXPELLED SULTAN.

By Percy F. Martin, F.R.G.S.

For the past sixteen years, that is to say from the commencement of the British occupation of the Sudan, the condition of things in Darfur has occasioned trouble, if not actual anxiety, to the Sudan Administration. The Sultanate lies in the eastern Sudan, between the Libyan desert, Wadai, Dar-Runga, Dar-Fertit, and the Kordofan Province. Modern Darfur (between N. lat. 10° and 16° and E. long. 22° and 27° 30) is practically an enormous sandy plateau with a steppe-like aspect, although it contains many fertile valleys yielding wheat, cotton, sesame, and tobacco; cattle, however, constitute the greatest wealth of its people. The area is probably not less than 400 miles by 400 miles. The population is estimated at between 1½ and 2 millions. The autochthonous inhabitants of Darfur are Fur, of mixed negroid stock. Other inhabitants of the country include numerous Arabicised tribes, who are camel and cattle owners, and a liberal infusion of Fellata and kindred peoples from the western Sudan.

Until the year 1874 Darfur was an independent State; in that year, however, it was conquered by the notorious slave dealer Zobeir Pasha, while in 1884 it was reconquered by the Mahdi at the time that Sir Rudolf Slatin was its Egyptian Governor. Although within the limits of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, the government has always been an entirely independent one, administered by a Sultan. Ali Dinar is a grandson of the Sultan Mohammed, whose family had ruled in Darfur for 400 years, with all the old-time methods—not always of the mildest—of the Eastern potentate.

Now that Ali Dinar has been expelled there is likelihood of at least one legitimate claimant to the throne presenting himself. This is a descendant of the royal house of Amur Abdul Shakur, the same individual who left Cairo under the immediate protection of General Gordon in order to mount his vacant throne, but paused to drink himself into a state of intoxication before finally returning to Cairo, there to pursue the more luxurious and less dangerous rôle of *roi en exile*. The more robust and decidedly more enterprising Ali Dinar, who became hardened by several years' confinement in one of the Mahdi's most loathsome gaols, not only assumed, but until lately maintained himself in, the Sultanate, being supported by the Anglo-Egyptian Government. But his position, as he has now found out, was dependent upon the maintenance of friendly relations with the Administration at Khartoum.

With regard to the future government of the country, it would seem that the best method to adopt would be the appointment of a British Resident charged with the duty of advising the Sultan upon foreign affairs and generally controlling his proceedings. The French authorities would probably welcome such an arrangement, since matters have been the cause of continual annoyance to them, principally occasioned by frontier raids upon the people of the French Sudan. Indeed, just previous to the outbreak of the war, the British and French Governments were about to refer to independent arbitration the very delicate and vexed question of the boundary between Darfur and the French possessions.

FOR TROOPS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

The Secretary of the War Office makes the announcement that, under arrangement with the Military Department of the India Office, Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Director-General of Voluntary Organisations, will for the future deal with questions relating to the supply of comforts for British troops serving in Mesopotamia. All communications upon the subject should be addressed to the Director-General of Voluntary Organisations, Scotland House, New Scotland Yard, London.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, May 19.

The Prerogatives of the Crown.

Has the King the right to dissolve the Chamber for an indefinite period and to dismiss and replace his Ministers whenever he may wish? That is the question under discussion by the Governmental Press, as a result of an article on the rights and duties of the King, published last Sunday by the *Kyrix*, the official organ of the Liberal Party. This article, frank and fearless, caused a lively sensation in Ministerial circles; and the inspired Press has entered on a campaign against M. Venizelos, endeavouring, by means of the most far-fetched theories, to refute this exposure of the attempt of certain political and military groups to do away with the constitutional régime and to substitute a despotism. Thus, according to these Ministerial journals, the Crown has unlimited power to dissolve one Chamber after another as soon as they have been elected, and to appoint fresh Cabinets. In support of this weird contention they quote a clause of the Charter according to which "the King appoints and dismisses the Ministers," and point out that there is no restriction attaching to this clause—without taking into consideration the other constitutional stipulations regarding the circumstances in which the King may dissolve the Chamber, stipulations which naturally govern the exercise of this prerogative.

The bold declaration of the Liberal leader, in the *Kyrix*, that, by the elections, the supreme factor in public power, the People, not only indicates but demands responsible Governments, could not fail to be displeasing to the present Government, which exists only on the principle that the King possesses the absolute right to appoint and dismiss his Governments. In order to uphold its own view, the Ministerial Press has not hesitated to propound a new theory, according to which the party of the majority—which, having found itself in disagreement with the King, was obliged to abandon power—cannot maintain that its policy, disapproved by the Crown, is approved by the people so long as that people fails to rise, in order to enforce it—evidently by a revolution! In other words, the Government journals argue that the King is not bound to consider the will of the people, on whose affection his power rests, or to respect the Constitution, except when he fears a popular rising; and when he has nothing to fear he may safely violate the Constitution and act as seems good to him!

The *Kyrix*—or, rather, M. Venizelos—however, reminds these partisans of a degenerate monarchy, who recognise only revolution as a check on their designs, that the pan-Germanic ideas that inspire them are put forward in Germany only for the purposes of export, so to say; at home the Prussian Sovereign exercises constitutional power not only by virtue of force but also of right. He has allowed the people to share political power as far as seemed good to him, but to him alone remains all authority which he has not voluntarily given up. Moreover, says the *Kyrix*, the Hohenzollerns, having created Prussia in co-operation with an ancient military aristocracy and an admirably organised hierarchy of officials, seek, and easily find amongst them, their political helpers. But where would the political collaborators of monarchism be found in this country?

These articles have made such an impression that it is said that the Government has been considering the question of prosecuting their author, but so far no action has been taken against the *Kyrix*, which seems to indicate that no grounds for a prosecution can be discovered.

Action Against the "Kyrix."

The Headquarters Staff of the Army has lodged a complaint against the *Kyrix*, which accused it of being more concerned with politics than with its military duties and of maintaining the state of mobilization for

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reasons of internal policy. As soon as the author of the article complained of is called upon, M. Venizelos will declare himself responsible. The affair will thus take on an exceptional interest, especially if it is carried before the Assize Courts. Venizelist circles take the matter quite calmly, and it is believed that it will be a brilliant success for the Liberal Party. The *Athenai*, an anti-Venizelist journal, blames the Government for having allowed the staff to take such action, and implores Providence to inspire those who direct the country's policy with a little common sense.

The Bye Elections.

The Ministerial Press endeavours, by absolutely puerile arguments, to depreciate the importance of the brilliant victory gained by the Liberal Party in the bye elections at Drama, Mytilene, and Chios. Thus the *Nea Himera* likens M. Venizelos to a charming young lady who is loved, not for her opinions, her dowry, or her birth, but for her personal attraction; and declares that M. Venizelos won his votes by his personal charm, apart from his political views, and especially his external policy! The arguments of the other Ministerial journals are still more amusing. But Governmental circles have been stupefied by the results of these elections, especially of that at Drama, where the Turkish element, favourable to M. Gounaris, preponderates. The Venizelist success in this division was the more significant because at the elections in May of last year the inhabitants of the district were told that M. Venizelos wished to hand them over to Bulgaria, and as a result all his candidates were then rejected.

The following passage from the Ministerial *Embros* is very characteristic of the state of alarm in official circles, which are beginning to recognise that the Venizelists are gaining ground every day. "If in the midst of this exceptional crisis the popular vote should to-morrow seek to return the former President of the Council to power, with the same programme clearly set out—which would debar the King from saving Greece a third time—it would be better that, instead of a fresh disaccord with him, the King should retire, leaving M. Venizelos and his partisans the task of coping with events."

THE PRINCIPLE OF NATIONALITY.

In the course of an address on "Italy and the Principle of Nationality," delivered last Monday at University College, London, Dr. Raffaello Piccoli said that Mazzini, who had a keen sense of political reality in international affairs, knew that the causes of the future wars lay in Central and Eastern Europe. "The map of Europe," he said, "has to be re-made." In the new map that Mazzini foresaw there was no place either for the Austrian Empire or for that of Turkey; for the Empire of Austria did not represent a nationality, but an administration imposed by the right of might on peoples differing in language, religion and custom, and, naturally, tending to spend their lives in different directions; while, if this was true of the Austrian Empire it was also true of the Turkish Empire in Mazzini's time, and partially true to this day. The Southern Slav nation had taken as the model for its future development the Italian *risorgimento*, and was engaged in a war not for territorial expansion but essentially for liberty both within and without the Austrian Empire.

Commenting on this passage in Dr. Piccoli's address, Lord Bryce, who presided, said that Mazzini had observed two empires in the modern world which were fundamentally opposed to the principle of nationality, and which, in his view, ought, therefore, to disappear. Those were the Turkish and Austrian Empires. Most would agree with Mazzini, and in the case of Turkey the problem was a comparatively simple one. The Turks must not be allowed the opportunity of massacring any more. So far all were agreed. The problem of Austria was a great deal more difficult; but he would venture to express his sympathy—and he thought it was a sympathy generally felt in Britain—with the subject nationalities, especially the Czechs, the Poles, and the Southern Slavs. Of course, the problem of recognizing the principle of nationality in those countries presented great difficulties, because the populations were mixed; but if the Allies achieved the decisive victory which we desired, and in the approach of which we believed, the problems ought to be settled on the principle of nationality; and with good will, and a thorough knowledge of the conditions, he did not believe they would turn out to be insoluble. He believed, for instance, that the difficulties in the relations between Italy and her Slavonic neighbours in the East beyond the Adriatic were quite susceptible of being arranged in a way which would be conformable to the principle of nationality, just in itself, and leaving nothing but good feeling between Italy and those Southern Slav neighbours.

ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 2.

Will Bratiano Yield?

M. Simeon Mandresco, professor at the University of Bucharest and president of the Transylvanian Associations, has, in an appeal addressed to the people of Roumania, condemned in scathing terms the barbarity of the Magyars as well as the neutrality of Roumania; and he invites those who share his convictions to support him in a renewal of the struggle against the present attitude of the Government. On May 6 there will take place a Requiem service at the Church of St. George for the souls of the Roumanians of Austria-Hungary who have fought for their oppressors and lost their lives in defence of a cause which was not their own. A meeting will be held at the Athénée on the same day, and a monster meeting at the Dacia is announced for the following day.

A Tale of Espionage.

An evening paper gives an account of a curious incident which ended tragically. One evening a peasant from Vlashka was returning home from work with his oxen and cart, when a woman whom he met on the way asked for a lift. The request was granted, and soon the woman remarked that the man looked tired and suggested that she should drive the oxen. He readily complied, and presently fell asleep. After a time the unaccustomed bumping of the cart woke him up. Discovering that they had left the road, and not recognizing the surroundings, it flashed upon him that the woman was driving him into an ambush. Seizing a hammer that lay at hand, he struck her a blow on the head, with the intention of stunning her, but, striking too hard, caused instantaneous death. Realizing the gravity of his over-hasty act, he gave vent to loud lamentations, which soon brought a number of soldiers to the spot, for the cart had been driven over rough ground right up to some newly established military works! An attempt to raise the body revealed the fact that the female dress concealed the body of a man. Investigation on the part of the military authorities discovered that he carried on his person papers and sketches of a character that amply proved him to have been engaged in espionage.

Roumanian Subjects of Francis-Joseph.

The Archduke Joseph has recently decorated 340 Roumanian soldiers belonging to the 43rd Regiment of Infantry at Caransebesh. Since the beginning of the war not less than 1,700 officers and men belonging to this regiment have received decorations in recognition of their bravery. Indeed the splendid heroism displayed by the Roumanians of Transylvania and Bukovina is marvellous when we remember that it only furthers the cause of their oppressors and hereditary enemies. But then, of course, the poor fellows are not kept informed of the course of political events. What may not be expected of them if ever the opportunity comes to strike a blow for the liberation of their children from a cruel servitude!

Pilgrimage to Curtea de Argesh.

Sunday last being the feast of St. Elizabeth, a committee of ladies belonging to Bucharest society organized a pilgrimage to the last resting-place of Roumania's first sovereign. More than two hundred ladies are said to have participated. A special saloon train was put at their disposal, and they bore to the tomb of Carmen Sylva nearly every flower to be found in Bucharest.

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 1.

In the Occupied Territory.

From a trustworthy source in Sofia comes news that all German non-commissioned officers and commissioned officers up to and including the rank of captain who are at present in territory invaded by Bulgaria have received orders to return at once to Bulgaria.

According to the news received here from different sources the situation in Serbia is truly terrible. From Ghevgeli, for instance, comes the news that for fear of the German and Bulgarian "liberators" the inhabitants dare not venture into the streets. The women, both Christian and Moslem, are continually ill-treated by the soldiery, and for this reason the Turkish population are very excited against the invaders.

The Bulgarians are constantly increasing their list of murders, but it will only be possible to get a complete record when the invaders are driven from the region. It is reported that of the people "removed to the interior" most have been shot on the way.

The Bulgarian Government has at last decided that the Serbian territories shall be governed by a special commission, which will be presided over by General Daniloff. Whether this will improve matters, or the reverse, remains to be seen.

"The Prussians of the Balkans."

A deserter from the Bulgarian army, a Greek by birth, states that at the first battle of Valandovo the Bulgarians took prisoners thirteen French soldiers, and that these unhappy men suffered terrible tortures and indignities. They were escorted from town to town and village to village for purposes of show, apparently, their guard calling to the spectators: "Look at us! See, we can fight the French and English!" Then, with a refinement of cruelty, the Bulgarians put out the eyes of these prisoners, left them without food for some days, and finally shot them and cast their bodies over a precipice. If this tale be true, the Bulgars are indeed fit allies for those "conquering heroes" the modern Huns!

Bulgarian deserters who have been taken into Salonika state that Ferdinand of Coburg's soldiers are now learning a new marching song, one line of which, translated, means: "When we get to Salonika we shall find there pretty women." This clever effort is sung daily in chorus in the Bulgarian barracks and camps. Another recent composition is entitled "The Dishonest Allies," and consists of a long string of insults addressed to Greece, Serbia, and the enemies of the Central Powers in general. The words of this masterpiece are said to have been distributed among the troops by order of the military authorities. Bulgaro-Germanic co-operation appears to be achieving some curious results.

The Sanitary Service.

In one respect the Germans have certainly been of help to the Bulgars; that is in regard to the sanitary service. Six months ago the German Sanitary Mission numbered 165 persons: to-day it boasts of 330 men, of whom thirty are doctors, and 300 women nurses, all Germans. It has taken over the entire control of the medical service of the Bulgarian Army; and those who know what a lamentable state that service was in before will be able to appreciate what a boon this must be.

The German doctors have established an orthopædic institute, in which those mutilated in the war are fitted with, and instructed in the use of, artificial limbs.

Serbian Legation Seized.

At the beginning of the war the Serbian Legation at Sofia was seized by the Bulgarians under the pretext that it was "property without an owner." The building has now been handed over to the Commandant of Sofia, and is already being put to use by him.

Bulgarians, it is stated, have taken possession of the churches in Serbia and Bulgarian priests have been placed in charge.

One million dollars (£200,000) has been set aside by the Rockefeller Foundation for the relief of Poland, Serbia, Montenegro, and Albania.

FIVE DAYS FROM MY SERBIAN DIARY.

By ELBRIDGE COLBY.

If there was any one thing that characterised the Serbs it was dilatoriness, and the perpetual hurry, hurry, hurry of Americans did not so much amaze as it amused them. Five days from my Serbian diary will illustrate a characteristic American impatience. In the West we make haste and also waste; in the East they stagnate. Both measures have their advantages.

First Day.—We were transporting goods for the Minister of the Interior from Klitchevatz, on the Danube, to the small town of Osipaonitsa, on the railroad. After my first two trips for the day, I had an official visit to pay to the police captain of the arondissement. I returned to Klitchevatz at six in the evening, and, learning by telegraph that six more autos. were coming up two nights hence, and that we were short of petrol, I decided to make the all-night trip to Nish. Shortage of petrol was the bane of my life; it was always "*Nema*" (there is none), "*Cheka*" (wait), or "*Sutra*" (to-morrow), when we were getting low in our supply. So I usually telegraphed three days ahead that we were already "out," and then went myself at the last moment to hurry things up. Thus, between six and six-thirty I arranged things, ate dinner between words, and left in a hurry, to travel by dark without lights, over bad roads, and catch a train at eight o'clock. Fast driving over bad roads caused a "blow-out" in the rear tyre. Without a light it was difficult to manipulate those "predigested" tyre patches that I disliked so much. So there we were stranded. My Serb interpreter, an excellent chap by the name of Varadjinin, volunteered to walk back and get a spare inner tube, while I curled up in my army blanket and tried to sleep, in spite of all the inquisitive barking dogs and half the wild animals in the neighbourhood. About three hours later "Pete" returned with the inner tube and an extra patch. Before long we were on the road again, but about three miles farther on I had a second "blow-out." Luck and the gods of Serbia certainly seemed against us this night, for again fumbling in the dark and burning our fingers with frantic matches we made a bad job of the patch, and were completely stranded. Thus I left "Pete" to guard the car, and started about one o'clock to walk on a muddy, rainy night all the way to Osipaonitsa.

Second Day.—The walk lasted until eight in the morning, for I had stopped in Posharevatz and waited until the bake-shops could supply me with a loaf of bread for breakfast. Then I went to the railway.

"Train for Nish?"

"*Nema!* To-night at nine o'clock."

"But I must get there sooner."

So I was put in an empty freight van on a special train, with an office boy to guard the chair they had lent and to amuse me. Velika Plana at eleven-thirty.

"Train for Nish?"

"*Nema!* To-night at 3 a.m."

"But I must get there sooner."

At one I left on a flat car with a lot of army subalterns, who usually travelled that way. So it was from station to station, exchanging conversation in broken Serbian for soldiers' rations, changing at several different towns, and finally arriving in Nish at midnight, in a driving rain, seated on top of a carload of soft coal. I found our base camp very quickly, learned that the extra autos. had left that night, and not the following, as had been planned, and so in disgust rolled up in a blanket on the ground—there were no spare beds—and went to sleep at 1 a.m.

Third Day.—I arose at six, executed a host of little commissions, made good use of the half-day before the arrival of the passenger train for which I would not wait, visited the Ministry and the Inspector of the Interior, and took the night train north. I cannot sleep well on trains, so last night's sleep was my first and last in all these four wild days.

Fourth Day.—At 3 a.m. we arrived at Velika Plana, where I had to change cars. There, to my surprise, I saw P——, and T——, his interpreter, who were supposed to be in Klitchevatz already with their autos.

"What are you doing here?"

"Well, you see, we lost our suit-cases."

"How?"

"Well, some soldiers climbed on the flat-car which was carrying our autos; we could not keep them off [though I had stayed up all night and kept them off the night my first unit came over the same route], and they stole my suit-case, containing all the tyre cement, patches, and spare tubes for all the cars."

Drama! And here they had been wasting a day in police stations and railway offices looking for that suit-case! I was too raving angry to say a word, so simply told them to take my luggage on with them. I was going back to Nish to buy some more cement and patches. Next to gasoline, the

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repair materials for tyres represented our worst worry. So I met the down train at Velika Plana, travelled until noon, reached Nish, bought the necessary articles, and boarded the train the next night.

Fifth Day.—Another entire night without sleep, but by this continual, impatient pushing ahead, walking muddy roads, travelling incessantly, and hurrying to save a half-day here or there I had got something accomplished much quicker than any dilatory Serb could ever have done. I was responsible for the Klitchevatz unit, and had to keep things moving; and though the Serbs thought all us Americans half-mad, or half all-mad, I had got something done. But when I arrived again on the Danube during the fifth day, though completely exhausted, with only about six hours' sleep since my wild journey began, I spent the entire day on the road working as usual, and the entire evening answering official correspondence that had accumulated since my departure.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I seldom read letters to the editor in the papers, but the name of Lord Cromer at the end of one is sufficient to draw anyone to its perusal. Thus it comes about that I have just read a letter which the Earl has written to the *Times* on "Mr. Wilson's Part in the War," and have found it the best thing in the day's paper. Lord Cromer is well known to have been a life-long friend and admirer of the American people, and his opinions—which, as I think, very rightly, he believes to be shared by his countrymen—are entitled to the greatest consideration in regard to America, the War, and the Allies. The sum total of these opinions is that neither Great Britain nor any of her Allies will look to America for a solution of the struggle in which they are at present engaged. We do not want a patched-up peace; the only peace tolerable would be that dictated in the name of right and humanity to a thoroughly defeated foe, and we are out to fight till we get it. No less is possible if we are to retain any of the fruits of the labours of nearly two thousand years.

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A few days ago I was talking to an old sea captain about the difficulties of navigation in the Red Sea. He did not know those waters well, having spent most of his sea-days on the Atlantic and the Pacific, but he agreed that they were not exactly easy going, owing to the paucity of lights; and he told me of a curious experience of his own. He was once passing down the Sea, he said, when he picked up one of the few lights—the Dedles, I think he called it, but I am not sure. But just as he came abreast of it the light suddenly went out, or, at any rate, disappeared. Consulting his authorities, he could find no indication of the light being invisible from any particular direction, as is the case with some others, and, naturally, he felt slightly uneasy. Fortunately, all went well, and he eventually reached Aden safely. But, he added, he had always wondered "whether they only showed the light when they saw a ship approaching."

***

This suggestion rather startled me, for, corsair though I be, I have a large respect for lights at sea, and the idea of such economy as that suggested by my informant's remarks did not commend itself to me. I said as much, and hinted that he might be trying to pull my leg, since lights at sea were *always* kept going o' nights, save, of course, in war time. But he laughed, and told me of another case within his own knowledge; and as it happened in Near Eastern waters I may pass it on. An English vessel coming from Sicily to Corfu had to pass a certain point which by all the rules and regulations should have showed a light. But the skipper could see no light, nor could anyone else on board; so having, by good fortune and extreme care, avoided losing his ship, the irate sailor proceeded to his Consul and lodged a formal complaint. The Consul made inquiries, and in due course was able to inform the sailor that he was right: there had been no light. And the explanation given was that all the olive oil that should have fed it had been used up for cooking purposes!

***

We have not heard much about the Censor of late. Perhaps he took his departure with the Captains and the Kings? But travellers home from Egypt tell a story about him which, though it refers to events many months old, may be new to some readers. A certain popular man in Cairo employed his spare time by acting as one of the Press Censors. The work was difficult—as those who know Egypt will readily understand—and entailed late hours; but he stuck to it, though it was purely voluntary, and exhibited so much tact and discretion that he achieved great success. Then he fell ill and died. The local editors, grateful for the qualities he had evinced, wished to take the opportunity of paying tribute to his ability; and accordingly, at the end of the obituary notices, added a note rendering homage to the sagacity with which he had exercised his functions in often trying circumstances. But the Censor would not pass the note, on the ground that the public must not know who the censors are—or were!

***

The irony of this objection lay, of course, in the fact that everybody in Cairo knew, and knows, quite well who the censors were, and are. For that matter, I am informed, no secrecy had up to that time been observed in respect to the point. Indeed, in Egypt it would be a practical impossibility to maintain such secrecy. But even allowing for the moment that it ought to have been, and could have been, maintained, one wonders what harm any sane person would have thought could be done by the publication of an appreciation of the services of the poor man who was at the time lying in his grave. It would have been a graceful recognition of his assistance, ungrudgingly rendered, and would have afforded intense satisfaction to his family and the Egyptian Press in general. As my informant remarked, "It was just one of those censorial absurdities which would have caused poor old ——, who had a pretty wit and a keen sense of humour, intense amusement. One can almost hear his merry laugh and the sarcastic remark that the relation of the incident would certainly have called forth from him."

***

The "Bull of Bulls," to give the Sultan of Darfur only one of his numerous titles, has been having rather a thick time of it lately, and he will probably regulate his rushes with greater care in the future. The astonishing part of the business is, however, not that he became truculent, but that he has given so little trouble on the whole. To be allowed to remain a real live Sultan when all the adjacent territories were placed under the direction of conquering white men must have seemed a very gratifying tribute to his wisdom and power, and even Sultans are not insensible to flattery, however subtle. It has turned stronger heads than that of Ali Dinar in its time, and it has led to many a quest no less wild and hopeless than the invasion of Sudan territory, which was presumably the aim of Dinar's concentration of troops on our frontier. The whole thing is over now, and the Sultan is a fugitive in the hills; but it was an interesting little campaign while it lasted. Its outstanding feature was the use of an aeroplane for hostile purposes, and it would not have been surprising had the victory been won without any terrestrial fighting at all. I wonder what the hosts of the recalcitrant Sultan thought when they saw the gigantic bird approaching, and received its message from the sky. It is not so long ago since Englishmen looked on an aeroplane with awe, although they knew of its advent and the times were peaceable. It says a good deal for the courage of our foes in the Western Sudan that they could find nerve to fire at—and wound—our pilot when he appeared.

***

According to the latest news from Germany, the Turkish members of Parliament who are now in Berlin have visited the camp for Mohammedan prisoners near that city. Naturally these gentlemen were at pains to show that all went well with the German cause, and especial reference was made to "the extraordinary goodness of the German authorities towards Mohammedan prisoners." Extraordinary indeed, if we are to consider it in comparison with the German treatment of men of their own creed. But will even this last? Perhaps we may judge from the evidence of Boche methods which has been given in the course of the Irish inquiry. The Irish prisoners were well and humanely treated just as long as there was any prospect of their becoming traitors to their King. After that there was a different tale to tell, and I fancy that no love of Islam will stand in the way of German brutality if the Mohammedan prisoners remain loyal to their flag. These little things will not be forgotten in the day of reckoning, and let us hope that those whose trade is the making of traitors will meet with a traitor's fate.

***

Professor Theodore Birt has been thinking, and he has come to the conclusion that the Germans are the heirs of that old Hellenic culture which first made life worth living. If this is indeed the case, something has gone wrong somewhere and the entail has been broken, because no autocracy such as that of the Boche Wilhelm II. can ever inherit the culture of the purest democracy the world has known. Perhaps, however, the Herr Professor is a seer, and looks forward to the day when the Hohenzollerns will be swept from kingship and the German race become human again. Even so, his prophecy does not greatly impress me. The Hohenzollerns may well be swept from the throne; the German people will become tame when they have been sufficiently whipped; but it is too great a strain on one's imagination to connect them with culture—real culture, without the K.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

SYRIA IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE.*

Syria's importance to Rome was due not only to trade, and to the fact that Phœnicia and Palestine formed a natural medium of commerce between East and West, but also to the peculiar strategic position of the country, which made it a valuable base of operations on the frequent occasions that Rome came into hostile contact with the East. While the natural defences of Syria were far from insignificant, they were not of themselves sufficient to serve as a foil against aggression, and so it is not surprising to find the improvisation of lines of defence a continued feature of the Roman occupation. In his masterly work Mr. Bouchier deals in considerable detail with the efforts made to render Syria immune from attack, and it is his opinion that the Romans devoted as much care to the defence of this province as they did to that of the Rhine or Danube districts. About the third century, for instance, two main lines of forts were established on the frontier, the most easterly intended to defend the approaches to Damascus, backed by a strong garrison at Bostra, while another line connected Bostra and Petra. After the defeat of Narses by Galerius in 297 A.D., the whole frontier system was overhauled by Diocletian, and the reforms he introduced were responsible for delaying the Persians' advance by fifty years. In augmentation of the Syrian *limes* he carried a long line of forts from the Euphrates past Bostra and Petra to the Red Sea. He also built a strong camp on the Euphrates, strengthened Circusium, again fortified Palmyra, and established arsenals at various towns, besides improving the harbour at Seleucia.

Rome had to deal in Syria both with a civilization equal to her own and with a half-civilized community, and this aspect renders any consideration of Roman rule in the province of particular interest. On the one hand there were the prosperous Greek and Phœnician cities which, "with their fully developed city life, their extensive commerce and schools of art and literature, had no inclination to borrow much from the West," and for them the Imperial connection meant very little. With regard to the Arab peoples east of the Antilibanus, the situation was different, for, as the writer points out, they were at a stage of development where guidance could be serviceable. This striking difference in population goes far to illustrate the difficulties encountered by the Romans in their administration, and also to explain the comparative absence of the success which attended their efforts in Gaul, Spain, and elsewhere. Syria, when the Romans began its organisation, presented a strange diversity of governments ranging from the city states of the Semites, mainly on an oligarchical principle, to the loose tribal unions of the Arabs, and it is a tribute to the wisdom of the Imperial authorities that these diversities were in the main allowed to continue, with a few salutary alterations, such as the removal of tyrants and the freeing of Greek cities from Jewish or Arabian rule. As to the system which the Romans imposed on Syria, it must be sufficient to say that it does not show any remarkable divergences from the treatment of other provinces, and the main feature to be noted is that, as elsewhere, the guiding principle of *divide et impera* becomes increasingly noticeable as time passes.

Perhaps the most piquant feature in Syria's thorny career as a pawn in the perpetual struggle between East and West, in the course of which her cities were not infrequently ravaged, was the short-lived Syrian dynasty, which owed its rise to the purple to the marriage of Septimius Severus with the daughter of Julius Bassianus, priest of Elagabal at Emesa. The most vivid figure in this brief episode was the eccentric Elagabalus, who brought the sacred emblem of the sun god to Rome and erected temples to that deity there. Mr. Bouchier makes it clear how little taste the Romans had for this religion by mentioning that knights and senators were compelled to watch the ceremonies at the temple in the Palatine, while those inclined to ridicule were severely punished. Every summer, we are told, there were also magnificent processions to a temple in the suburbs conveying the sacred stone:—

> The emblem was carried in a gold chariot enriched with precious stones, and drawn by six horses, all white, with trappings of gold. The emperor himself ran before, holding the reins, his steps supported by attendants; torch-bearers accompanied him; wreaths, flowers, even gold dust were strewn in his path.

The whole question of religion in Syria, of which the worship of Elagabal is merely an unimportant phase, is an exceedingly complicated subject, and one that offers an exceptional field of research to the student of comparative religion. The rise of Christianity was contemporaneous with the decay of the ancient cults, and their decline was accompanied by the growth of superstition, which took the form of a belief in the activity of demons. Thus, Libanius and Chrysostom described the outbreak at Antioch under Theodosius as due to the malevolent action of demons, while Lucian mentions a Syrian who could expel any demon, provided the remuneration was satisfactory. It is interesting to note that the Jews of Antioch were not free from these beliefs, and their synagogues were reputed to contain powerful spirits. One of the strangest manifestations of this superstitious tendency was the rise of a society of occultists in the school at Berytus. This society was severely repressed by the authorities, and its books were publicly burnt.

Considering the conditions, it seems not a little strange that Syria should have produced not a few writers and poets of distinction, and, indeed, should have proved a field of surprising literary fertility. In the early period, which covers such names as Meleager, Philodemus, and Archias, most Syrian writers found it necessary to seek their fortunes away from home, Mr. Bouchier's explanation of this being that at the time there was no large reading public in Syria, and "the Seleucid kings were never great patrons of learning, the early Roman governors and officials still less, and the cultured middle class of older Greek towns was slow in appearing." Later on there are the New Testament writers, Josephus, the historian, and Lucian, the sophist, not to mention many others. If Roman Syria had no other claim to remembrance, her literary achievements of themselves would ensure her a place in posterity.

* "Syria as a Roman Province." By E. S. Bouchier, M.A. (B. H. Blackwell, Oxford. 6s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

The Sufi Publishing Company has issued (at 2s. 6d. net) "Sufism: Omar Khayyam and E. Fitzgerald," by C. H. A. Bjerregaard.

Messrs. Luzac have published "Maliki Law," by F. H. Buxton, Political Department, Nigeria. The book, which is issued by order of the Governor-General of Nigeria, is a summary from French translations of the Mukhtasar of Sidi Khalil; and Maliki Law is the form of Moslem law prevalent in North Africa and Upper Egypt.

Messrs. Duckworth and Co. have published "The Passing of Nahla," a story of Egypt, by Bey Somerville.

AN EARLY ARAB WARRIOR-POET.

Speaking on Wednesday at the annual conference of the Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-Arts, Mr. Syed M. El-Ehsan El-Bakry said that Arabic was the language richest in poetry in the whole world, and every Arab was a poet. There were three schools—the Gahilieh of the period before the coming of Islam, the Sadr-ul-Islam of the period of Islamic power and civilisation, and the modern poets who were chiefly Egyptians and Syrians. The greatest Arab poets appeared in the first period. Never before or since had poetry a greater hold over a people; every year there were meetings at Suk Ikaz, the principal market, when poets recited their verses and competed for the envied laureateship. Poetry was even worshipped, and seven poems were hung in the Kaaba to receive the adoration of pilgrims. Among these early poets was Antar, born about 498 A.D. His mother was a black slave, and at first Antar was treated as a slave himself. One day, when the tribe was attacked by another tribe and defeated, Antar sat apart looking after the cattle. His father called to him, asking why he took no part in the fight, and he replied that such was not the duty of a slave, but of a free man. The father, moved by the answer, promised his son his freedom if he would join in the battle, and Antar went forth at the head of the remaining tribesmen, completely defeated the enemy and freed the captives they had taken. Thereafter he became the greatest warrior of his time, as well as the greatest poet. He fell desperately in love with his cousin Abla, wrote poems in praise of her beauty, and fought many desperate battles with his rivals before he became possessed of her. His death was like his life. Mortally wounded, he remained sitting on his horse and facing the foe so as to give his wife time to escape to the tribe. Such was the fear he had inspired that none of the enemy dared approach, until noticing that he did not move but remained leaning on his spear, some of them rode up and found that he was dead.

The lecture was illustrated by quotations from Antar's works. An interesting discussion followed.

Roumania has recently celebrated the tercentenary of Shakespeare. At Bucharest great audiences of Roumanian students assembled in the institute known as the King Carol's Foundation, where speeches were delivered on the works of England's greatest poet.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. June	1916. May.		1334. Rejeb.	5676. Sivan.
2	20	Friday	30 Shaaban.	1
3	21	Saturday.....	1	2
4	22	Sunday	2	3
5	23	Monday	3	4
6	24	Tuesday	4	5
7	25	Wednesday	5	6
8	26	Thursday	6	7

Saturday is the birthday of H.M. the King.

King Peter of Serbia, who has completed his cure at Edipso, is going very shortly to Chalcis, where he will spend the summer.

H.H. the Zil-es-Sultan arrived in Petrograd last week on his way to Persia. He was accompanied by Major Swift. He is expected to make a stay of some duration in the Russian capital.

Prince Christopher of Greece visited the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace last Friday and took lunch with them.

On Saturday H.R.H. accompanied Queen Alexandra to the concert given by the massed bands of the Household Brigade at Albert Hall in aid of the Prisoners of War Fund of the Household Brigade.

On Sunday Prince Christopher was present at Divine service at the Marlborough House Chapel.

Prince Antoine Bibescu, First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London, has returned to town from Wales.

The Austro-Hungarian Government has notified M. Take Jonescu that his name has been removed from the list of those decorated with the Order of the Iron Crown.

Sir Louis Mallet was one of the first visitors who called on Mr. Asquith on Monday afternoon on his return to town.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the 3rd Class of the Order of El Kamel upon Mme. Valentine Rolo, lady-in-waiting upon H.H. the Sultana.

Countess Percy has given birth to a daughter at 3, Upper Belgrave Street. The child is Earl and Countess Percy's first daughter, their two other children being boys.

The engagement is announced of Captain John Francis King, 3rd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment, only son of Mr. John King, of Wandsworth Common, London, and Helen Muriel, eldest daughter of Dr. M. A. Ruffer, C.M.G., of Bulkeley, Ramleh, Egypt.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant Donald Carey Brock, R.N., Flag Lieutenant to the Senior Naval Officer at Gibraltar, youngest son of the Rev. and Mrs. H. Walter Brock, of the Rectory, St. Pierre du Bois, Guernsey, and Jocelyn Florence, younger daughter of Admiral and Mrs. John Denison, of Rusholme, Alverstoke, Hampshire, will take place quietly at Gibraltar about June 21.

FRENCH, English, Spanish, Italian, German, Scandinavian Languages, Greek. tc. , rapidly taught by natives.
Σχολή γλωσσων. Διδασκαλια ουσιημαυμή. Διερμηνετς ιγδ.
Lyceum Institute, 85, New Oxford Street, and 64, Haymarket.

The wedding of Mr. Norman Macnaghten and Miss Ida Gunning took place on May 9, at All Saints' Church, Cairo, the Rev. C. T. Horan officiating. The bride was given away by Sir Ronald Graham, and Mr. W. S. Roberts acted as best man. The ceremony was a very quiet one, no invitations being issued.

By a slip of the pen, our Cairo Correspondent omitted to include in the list of names of the building committee for the new Cathedral in Egypt that of Sir Alexander Baird, one of the original committee of All Saints' Church.

The Salonika correspondent of the *Times* reports: The correspondent of a Constantinople newspaper, who had an interview with General Townshend before his departure for Baghdad, quotes the General as saying:—"I and my staff are deeply impressed by the chivalrous attitude to us of Halil Pasha. Our ease and comfort have been consulted, and all our wants attended to in a manner beyond expectations. Be assured we will never forget his magnanimity." The correspondent adds that General Townshend was very pleased at the prospect of being sent to Constantinople.

General Friend, who has been giving evidence before the Dublin Commission, was at one time, the *Globe* reminds us, director of works and stores of the Egyptian Army and of Egyptian Public Works, assistant director of fortification works, and served with no small amount of distinction in the Omdurman campaign.

At the Greek Church in Moscow Road, Bayswater, on Sunday, a *Te Deum* will be sung after the morning Liturgy in celebration of the anniversary of the name day of the King of the Hellenes.

Writing under date of May 12, our Cyprus Correspondent reports:—The amateur theatrical performance given by members of the British community in aid of blinded soldiers and sailors, on the evening of May 10, was a great success. Sir John and Lady Clauson were present, and both the English and Greek communities were well represented. All the parts taken were admirably filled by those who gave their services.

Mr. T. H. Mawson, whose work in connection with the re-planning of Athens is familiar to our readers, has received permission to dedicate his book, "Athens: Past, Present, and Future," to the King and Queen of Greece.

In his moving description of the extraordinarily generous welcome extended in Switzerland to the first party of British prisoners of war to reach Zurich, the special correspondent of the *Times* reports that Colonel H. P. Picot, "appointed by the War Office as official *parrain* of all the British prisoners in Switzerland, was waiting to receive our men and make the journey with them to Chateau d'Oex." Afterwards, at Montreux, when the Swiss inhabitants gave our men a breakfast at the Suisse Hotel, Colonel Picot was one of the speakers. The whole journey was made the occasion of such warm demonstrations of sympathy and of goodwill towards this country that Colonel Picot's friends will certainly be tempted to envy his good fortune in taking part in it; though his responsibility is not a light one, since the number of British prisoners in Switzerland is expected to reach a total of about 1,300.

A telegram from Constantinople received in Amsterdam states that Enver Pasha for some time has been travelling in Anatolia. On May 25 he stayed in Baghdad.

Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, Princess Royal, Princess Victoria, Princess Maud, and the Grand Duchess George of Russia have all promised to visit the Caledonian Market, Islington, on the first day of the great two-days' rummage sale to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 6 and 7, in aid of the funds of the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee, Sardinia House, Kingsway, W.C.

M. A. Levitch, the Secretary-General to the Serbian Minister of Finance, arrived in London from Corfu on Sunday.

Our readers, both in Roumania and the City, will be pleased to learn that Mr. H. Locke, former sub-manager, has been appointed secretary of the Bank of Roumania and manager in London.

A party of wounded soldiers from Manor Court Army Nursing Home, Folkestone, were the guests of Lord Kitchener at Broome Park during the week-end.

A meeting of the General Committtee of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund, presided over by Sir Roper Parkington, was held last Friday at Claridge's Hotel to receive a report from their Commissioner (Mr. Alex. Devine), who had just returned to London. Several resolutions were passed, both in reference to the organisations of the fund in France, Italy, and Switzerland, and also with regard to important developments of the work for Montenegrin relief now in process of arrangement.

The reception with which the Société International de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-Arts inaugurated its forty-first annual conference was a very bright and pleasing affair. It was held last Tuesday evening at the Société's premises in Upper Bedford Place. There were representatives from every Continent, and many of these wore native dress, thus adding colour to the picture which the assembly presented; and many languages were spoken. Among those present were H.H. Prince Abdul-Karim Khan, who made a short speech in the course of the evening, Mr. Syed M. El Ehsan El Bakry, who recited in Arabic, and Messrs. M. Lakhani, Dr. Hassan Ali, M. T. Kaderbhoy, Erfan Ali, and Suleiman Dauod. The guests were received by the newly-elected president, Mr. Jaakoff Prelooker, and Mrs. Prelooker, and by the secretary, Dr. Henri M. Léon, Dr. Léon wearing for the occasion the official costume that belongs to the days when he was in the service of ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid. Mr. W. Zélin played Oriental and other music on the piano, and Madame Slana Krassavinia, prima donna of the Petrograd opera, sang. A short play was performed in the course of the evening, and there was an interesting exhibit of microscopic objects.

At Tuesday's meeting of the French Cabinet a letter was read from the Crown Prince of Serbia congratulating the French Navy on the transport of Serbian troops from Corfu to Salonika.

On Tuesday, at Hull, a sale was held of some outlying farms and land on the Seedmere estate, belonging to Sir Mark Sykes, M.P. Several lots were withdrawn, but the sale realized over £30,000.

Dame Florence Barbara Mary Baker, of Sandford Orleigh, Newton Abbot, Devon, who died on March 11 last, the first white woman to visit the lake region in Central Africa, widow of Sir Samuel White Baker, the famous Central African explorer, left estate of the gross value of £11,448, of which £11,333 is net personalty. The testatrix left the proceeds of the sale of the remainder of her furniture and personal effects, etc. (some having been specifically bequeathed to her stepdaughter), to form an endowment fund for the Cottage Hospital at Newton Abbot "in memory of Sir Samuel and Lady Baker."

Now that Lady Maud Wilbraham, with the assistance of Miss Hope-Clarke, 2, Crescent Road, Wimbledon, has by means of her "Silver Thimble" ambulances movement provided the three hospital boats asked for, which are being used on the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, her efforts are being directed to raising £2,000 with which to endow a bed in the Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors and Soldiers.

The Massalji, or Turkish story-teller, was the subject of an interesting address delivered yesterday by Dr. H. M. Léon at the Conference of the Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-Arts. We hope to publish a short report in our next issue.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

In a message dated May 29, the Cairo correspondent of *The Times* reports: The retirement of Sir Malcolm M'Ilwraith, Judicial Adviser to the Sultan, is announced. Sir Malcolm has presided over the Judicial Administration in Egypt for eighteen years, having succeeded Sir J. Scott in 1898. During his tenure many important international legal questions have been settled, and the Administration completely reorganized and united. To-day the state of justice in the country is in the highest degree satisfactory. It is expected that Sir William Brunyate will succeed him.

The *Times'* Correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula says that the retirement of M. Blondel, the French Minister at Bucharest, is believed to be to some extent due to the diplomatic situation. M. Blondel was one of the principal authors of the Treaty of Bucharest.

The King has been most graciously pleased to confer the Military Cross upon Major Clement Leslie Smith, V.C., Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and now in command of the Egyptian Camel Corps, and Saghkolaghassi (Adjutant Major) Mohammed Effendi Fuad el Seynfi, Camel Corps, in recognition of their distinguished services in the field from April to June, 1915, during the operations against Jebel Miri District, Nuba Mountains Province, in the Sudan.

Dr. Heinze, a Judge of the Supreme Court at Leipzig, and formerly member of the Reichstag for Dresden, has been appointed Under-Secretary of State for the Turkish Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Leopold Jullien, the manager of the Union Foncière d'Egypte, is now in the automobile service of the French Army and is stationed at Pierrelatte.

OBITUARY.

M. NICOLAS GANE.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (May 9):—I regret to record the death at Jassy of M. Nicolas Gane at the ripe age of eighty years. He was a sympathetic figure of a generation which is now all but extinct, and one of the builders of the young Roumanian State. In the course of his long career of unremitting labour he occupied a number of high offices, to which his intelligence, probity, and activity gave an additional dignity. He was repeatedly deputy and senator, on several occasions prefect of different departments, five times Mayor of Jassy, twice President of the Senate, and in J. C. Bratiano's Government of 1888 he held the portfolio of Agriculture. But this account of his activity is incomplete, for if to the mass of his fellow-countrymen he was known as a clear-headed, hard-working magistrate and politician, he will be remembered by a minority for his labours in the literary field. He published works of real worth, devoting much of his time to the history of Roumanian literature. In 1908 he became a member of the Academy, and he subsequently translated Dante's "Inferno" into Roumanian verse.

It is now officially announced that Lieutenant H. O. B. Firman, R.N., who was the officer in command of the ship which made the gallant attempt to take supplies up the Tigris to Kut on April 24, was killed in that attempt. He was previously reported "missing, believed prisoner." Lieutenant Firman was the only son of Mr. Humphrey Brooke Firman, late of Gateforth Hall, Selby, Yorkshire. Born in 1886, he joined the Britannia in 1902 as a naval cadet, and became midshipman in 1903. He was promoted to sub-lieutenant in 1907, and was selected for service in the Royal yacht Victoria and Albert, being specially promoted lieutenant in August, 1908. He held the Persian Gulf and Somaliland medals. On the outbreak of the war he was serving in H.M.S. Hannibal, but soon afterwards was selected as first lieutenant of the Proserpine, which post he held until January, 1916, when he was selected to command a river gunboat on the Tigris, in the operations directed against Baghdad and for the relief of Kut-el-Amarah. It was proposed, after all efforts had failed to relieve the garrison, to try to convey provisions to General Townshend's force. It was a forlorn hope, but he cheerfully volunteered for the duty. The approaches to Kut were too strongly defended, and the vessel went aground near Magasis, about four miles from Kut, and was captured.

It is officially announced that Lieutenant-Commander Charles H. Cowley, R.N.V.R., who was previously reported missing on April 24, is now reported killed on that date. We understand that he met his death while taking part in the gallant attempt to take a shipload of food through to Kut for the relief of the beleaguered garrison. Lieutenant-Commander Cowley was, before the war, in command of one of the British steamers owned by the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company and engaged on the Busreh-Baghdad service. The eldest son of the late Captain Cowley, who was the senior captain in the same service, and was well known to and liked by all travellers to Baghdad, he had been in the service of the E. and T.S.N. Co. for many years, and had a most intimate knowledge of the Tigris and its navigation, and he had also served on the Karun. Like his father before him, he was an extremely popular officer. The Cowley family is one of the best known and respected in Baghdad, and much sympathy will be felt with its members in the loss they have sustained. That sympathy, it is safe to say, will be shared by many of the natives of Baghdad, amongst whom the family, by reason of its long connection with the city, its hospitality, and its constant readiness to help whenever help was needed, is held in high respect.

It is officially announced that Captain George Alexander Brown, Royal Engineers, died of pneumonia on May 27. He had retired before the outbreak of war, but volunteered for further service, and was gazetted for re-employment in September, 1914. Born in March, 1859, he served for twenty-one years in the ranks, and afterwards for three years as warrant officer, while in April, 1901, he received the rank of lieutenant, and in 1910 was promoted captain. He took part in the Sudan (Nile) Expedition of 1884-5, and had the Egyptian medal with clasp and the bronze star, and he was also employed with the Frontier Field Force in the Sudan in 1885-6. In the South African War (1899-1902) he again won distinction, and was decorated with the Queen's medal with three clasps and the King's medal with two.

The death is announced of Mme. Dieulafoy, wife of M. Marcel Auguste Dieulafoy, who assisted her husband in his archæological travels in Persia.

Brigadier-General Gerard Beechey Howard Rice, Indian Army, who died on May 7 from cholera, aged fifty-one, was the grandson of the famous Nile explorer, Captain the Hon. C. L. Irby, R.N.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 3s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

MARRIAGE.

FULLER—HAGGARD.—On May 15, at Alexandria, Egypt, Major Brian Maitland Fuller, Dorset Regiment, youngest son of the late George Fuller, of 71 Lexham Gardens, Kensington, to Olive Phyllis, only daughter of the late Colonel and Mrs. Claude M. Haggard.

DEATHS.

JOSEPH.—On May 15, at Little Nook, Gerrards Cross, after a very short illness, Elizabeth Mary Joseph, wife of W. O. Joseph, of Pont de Koubbeh, Egypt, and Gerrards Cross, Bucks.

MAY.—On May 25, at Zeitoun, Cairo, Winifred May, the beloved wife of Herbert Bunnell May, and daughter of James Charles and Ellen Horsey, of Amherst Park, London.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1916.

THE BULGARIAN INVASION OF GREECE.

An important and not altogether unexpected development has taken place in the Balkan situation. The Bulgarians have crossed the Greek frontier to the east of that portion of Macedonia occupied by the Allies, and have taken possession of one fort and have approached the town of Demirhissar. So far, the information regarding their movements is of a meagre description, and points to a reluctance on the part of the Greek Government to divulge more than it is obliged. A few shots were fired by the garrison of Fort Rupel, but, acting on instructions from Athens, the Greek troops then withdrew, handing over the fort to the German officers accompanying the invaders. It is reported that Bulgarian columns are also grouped along the eastern frontier in the neighbourhood of the pass through which the railway to Dedeagatch runs. If this should be true, it points to a comprehensive invasion of the eastern portion of Greek Macedonia, and if the Greeks continue the policy adopted in the case of Fort Rupel, they will see Seres and Kavalla pass into the hands of the Bulgarians and Germans. The enemy's intentions are not yet established. They may at last be launching the long-promised attack, which is meant to drive the Franco-British forces into the sea. In this case they would naturally try to surround, as far as possible, the territory occupied by the Allies in order to converge upon Salonika from three directions. Again, they may be uneasy at the prospect of an Allied advance, and have decided that it was not sound strategy to leave so much ground uncovered on their flank, especially as the Greeks might sooner or later change their attitude and use this very district for an invasion of Bulgaria. Finally, there may be a third explanation. The Bulgarian army is known to have become restive under the existing conditions of disheartening inactivity. It has been inclined to argue that with the conquest of Serbia its work is done, and that it ought to be demobilised. By sending it against Kavalla the Bulgarian Government may hope to still its murmurings, and, incidentally, to secure for it fresh supplies. While the Greeks are told that the occupation of Greek Macedonia is forced upon Germany and Bulgaria by a temporary necessity, the Bulgarian soldiers will be encouraged to believe that they are now about to round off a successful campaign by seizing the balance of the territory to which they claim a prescriptive right.

That the Greek nation will relish being made the doormat of Europe at war no one acquainted with it will for a moment believe. President Wilson has introduced the conception of a people too proud to fight; but such a description ill accords with the spirit of a country which gained its independence at the point of the sword, flung itself in 1897 with unwise precipitancy against Turkey for the sake of its Cretan brethren, and four years ago, more sanely equipped, couched a lance for the people of Macedonia. The mere thought of the Bulgarians in occupation of territory for the time being Greece's own has stirred the nation to its depths. Whether it will allow its indignation to find a logical vent remains to be seen. The present situation, as has been pointed out, cannot be regarded as unexpected. Indeed, King Constantine has all along contemplated it with equanimity. Greece, he has declared in one or other of the Palace interviews which have enunciated Greek foreign and domestic policy, did not bargain for the presence of the Allied Powers on Greek soil; the Government is irrevocably committed to neutrality, and if the other group of belligerents elect to cross into Greece in order to drive their enemies out of the Balkans, it will raise no objection, but preserve a strict attitude of neutrality. Those interviews, however, were given when to the Greek mind it appeared not at all unlikely that the Central Powers would make short work of the Allies' occupation of Salonika. German threats in this direction have been a long time in materialising. The Allies have proved most exasperating from the point of view of the Greek Government; they will do nothing themselves, as far as military achievements are concerned, but they prevent the enemy from effecting anything decisive; meanwhile their occupation of Greek territory, in spite of the Government's protests, is popular with the whole country, especially with the portion where their troops are, which includes the second city in Greece. On the other hand, we may imagine King Constantine and his Ministers sadly reflecting, similar action on the part of the Central Powers, to whom they themselves are not unfavourably disposed, has only to be taken in regard to a few unimportant forts and some mountainous country, and a cry is raised from one end of Greece to the other. The explanation of this phenomenon must be left to the Greek authorities, although the outside world, which, with none of the actual experiences of a Greek population in Bulgarian hands to guide it, simply recalls the record of the Germans and their Allies at war, will have little difficulty in understanding the Hellenic nation's point of view.

But the more serious the situation as it presents itself to the Greek mind, the greater the need for the nation to close up its ranks in the face of an admitted danger. Lapse of time has probably made such a course easier. King Constantine's protestations of friendship for Great Britain and her Allies showed that the mainspring of his policy was fear of Germany. There has been time for this obsession to wear off; German militarism has been too long in making good. We refuse to believe that a King deservedly popular in his own country has failed to appreciate the inwardness of public feeling towards the war—that the sympathy felt for the Allies is instinctive, born of the knowledge that Greece owes to the Entente Powers its very existence, while any following that the Germans have among the Greeks may generally be traced to a pecuniary origin. If the Bulgarians advance on Kavalla, it is almost incredible that the Greeks should tamely evacuate a town on which they have spent so much labour and money as to render it virtually impregnable in the hands of a resolute force. The Bulgarians, therefore, will either have to fight for Kavalla, if they want it, or must pass it by and, ignoring the Greeks, continue their operations against Salonika. Whether Greece will remain a passive spectator with Bulgarians in possession of the neighbouring country must remain for the present an open question. She will not be urged to fight by the Allies, although they will be ready to welcome her co-operation. Her rulers have proved false to one treaty, and allowed Great Britain to expect help in an attack on the Dardanelles which was not forthcoming. If Greece declares war on Bulgaria now, it will not be with the idea of aiding the Allies, who no longer need her support, but it will be for the purpose of protecting Greek interests, and, we may hope, of welding the nation into one harmonious whole again. In order to bolster up an unpopular policy King Constantine has had to revive the political passions which have been the bane of Greece in the past. The country has an opportunity now of being freed once more from this incubus by the ordeal of war. For this reason we trust that the antagonism between the Crown and M. Venizelos is not irreconcilable. Their differences have been largely the outcome of German intrigue, and if the menace to Kavalla causes King Constantine to modify his former policy he owes it to the man he has wronged to reinstate him in office, in order that the country may present a united front to the enemy.

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SULTAN HUSSEIN'S TOUR.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 15.

As has ever been the custom of the ruler of this country, the Sultan, since his accession, has almost every week said his Friday prayer in a different mosque, according as his official residence has been Cairo or Alexandria. His Highness has, however, lately made two important departures. In the first place, he has visited Al Azhar Mosque for the weekly prayer, and secondly, he has begun a round of visits to the most celebrated mosques in the Delta, commencing with the Al Ahmedy Mosque at Tanta. Both departures are entirely due to his own initiative.

His Highness knew that the Mosque of Al Azhar was the fountain-head of Moslem learning in Egypt, and for matter of that in the world, and that it reflected the trend of Mohammedan thought and feeling from the very fact that its several thousand students come from, and its graduates are to be found at, the four corners of the universe. No sovereign had visited the Mosque for the purpose of prayer for more than a generation. His Highness decided to break with precedent, and, while offering up prayer in this ancient and historical building, to test the feeling of his Moslem subjects towards him, and find out whether, since his accession to the throne, he has enjoyed the popularity that was peculiarly his when he was plain Prince Hussein Pasha Kamel.

No extraordinary preparations were made for giving effect to this resolution; although it was admitted that no one could foresee what would take place at the Mosque. His Highness, refusing to allow any special place to be set aside or prepared for him, took up his position in the front row of the worshippers, with the Princes of his family, the Ministers and prominent Moslems on either side of him. Evidently the spectacle of the ruler of the country standing in their midst and offering up the customary Friday prayer without any *fantasia* or pomp, but in all the humility and simplicity decreed by the Prophet, appealed to the many thousands assembled within the vast building; for, when, at the conclusion of the ceremony, Sultan Hussein walked through the class-rooms and corridors, he was accorded a great ovation, which was as spontaneous as it was wholly unexpected. In short, the Al Azhar visit proved an unqualified success.

The visit to Tanta was equally successful, and equally made its impression on the Moslem community in general. The Sultan, accompanied by the Palace staff, travelled down by special train to that town, where he was received on arrival by the Mudir and his staff. From the station his Highness proceeded to the Al Ahmedy University, one of the most important religious educational institutions in the country, where he was received by the Ulema, the Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar, the Grand Mufti, and various other prominent Moslems. He visited the different class-rooms, and after addressing the students and professors left amid a veritable ovation, and proceeded to a special marquee, where he held a reception of the notables of the Mudiria and made them a speech. The text is well worth reproducing, as it is typical of the addresses which his Highness has systematically given to all assemblies of his subjects with whom he has come in contact since his accession, and it illustrates the line of conduct which he has tried to get his subjects to follow. His Highness said:—

"I am very pleased to see you to-day in this town where I spent three years thirty-four years ago, when I was General Inspector of the Provinces. I saw your fathers and grandfathers during that period, so that I am not a stranger to you. To-day I notice considerable progress in Tanta, schools and religious institutions having been established, which was not the case when I was here formerly.

"In fact, Tanta is not the only town which has made progress. The whole country has undergone considerable development, all of which is due to the untiring efforts of the Government and the energy of the people. One of the most important directions in which development has been made is in irrigation. If we cast our thoughts back we find that forty years ago only the canals, such as the Jaffaria and Bahr Shebin, irrigated—and then very sparsely—a part of the cotton in summer and that the rest of the cotton area was irrigated when the Nile rose. The comparison of the state of affairs at that time with what it is to-day is striking. The Irrigation Department has done excellent work, and has spent a large sum in the improvement of the irrigation system and the construction of drains, which were greatly needed by the country. At the present moment the financial crisis has delayed the completion of these drains; but the Government will continue to interest itself in the question, and will complete in due course the work which has been started.

"Many schools and Kuttabs have been established, but they have not yet attained the object which we looked for. Science alone is not sufficient; it must be accompanied by moral education and good conduct. We notice that you are all educating your children with a view to their obtaining employment under the Government. This is, however, quite impracticable. You should educate your children and encourage them to take up commerce, industry, and agriculture. It would be a good example for other provincial councils if your council were to establish schools for women teachers. The most essential and effective means of promoting the welfare of the nation is the education of the girl so that she may eventually become a helpmate to her husband and her family. I do not mean that a girl should be taught to wear costly dresses. It is our duty to learn economy, of which we are in great need. Our country is agricultural, but we have so far only reached a low standard in comparison with other countries. We are now going through a financial crisis; but those who have visited Europe are of the opinion that we are, comparatively speaking, in an enviable state of prosperity. We send millions of pounds abroad every year to pay our debts, so we should economise, so as to save these millions, and thus assist towards the welfare and prosperity of the country.

"Agriculture cannot be improved without syndicates, and I must draw your attention to the necessity of establishing these syndicates, which would be of great assistance to the cultivators.

"I now address the Omdahs, and I should like to impress upon them that they hold Government posts, but that they also stand in a paternal position towards their fellow-countrymen. The Omdah resembles a father of a family; if he and the Sheikh of Ghaffirs administered justice with fairness and kindness, the result of their work would be excellent, and we should hear no more of breaches of public security.

"On my way to Tanta I conversed with the Minister of Public Works about irrigation; his administration is doing its utmost to help the farmers. I may draw your attention to an incident which I think is worthy of consideration. When, some years ago, I visited Italy in order to study the question of co-operative syndicates, I met a farmer who owned a farm of fifteen feddans. I found him lifting water from three wells sunk in his land, in which there was a canal. I asked him why he took the trouble to irrigate his land from wells, when he had water running so near to his farm and could irrigate his farm without trouble. He replied that it was the time of rotation and that he had already taken his share of water from the canal. He said he must allow his neighbours to take their share also; for he did not like to rob others, so that others should not rob him. I asked him how he knew that this was rotation time, and he replied that he could read well, and that he read the notice of rotation, which had been placed by the Government at the entrance to his farm. If every one of us knew his duty like this farmer, there would be no complaints of insufficiency of water, and in fact water would suffice for all.

"We have studied the question of the coal that will be required for your lifting engines during the coming months of low Nile. We have imported a small quantity, and a Committee, presided over by the Minister of Public Works, has been created for the distribution to those who need coal for the irrigation of their lands.

It would be a good thing for you all if you were to put aside all matters likely to lead to disputes, and if you were to get on peacefully together. I do not mean to criticise you, but to encourage you to help one another; for this is all in your own interests and in that of your country. Your province is the largest in Egypt, and contains about 900,000 feddans of uncultivated land, which I hope may be turned into a cultivable State. Remember that my happiness depends on your happiness, and the prosperity of my family depends upon your prosperity. We are now under a new regime, and all the Ministers join me in doing their utmost for the good of the country. I have visited this largest town in the provinces, and shall visit the others in due course. All that I say to you is in the form of advice. I am a *fellah*, like yourselves. Remember that I did not make any efforts to become Sultan of Egypt, but my accession was brought about by the will of God, and I shall do my utmost as long as I live for the promotion of the welfare of this country and of that of its inhabitants."

The address was listened to with attention by all the notables present. At its conclusion his Highness conferred decorations on various persons, and then proceeded to perform his Friday prayer in the Ahmedy Mosque. The same procedure as at Al Azhar was followed, and a similar ovation was accorded him at the close of the service. The Sultan then gave a luncheon party, and after holding another reception he left again for Cairo amid the acclamations of the people and of the religious students.

During the next few weeks his Highness proposes to visit the Dessuki and other celebrated mosques in the Delta. From the tone of the local Moslem Press and of the conversations of the Moslem people, there appears no doubt at all that his visits are having the happiest effects, and are bringing about a rapprochement between the masses and their ruler without in any way affecting the good relations existing between the latter and the British authorities. This is in itself a highly satisfactory feature, for in the past cordial co-operation (or, shall I say, sympathy between the people and their sovereign?) has always been in inverse proportion to the existence of those relations between the Palace and the British representatives. The reasons for this are well known to all who have any acquaintance with the inner history of Egyptian politics, and no useful purpose would to-day be served by dwelling upon them. It is a

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matter for sincere congratulation that those causes are steadily being eradicated, and it is no exaggeration to say that their disappearance, which is for the good of the country and of the Empire, is entirely due to the untiring efforts of Sultan Hussein.

When the history of this country during the past two years comes to be written, the historian will assuredly give a prominent place to the attitude taken up by Hussein I. and to the courageous manner in which, despite all difficulties, he has stuck to his task and has sought means for getting into closer touch with his people. The visits to Al Azhar and to Tanta, the two main centres of potential fanaticism, stand strikingly to his credit, especially when one considers that, owing to the circumstances amidst which he ascended the throne, he lost a good deal of his popularity, and was held up to the masses by agitators and malcontents as a man who had sold himself and his country.

Sultan Hussein has loyally and pluckily stood to his purpose and performed the duty which his exalted position imposed upon him. He has not swerved one whit from the cordial co-operation which at the outset he promised the British Government, and which his past record had led them to expect from him. At the same time he is, by his dignified attitude, his constant solicitude for the welfare of the people, his sympathetic, though on occasion critical, treatment of his subjects, and his unbounded liberality, succeeding in weaning them, Nationalists as well as *fellaheen*, from their previous misguided train of thought, and making them realise that Sultan Hussein I. is the same Prince Hussein Kamel Pasha whom they knew and respected of old; but that he is widely different in his conduct and personality from the ex-Khedive, Abbas Hilmy II., at whose hands they one and all suffered so bitterly. This personal achievement is on its own merits worthy of record, but it is even still more worthy of record when we take into consideration the fact that Egypt is now an integral part of the British Empire, and that this country is in very close relationship with all the Moslem communities owning allegiance to the King-Emperor.

ILLITERATES AS SOLDIERS.

(From Our Bucharest Correspondent.)

The *Journal des Balkans* gives some interesting facts with regard to the proportion of illiterates in various countries, as indicated by the degree of instruction possessed by the recruits of their respective armies. The number of illiterates in certain countries is as follows:—Serbia, 45 per cent.; Bulgaria, 28 per cent.; Italy, 30 per cent.; Belgium, 10 per cent.; France, 4.8 per cent.

Roumanian statistics on this subject have not been published regularly in recent years, but there are a few available facts. Thus the 1909 class of recruits had, in the year 1910, a percentage of illiterates amounting to 43.2; the following year the percentage had dropped to 41. The 1914 class had a percentage of illiterates in 1915 of rather less, namely, 37. So that there seems to be a distinct improvement noticeable in the last years, and this is the more striking if we compare the present percentage of illiterates among the Roumanian recruits with that of 1900, when there were registered no less than 67 per cent.

ARREST OF CYPRIOTS IN ATHENS.

Our Cyprus correspondent writes (May 14):—In connection with the bomb-throwing outrage at the Bulgarian Embassy, two Cypriots were arrested on suspicion of being implicated. They were in the Government service, but had been transferred some time ago to Lemnos, whence they obtained leave to visit Athens for Easter. A short examination, however, convinced the police that they were innocent, and they were promptly released.

An "Officer's Wife" writes to the *Times*:—"Only those who know the true story of Kut can ever know all our brave men suffered there for King and country; and now we have been informed that the question of the pay of officers taken prisoners while serving on the Indian Establishment is at present under consideration, and that in the meantime, under the existing rules, the officers from Kut will, after the first sixty-one days' full Indian pay, be put on British pay. I want to know why India should not perform its obligations to the officers in its divisions who have been taken prisoner through no fault of their own—at any rate, until the India Office have considered the question, why we should not draw the pay we are entitled to, as British pay will mean a great difference now that living has gone up so much. It seems too hard to believe that this is the way India treats her heroes from Kut."

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Prisoners in the Balkans. May 31.

Lord Newton, in the course of a debate on the treatment of British prisoners of war, said there were in Bulgaria 449 prisoners, all of whom were military, and in Turkey there were 8,857 military prisoners, 103 naval prisoners, and 60 interned civilians. In the case of Turkey there had been difficulty in obtaining accurate information, because the American representatives had found great difficulty in visiting the camps, and they had not been able to visit any of the camps in Asia Minor. With regard to Bulgaria the first reports were extremely unfavourable, and the condition of the prisoners was not at all happy, but according to information which had reached the Government recently the position of the prisoners in Bulgaria had greatly improved. The majority of the prisoners were now interned at Philippopolis, and according to the latest reports they were well and kindly treated. It had not been found possible to obtain accurate information with regard to small working parties spread about the country. The first reports from Turkey were extremely unfavourable, but according to private information improvement had taken place even in remote parts of Asia Minor. Parcels and postcards were arriving regularly, and the men were receiving pay equal to about 1s. 6d. a day.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Aid for Serbia. May 29.

Mr. Annan Bryce asked the Foreign Secretary whether he was aware that numbers of the people of Serbia were every day dying of starvation, and the remainder becoming so enfeebled from want of food as gravely to diminish the possibility of renewing the population; whether offers of efficient distributing organizations had been made by two sets of neutrals; whether the services of Serbia to the Allied cause deserved at least as much recognition by way of aid as those of Belgium; and whether he could now make any statement with regard to the provision by his Majesty's Government of help to Serbia.

Lord Robert Cecil: I have no official information as to the first part of the question, but I cannot doubt, in view of past experience of the way in which the enemy treat the population of occupied territory, that the state of Serbia is very grave. In regard to the second part of the question, his Majesty's Government have received various proposals, but none which gives any particular guarantee of the effective organization of distribution and control. The answer to the last part of the question is that his Majesty's Government have demanded of the German and Austrian Governments that the latter should provide adequately for the civil population of Serbia, Montenegro, and Albania in return for facilities for the relief of Poland. This demand has been published, and we await a reply.

The Mesopotamia Inquiry. May 30.

Colonel Yate asked when the report upon the breakdown in the medical arrangements in Mesopotamia might be expected.

Mr. Chamberlain: The Commission has not concluded its inquiry, and I am unable to give any date for the submission of the report. The terms of reference require the Commission to ascertain and assign the responsibility of individual officers for any inadequacy or failure of relief or shortage of *personnel*, equipment, vehicles, or stores.

Mr. Malcolm: Will the right hon. gentleman consider the desirability of issuing an interim report, if possible?

Mr. Chamberlain: No; I am entirely opposed to that suggestion. I invited the Government of India to appoint this Commission on my own motion and without pressure from anybody. I did so because I thought it was very desirable that we should ascertain the facts, and I think when the Commission reports it should report with a presentation of the whole of the facts.

Seamen Interned in Turkey.

Mr. Butcher asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he would request the United States Ambassador in this country to furnish, if possible, through the good offices of the United States Consul-General at Constantinople, a statement of the general conditions and the diet supplied to the captains, officers, and seamen comprising the crews of the steamers City of Khios and Assiout, who were interned at the Magnesia camp, near Smyrna, Turkey.

Sir E. Grey: The last report on the condition of the crews of these vessels was received in February. It indicates that there was a lack of proper exercise, only a few men being allowed out each day to buy provisions. The food supplied was being diminished in quantity and was inferior in quality. For seven weeks only one leg of goat was supplied in the way of meat. The usual rations were horse beans, olive oil, and flour, and sometimes olives. Very little oil for lighting or charcoal for heating in the cold weather had been supplied. On the receipt of this information a protest was addressed to the Porte on the subject of the inadequacy of the rations supplied, and the United States Consul-General at Smyrna was requested to increase the allowance to the prisoners from 8d. to 1s. a day for each man. Inquiries are being made as to the present condition of the crews.

Alleged Use of Flat-topped Bullets.

Mr. King asked Mr. Tennant if he knew anything about flat-topped bullets used by the Turks in Mesopotamia, Aden, and on the Egyptian front, and whether these were identical with certain bullets in cartridges captured during the rebellion in Dublin.

Mr. Tennant said it had been necessary to telegraph to Mesopotamia on this matter. The question raised an interesting point, and he would communicate the answer as soon as received.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Responsibility for the Baghdad Advance.

A leading article in the *Times* (May 31) on the documents relating to the responsibility for the Baghdad advance declares its opinion that the Government have taken an improper and misleading course in publishing papers about this single question. "They should have told the whole story or nothing. The main issue is not what General Townshend said to General Nixon, but, first, who was ultimately responsible for the mad decision to advance to Baghdad, and, secondly, why the attempt to relieve Kut came to such disastrous and costly failure." The article proceeds to deal with the Government assertion that a certain "Appreciation" written by General Townshend cannot now be identified.

Let us endeavour to throw some light on the mystery. The word "Appreciation," as the title of General Townshend's protest, occurs in these official papers for the first time. That is a very significant fact. It has not hitherto been mentioned in *The Times*, and the use of it shows that the existence of a document bearing this title is well known both in England and in India, quite independently of anything which has appeared in these columns. Our information, which is based on more substantial grounds than gossip or hearsay evidence, is that General Townshend did write such an "Appreciation" on October 3 on board the steamer "Mejedieh." It discussed the whole position, and set forth in clear and forcible language the grave risks of an advance on Baghdad. It said, in words quoted in the Parliamentary paper, that in view of the weak forces then in Mesopotamia, "anyone advocating such a step would show, in my opinion, that he was utterly ignorant of the art of war." The truth is that the existence of this document is not only known to a large number of people, but many of them have seen copies of it. One copy, for instance, was sent to India, apparently in the hope that it might be shown informally to the executive authorities; but we have reason to believe that, as a matter of fact, it was never shown at the time to any member of the Government. If the original reached Sir John Nixon and his staff—a point which is by no means clear in the published correspondence—then it never got beyond them.

After emphasizing the fact that General Townshend had done all that was possible in the way of bringing his opinion before his "superiors," the paper continues:—

Obviously the matter cannot rest here. We trust that Sir John Nixon will explain why he never transmitted General Townshend's views, and why he decided to disregard them. Serious responsibility evidently attaches also to Sir Beauchamp Duff, the Commander-in-Chief in India. He may not have been acquainted with General Townshend's objections, but he knew the precise strength of his force, and ought to have been aware of the risks involved. The whole of the later stages of the Mesopotamian campaign require much fuller investigation than they have yet received. The final order to advance must have been given by the Home Government, and the grounds on which their unfortunate decision was based ought to be disclosed. . . . Many other matters, such as the breakdown of the medical arrangements, the transport defects, and the unaccountable failure to build light railways, should be explained. Above all, the truth should be told about the repulse of General Aylmer at the Es Sinn position on March 8. Perhaps the most distressing feature of the whole story of Kut is that on that day the beleaguered town could have been relieved with ease, if unpardonable mistakes had not been made. All that the public have been permitted to know is that five days afterwards General Aylmer was recalled, and that he has since been inexplicably rewarded with one of the biggest commands in India.

The *Evening Standard* (May 30) says:—

We do not wish to prejudge the case until all the papers are available. But meanwhile it is clear that General Townshend did "protest" as far as a subordinate commander could do, but that nevertheless he embarked on the ill-fated enterprise against which he had advised. In whatever quarter the onus of a disastrous decision must be placed, it cannot be on General Townshend. His conscience may well be, as he says, quite clear. Responsibility must rest on others than the man who, after indicating the insufficiency of his resources, went gallantly on a hopeless enterprise.

The Defence of Egypt.

The Military Correspondent of the *Glasgow Herald* (May 27) in a general article on the war concludes with the references to the position of Egypt which we quote below:—

The official announcement that the Turco-Germans are being made to pay dearly for the recent air raid upon Port Said is interesting and gratifying up to a certain point. But the situation as regards the Sinai Peninsula does not appear to be entirely satisfactory, since the mere presence of German and Turkish forces in this region, even if it cannot be described as a serious menace, is an insult, and consequently detrimental in some degree to the maintenance of our local prestige. . . . Very possibly our military position here is quite as secure to-day as it was last autumn; in some respects, perhaps, more so; and the writer is far from wishing to exaggerate the importance of the enemy demonstrations in Sinai or to underrate the effectiveness of what has been done to nullify them. There is something, too, to be said for the policy of luring the enemy on to continued efforts in this region. But we must not forget that very large questions of Asiatic policy are bound up with our handling of the war in these regions, and that the presence of considerable German and Turkish forces in the Sinaitic Peninsula—which is, of course, Egyptian territory—may be, and probably is, misconstrued by a large proportion of the inhabitants of Egypt, Arabia, and Syria, to say nothing of several other Asiatic countries. Strategically speaking, it may be quite correct to allow the Germans and Turks to waste time and energy in trying to creep up gradually to within striking distance of the Canal. But there must be many with long Eastern experience who are not altogether satisfied with a policy which produces such contretemps as the recent enforced withdrawal from Duweidar, and makes it necessary to exact retribution for aerial attacks based upon points well within Anglo-Egyptian boundaries.

Greece and the Entente.

A special correspondent of the *Morning Post* (May 29) gives some illuminating details of the anti-Entente methods of the present Greek Ministry. We quote one instance:—

On Tuesday the Russian Duma sent a message to the Greek Chamber protesting against the sinking of the Russian hospital ship "Portugal" in the Black Sea by a German submarine. Last night, when the Chamber met to discuss the protest, M. Skouloudis communicated a letter from the Turkish Minister in Athens defending the sinking of the ship on the ground of the well-known pretext that she was carrying troops and munitions. A Macedonian member raised objection to the presentation of this letter to the House by the Premier as unseemly and irregular, but M Skouloudis replied that Greek neutrality and the sense of fairplay required that both sides in this "controversy" should be given a hearing. In other words, the Greek Premier placed Russia, one of the three Powers which liberated Greece from the Turkish yoke, on the same footing as Turkey, the hereditary foe of the Greek race, who at this moment is busily engaged in exterminating the Greeks of the Ottoman Empire.

Bulgaria's Aims.

We quote the following interesting expression of opinion by Count Chedo Miyatovitch from the *Evening Standard* (May 29), which had received an interview with the ex-Serbian Minister on the Bulgarian invasion of Greece:—

"The new move," he said, "is alarming, but it is not surprising, because the Bulgars' ambitions were very well known. In the first place, they wish to get Kavalla, but their ultimate aspiration is to take Salonika. To get Salonika from the Greeks has for them been merely a question of time. It is astonishing that the Greeks, who were aware of this, should not have carried out the policy represented by M. Venizelos, which would have frustrated Bulgarian designs.

"The Greeks are helpless, and their only hope is that King Constantine may prevail upon Germany to restrain Bulgaria's designs. The only real chance for Greece, however, is to throw in her lot with the Allies. That will be the best solution of the Greek problem, both from their own standpoint and ours; but I am rather doubtful whether Greek public opinion will be strong enough to bring about this course.

"On the other hand, this Bulgar advance may prove to be a great eye-opener to the Greeks. Knowing King Constantine personally, I frankly believe—however some of my friends may demur at this view—that he is first and foremost a Greek patriot. If he and his advisers were once to realise that they had been mistaken, then, even at the twelfth hour, I believe he would throw in his lot with the Allies."

Bulgarians in Greece.

Referring to the Bulgarian invasion of Greece and to its probable object, the *Times* (May 30) in a leading article remarks:—

Whatever be their purpose, the Allies can afford to regard them with equanimity from the military standpoint. Amongst the Greeks they must naturally cause the deepest resentment and suspicion. The unfortunate inhabitants of Seres, of Drama, and of other places directly threatened by the invasion, have but too good reason to remember the horrors of the last Bulgarian occupation, and to fear that the presence of German officers may not save them from being again treated as were the inhabitants of Dinant and of Aerschot. The Bulgarian atrocities are still fresh in the memories of Greeks everywhere. They must look forward with a sickening fear to the probable fate of the invaded districts.

Owing to the strict censorship which evidently prevails at Athens, the only news from the capital commented upon in this article is that the Venezelist papers published on the morning following the invasion came out with black borders in token of national mourning. The *Times* continues:—

M. Venizelos and his followers evidently feel that the old controversy which has divided Greece since the beginning of the war is with them again, and with them more acutely, perhaps, than at any earlier stage. They stand for one policy, while King

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Constantine and the General Staff stand for another. Hitherto the nation have wavered and hesitated. Will they waver and hesitate now, when they see their traditional enemies seizing, unresisted, the strategic positions which command the entrance to Eastern Macedonia and drawing nearer to Kavala? It was M. Venizelos's wise suggestion that Kavala might, in certain circumstances and in certain conditions, be given to Bulgaria, in return for the promise of splendid compensation elsewhere, which enabled the Court to discard the powerful Minister with impunity. What will the men who overthrew him have to answer, if the Bulgarians should seize Kavala without any hopes of compensation at all? If the Government mean to follow up their protest by vigorous action, they would doubtless be able to count upon the whole-hearted support of the statesman who saved the Monarchy and the country when ruin was impending over both. But if it remains a mere formula, will the nation find much solace in it? . . . The Greeks must settle their own policy now, as in the past. Their friends in the West can only hope that they will weigh well the consequences of their decision before it is too late.

Presumably awaiting further news of a definite nature, most of the papers have refrained from editorial comment. The *Nottingham Guardian* (May 29), however, publishes a leading article, from which the following extract is taken:—

The enemy seems to be making a new thrust, inasmuch as the Bulgarians have invaded Greek Macedonia. Whether this invasion of their territory will stimulate the Greeks to action we do not know, and it does not really matter. The time has gone by when Greek intervention on the side of the Allies might have had a determining effect upon the war. But if the Bulgarians are to make a thrust in the Balkans as the Germans are doing in France and the Austrians against Italy the task of crushing the Bulgarians will be made easier. That is all. It is not the duty of the Allies to defend Greek territory. The Greeks must do that for themselves. But it is not likely that the Allies will sit quietly at Salonika much longer, and if when they move the Bulgarians have weakened their defences by invading Greece so much the better.

The Military Correspondent of the *Morning Post* (May 30), in discussing the new move, says:—

It is, therefore, probable that the Bulgarian irruption into Greek Macedonia is no more than a defensive move. Incidentally, it may be designed to draw a portion of General Sarrail's army out to fight in the open against prepared positions or to make the situation less tolerable for the Greeks, and further embarrass their relations with the Allied Governments. It is hardly to be supposed that the move came as a surprise, and that General Sarrail would not have anticipated it by taking the initiative if it were considered that the propitious moment had arrived. The immediate and principal object appears to be to gain possession of the Dedeagatch railway, and possibly to occupy certain important points in Greek Macedonia as a menace to the right flank of an advance from Salonika, against which General Sarrail guarded himself, while his defences were incomplete and his forces still weak, by destroying the bridges at Demirhissar and Kilindir on January 12. Large hostile forces are said to be assembled in the neighbourhood of Xanthi, where the 10th Bulgarian Division was raided by French aeroplanes a fortnight ago, and a move on Kavalla seems to be in prospect. The Greek Government appears to have accepted the situation on the strength of an agreement that the Bulgarians will ultimately evacuate the occupied province. We can only hope that its trust in the good faith of its ancient enemy will not prove to have been misplaced, for the fulfilment of such an undertaking can, in the last resort, only be secured by force of arms.

Cyrenaica.

An exceedingly valuable article on Cyrenaica from the pen of Professor J. W. Gregory appears in the *Geographical Review* (May). We quote from its opening passages, but the article should properly be read *in extenso*.

Between the lowlands of Egypt and of western Tripoli Africa projects northward as the high plateau of Cyrenaica, which enjoys a bracing climate, a rich easily-tilled soil, and the finest mountain scenery on the northern coast of Africa. It stands moreover beside the northern end of the caravan road across the Sahara, which brought to the Mediterranean the Tropical products of the Sudan. No wonder this favoured land, being the nearest part of Africa to Greece, was early colonised by Greeks; and about 623 B.C. a party of emigrants under Battus established the famous city of Cyrene beside the fountain of Apollo, one of the chief springs on the northern front of the Cyrenaican plateau. The country proved a very useful supplement to Greece. It had no permanent rivers, and its water-supply was scanty; but the Greeks were accustomed to similar conditions during the summer in their own land. The plateau, however, after wet winters, produced abundant crops of corn; its coastal plains grew rice and dates; the flowers of its limestone moors yielded honey which rivalled that of Hymettus; and from its herbs were extracted condiments and drugs that were highly prized by epicures and apothecaries who could not draw on the spice islands of the East. So the Greek colony flourished; it was known from its five cities as the Pentapolis; and its citizens proved famous for intellectual power and physical prowess. There the philosophers of the Cyrenaic school partially anticipated Hume; thence came many of the victors in the Olympia games; and it has special claims to the respect of geographers as the home of Eratosthenes and the site of localities so famous in classical follore as the River Lethe and the Gardens of the Hesperides.

Articles to Note.

"Typhus Fever in Serbia" (lecture at the Royal Society of Medicine), in the *Lancet* (May 27).

"The Future of Asiatic Turkey," by Ellis Barker, in the *Nineteenth Century* (June).

"The Truth About Bulgaria," by Alfred Stead, in the *English Review* (June).

"What I Saw at Belgrade," by R. C. G.; "The Gulf of Alexandretta," by W. J. C.; "Mount Athos in Peace and War," by Lieut.-Commander H. C. Lukach, R.N.V.R.; and "The Blunder at Suvla Bay. Who was Responsible?" in *Blackwood* (June).

"In the Hands of the Enemy," by Dr. Elsie Inglis, in the *Englishwoman* (June).

THE TURK AS PROTESTANT.

Mr. Oliver Bainbridge, speaking at the Lyceum Club last week on "Turkey and the Turks," said: "I have to think of the terrible consequences which have arisen from excluding Turkish women from exercising those beneficent functions for which Nature has endowed them. Seclusion denies to their intellect the very food which it needs to build it up and strengthen it. The abominable marriage system in Turkey which does not permit a woman to meet the man she is to marry until the wedding day is responsible for much unhappiness, for nothing can compensate for the lack of a free and spontaneous choice of a helper for life.

"Whatever faults the Turks, as a people, may possess, there is something of a really sublime and very superior nature in their idea of religion. When we compare a Turk on his knees in a mosque worshipping God, and God alone, indignantly refusing to bow to an image, or even to dedicate his mosque to a saint, when we regard him as a being who, ignorant and prejudiced and bigoted as he is, contemptuously rejects the idle traditions and fables and mummeries which have thrown such discredit on the Christian faith amongst its degenerate and idolatrous professors, we cannot help admitting the probability of the fact that the Turk has a mission to protest against the idolatry of the Western world as long as it exists."

GERMAN PROPAGANDA IN PERSIA.

Under date of May 31, Reuter's Petrograd correspondent reports:—A telegram from Teheran states that the Persian Government has received information from Shiraz that the local authorities have intercepted two cases containing secret documents of great importance which the notorious German agitator, Dr. Pujen, had despatched to that place with the object of having them concealed there.

The Russian Legation at Berne announces that regular postal and telegraphic communication with Trebizond has been opened, the local government of that town having been organised by the Russian authorities.

The Stockholm correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that the Turkish Government has offered to exchange disabled prisoners of war with Russia through the Swedish Red Cross. Negotiations on the subject are now proceeding between the Governments concerned.

An enemy seaplane was brought down in the Lower Adriatic on Tuesday morning.

Under date of May 31, Reuter's Athens correspondent reports:—M. Passaroff, the Bulgarian Minister, has protested to the Greek Government against the firing by Greek frontier troops on the Bulgarian forces when they occupied Fort Rupel. M. Skouloudis, the Prime Minister, has declined to consider the protest.

Professor Ronald M. Burrows and Dr. A. W. Seton-Watson write as follows to the *Morning Post* on a subject which has been referred to on more than one occasion in THE NEAR EAST:—"Mr. Joseph King has seen fit to mention our names in the House of Commons as having 'attributed to General Howell' a certain pro-Bulgarian memorandum which was published as his in *Britannia*. We have never said, nor meant to imply, nor ourselves believed, that this memorandum was written by General Howell. We are not responsible for the fact that its publication in *Britannia*, without our knowledge, has caused a meaning to be read into words of ours which was not there. We can only endorse Lord Robert Cecil's and Mr. Tennant's plea that nothing is to be gained by probing the matter further at this stage. We ourselves urged this view on Mr. Noel Buxton, and regret that he and Mr. King have not rested content with General Howell's denial of authorship. We are glad, however, that they resent the name of a friend of theirs being in any way associated with so detestable a document as the memorandum in question, counselling, as it does, the basest treachery to our much-enduring Serbian Allies. We sincerely hope that General Howell will ere long have the opportunity of repudiating not only its authorship, but also the views which it embodies."

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The Bulgarian Government, it would seem, is not going to lose time in exploiting the mineral wealth of the occupied territories in Macedonia. According to our Bucharest Correspondent, the Bulgarian Ministry of Commerce and Industry has asked the Bulgarian authorities in Macedonia to report on the mines and occurrence of minerals in their districts, as the Government wishes to exploit them "as soon as possible." At the same time, it would appear that the Bulgarian papers are full of articles pointing out the mineral wealth of Serbia. Thus, they maintain that in the neighbourhood of Salonika gold is to be mined, and that gold washings in the Vardar River would be a most profitable undertaking. According to these experts, the tributaries of the Vardar bring the dust down from the Kara Dagh mountains and deposit it in the Vardar. All this sounds very nice indeed; but I should strongly advise the Bulgars to start their filching of other people's property in the neighbourhood of Salonika. The Vardar can wait—a little while longer.

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The same papers also state that there are important iron mines in the Sarakini (?) district, and that in the Kossovo vilayet deposits of gold, silver, copper, iron, etc., have been located. All of which is good news for the Serbs, if proved true. There is no denying the fact that though the country (Serbia) is rich in mineral ore hitherto the exploitation thereof has been with but few exceptions of a tentative rather than of a practical nature. The fault does not lie with the Serbs. Cut off from the sea as they were and dependent on the goodwill of Austria, they could not expect the great financiers of Western Europe—British, French and Belgian—to invest capital far from the seaboard. The proposition, in other words, was not good enough, and as the Serbs, themselves an agricultural people, were not anxious to sink their savings in mines, the latter remained unexploited. After the war, however, when Serbia has acquired a port on the Adriatic, and is no longer subject to Austrian machinations, a new history of the country will begin, and it is to be hoped that British capital will participate in the working of the mines.

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Another passage which appears in our Bucharest Correspondent's letter is of extraordinary interest. He says: "The German and Austrian Governments have given permission for the free transit on their railway systems of goods from Bulgaria." At first sight this would appear to be only a military measure designed to assure the necessary supply of foodstuffs, etc. But behind it lurks also a political motive, and it has to do with the realisation of the "Central European Economic Union," the dream of all Pan-Germans. Bulgaria will have to be dragged or sucked into the combine, and the fact that now already her goods are allowed free transit through Austria and Germany is intended to impress her with the great generosity and wisdom of her Allies. In other words, a German bribe of the most glaring description. It indicates, moreover, that Germany is alive to the great trade war which will commence as soon as ever this military war is over, and that she is now taking all adequate steps to secure a most favourable position. Of course, Bulgaria is one of those countries which must be attached economically to the Kaiser's chariot, and hence this sudden display of generosity.

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According to *The Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula, Roumania will shortly make a commercial arrangement with Turkey on a basis of compensation, Roumania allowing the exportation to Turkey of petrol, benzine and wheat in return for tobacco. In the case of Bulgaria, says a message from the same correspondent on May 27, it was decided, at a meeting of the Roumanian Cabinet held on May 24, not to come to a similar economic arrangement. It would appear that in exchange for wheat and petrol the Bulgars offered tobacco and onions.

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It seems to me that Roumania is here on dangerous ground, or else that her transit difficulties with Bulgaria have been satisfactorily settled. Petrol and benzine are contraband of war, and it is therefore hardly likely that they will be sent to Constantinople via Constantza and the Black Sea, where Russian ships command the situation. The only other course open to Roumania is to send the goods by land via Bulgaria, which is equally difficult considering that the Bulgars, in their mighty valour and self-assurance, have hitherto, to the best of my knowledge, refused to give any guarantee for the safe transit through their country of goods destined for Constantinople. In view of which we do not see how Turkey is to obtain her wheat and petrol, unless, of course, the Bulgar-Roumanian transport question has been settled or Russia is ineffective in the Black Sea. We know very little about either supposition—so energetically is the Censor at work—but we sincerely hope that the Russians are alive to the danger of letting a tin of petrol or a pound of wheat reach Constantinople from Roumania.

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We reproduce elsewhere a short analysis of the new Greek Internal Loan from the pen of our Athens Correspondent. Since writing his note negotiations have come to a head, and I read that the convention with the National Bank has been signed by the Ministers of the Interior and Finance and the Governor of the Bank. The Bank's charter is extended twenty years until 1950, which proves that all opposition by M. Venizelos and his Liberal Party to the all-powerful Government clique is so much waste of time. The nominal amount of the loan is 115,000,000 drs., or net about 100,000,000 drs. It is issued at 88½, and will bear interest at 5 per cent. The National Bank will take firm 75,000,000 drs., and beside the extension of its charter twenty years, it has obtained permission to issue new notes for 30,000,000 drs. in both Old and New Greece, and to increase its reserve by the issue of new debentures for 25,000,000 drs.

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The Imperial Ottoman Bank has opened a branch in Marseilles. I think that the idea was an excellent one, because, after all, Marseilles is the port of Paris for the Mediterranean and the Near East, and it will facilitate the bank's shipping operations in that part of the world to have an office in the great French port. Of course, all ordinary operations will continue through the head office in Paris, just as operations in this country are centred in the London bank, but by opening at Marseilles the French directors have followed the example of their British confrères, who have long since had a branch office in Manchester. Apart from the commercial significance of the new branch, the knowledge of its existence will be welcomed by many travellers whose journey takes them eastwards through Marseilles.

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An interesting speech was that read by the chairman of the Bank of Roumania at the meeting of the shareholders on Wednesday, and reported elsewhere. Like most speeches of its kind, it consisted of two distinct parts, the one dealing with the general situation of the country in which the bank operates, and the other with the bank itself. Regarding the first, attention is drawn to the Budgetery surplus of Roumania for 1914-1915, amounting to 28,094,714 lei. There was a decrease in the revenue from railways and navigation, but an increase in those from State monopolies. The rate of discount of the National Bank was 6 per cent. during the year, and of advance against securities 7 per cent. The former was, on the 16th inst., reduced to 5 per cent. As for banknote circulation, it amounted on December 31 last to 762,210,210 lei, against which the bank held gold and gold bills for 301,949,775 lei.

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Regarding the Bank itself, it is stated that the deposits in Roumania are approximately the same as those at the end of 1914. An important part of the business of the year was the transmission of money to this country in settlement of pre-war debts. The dividend for the year has been fixed at 8s. per share, free of British income-tax. Incidentally, the speech mentioned that both in London and Bucharest the bank has leased new premises, those in the capital of Roumania being situate in the centre of all business activity, in the famous Calea Victoriei, and those in London at 27, Throgmorton Street. I wish the Bank continued success in both its new offices.

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The Hungarian Commercial Museum has received a report from Jaffa, according to which the industrial and commercial position remains unaltered, in spite of the opening of the direct railway connection, Berlin-Budapest-Sofia-Constantinople. No consignments of goods have arrived. Firms intending to do business in those regions are recommended to prepare the way by sending out catalogues and other trade literature. A good market for agricultural machinery is anticipated in Palestine and other parts of the near Orient. A report from Constantinople to the same museum states that on account of the coal famine in Constantinople coal can now be imported into Turkey free of duty, as long as the war lasts. Constantinople has to rely upon railborne coal, and at present, says *Engineering*, some thirty wagons of coal arrive every day from Germany.

COMMENTATOR.

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Alexandria Prize Court.

S.S. Derfflinger (ex Cargo).

His Honour Judge Cator has delivered judgment in the Supreme Court for Egypt sitting in Prize in a case relating to cargo at Port Said, the facts of which are set forth in the judgment as follows (extracts) :—

In this case goods belonging to a Turkish firm were shipped prior to the war on the s.s. Derfflinger, a German ship bound for the Far East. It seems that the shipment was on a through bill of lading to a Turkish port, and in the ordinary course of trade the Derfflinger discharged this cargo at Port Said two days before war broke out between England and Germany. When that event occurred the goods lay in the Custom House at Port Said as merchandise of a neutral awaiting transhipment to a neutral port, and there they still lay three months later when hostilities ensued with Turkey and so changed their condition from neutral to enemy property.

In most cargo cases that come to be dealt with there is some bond of connection between the goods and a particular ship, but here the cargo stands alone. For I am satisfied that it cannot be treated as part cargo of the Derfflinger. The only duty of that vessel was to bring the goods to Port Said. She arrived as a friendly ship before the war broke out. As such she discharged this consignment, and the moment that it was put over her side I think that all connection between ship and cargo came to an end.

I cannot even assume that the cargo would have been forwarded to its destination in an enemy ship. Indeed, from what counsel tells us the likelihood is rather the other way, but we have no evidence on the point, and I think the question is immaterial.

I am of opinion that we must treat these goods merely as Turkish merchandise awaiting transhipment or delivery when the war broke out with Turkey, physically on land and unconnected with any particular vessel; but within the limits of a port and still subject to the bill of lading under which it had been shipped. Under these circumstances the Crown claims the right to seize the goods as maritime prize; the owners contend that the Court must decree their release as goods seized on land.

This leads to a consideration of the meaning of "on land" as used in opposition to the word "maritime" when applied to the seizure of enemy property.

International law recognises a marked distinction between private property which may be the subject of maritime prize and private property which cannot be so treated. The distinction is sometimes expressed as a difference between goods captured at sea and goods captured on land. But this language is inexact, for there are cases when goods on shore are subject to prize law, and on the other hand the personal effects of the master and crew, not being in the nature of cargo, are not confiscated even though they are enemy property seized afloat. It would certainly be a great convenience if a better terminology could be invented to distinguish the two categories.

Formerly it was the practice to appropriate private enemy possessions of every kind wherever found, and the text-books admit rather grudgingly that a belligerent still has a theoretical right to confiscate everything owned by an enemy. But indiscriminate pillage has long been discountenanced, and provisions of the Hague Convention of 1899 and 1907 definitely forbid the confiscation of private property on land.

Maritime property, on the other hand, has always been recognised as a legitimate subject for capture. The reasons which justify a discrimination between the two classes of property are stated at length in Dana's Note to Wheaton, which Sir Samuel Evans has quoted with approval in the case of the Roumanian. After stating grounds for respecting private ownership on land, Dana proceeds: "But, on the high seas, these reasons do not apply. Strictly personal effects are not taken. Cargoes are usually purely merchandise. Merchandise sent to sea is sent voluntarily; embarked by merchants on an enterprise of profit, taking the risks of war; its value is usually capable of compensation in money, and may be protected by insurance; it is in the custody of men trained and paid for the purpose; and the sea, upon which it is sent, is res omnium, the common field of war as well as of commerce."

The laws and customs which regulate the condemnation or release of such property is termed prize law, and the question whether any particular goods fall within the category of prize is determinable by the Prize Court. That is to say, if the Crown advances a claim to goods as maritime prize it is for the Prize Court alone to determine all questions to which the claim gives birth, whether such questions relate to ownership arising out of capture of goods admittedly subject to Prize Law, or go to the jurisdiction of the Court by a defence that the goods have not such a quality as to render them susceptible of what I may call maritime capture.

For instance, if the Crown were to seize a piano in the house of an enemy and advance a claim to it as maritime prize or merely place it in the custody of the Marshal, the Prize Court would alone have jurisdiction to determine the rights of the parties. But if it seized the piano as booty on land and took no steps to submit any claim to the Prize Court I appreciate that the owner would be left to such remedy as he could get from the ordinary Court.

It is not often that a question arises as to the quality in which goods are taken, for they are usually seized on board a ship, and it is fundamental that all goods captured afloat are subject to Prize Law. Still, it does sometimes happen that a cargo has been separated from a ship, and a dispute has ensued between the captors and owners as to whether it falls within the jurisdiction of the Prize Court or not.

One important case on this subject has already been decided on appeal in the course of the present war. The British steamer Roumanian came into an English port, after hostilities had broken out, carrying a cargo of enemy oil. A great part of the oil was discharged into tanks on shore when it was seized on behalf of the Crown. The owners sought to establish that it could not be condemned as prize because it was on land when the Crown laid its hand upon it. Sir Samuel Evans held that it was a cargo which had come into port as maritime merchandise of the enemy, and that the rights of the Crown to capture had not been defeated by reasons of its removal from the ship. The case was appealed. The Privy Council dismissed the appeal, emphasised the fact that the oil, when it entered British waters, was hostile cargo, and decided that its removal from the ship could not alter its quality, that it remained liable to seizure after removal, and that whether it was put ashore within or without the limits of a port was an indifferent matter.

This case determines once and for all that the mere fact of goods being on shore will not defeat a claim of the Crown for a declaration that they are prize, but there is a radical difference between that case and the present. For when the Roumanian entered port she carried a cargo liable to seizure, whereas the goods on the Derfflinger were discharged before war broke out, and at the time of the discharge they belonged to a neutral who might have removed them, and it was not until three months later that the neutral became an enemy.

Nevertheless, I have come to the conclusion that this merchandise is a proper subject for prize. In examining the cases and pondering upon the principles which determine whether goods are capable of being made prize or not it has been borne in upon me that the determining factor is not whether the goods are referable to any particular ship, or whether they came into the country stamped with a hostile character, but whether when the Crown lays its hands upon them they are cargo or not cargo.

I am of opinion that all the trouble has arisen out of the use of an unfortunate nomenclature. The phrase "on land" has become a term of art in Prize Law, and is, I believe, equivalent to the words "not cargo" and nothing else. If instead of saying that goods were seized on land we were to give as the true reason that they were not cargo I believe we should go far to harmonise the cases. By employing the words "on land" sometimes as a term of art, and sometimes in their literal signification we only confuse ourselves and end in a victorious circle.

Whether goods are or are not cargo is usually susceptible of easy proof. From the moment they are shipped under a bill of lading I think they become cargo and so remain until they cease to be bound by that instrument. Whether they are shipped through to another port, as in this case, or have reached their destination, but have not yet been handed over to the consignees, I think they are equally subject to capture as maritime prize.

BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 1.

By order of King Ferdinand a trainload of seed grain and seeds has been sent to Macedonia, the contents of which will be distributed gratuitously among the original inhabitants of the invaded districts, so that grain and vegetables may be sown in the uncultivated parts.

The mission from Roumania, charged with the purchase of tobacco for the Roumanian Regie, has been obliged to return to Bucharest without having concluded any purchases on account of the difficulties of every description put in their way by the Bulgarians. The Roumanian Government has, therefore, decided not to permit the passage of goods to Bulgaria.

A very severe thunderstorm, accompanied by hail, struck Sofia and the surrounding district on the 26th instant, causing great damage, especially to the fruit trees, so that the yield of fruit is seriously compromised.

In a report on the economic relations between Germany and Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Consul-General at Berlin recommends his countrymen to take advantage of the present situation in order to ensure Bulgaria a first place in German commerce. Bulgarian goods, such as cereals, calf and buffalo skins, horns, dry vegetables, eggs, etc., are in great demand on German markets. Bulgarian cigarettes have also a good sale in Germany. The Consul-General advises his compatriots to prepare large stocks of goods in order to supply German requirements. On the other hand, the German and Austrian Governments have given permission for the free transit on their railway systems of goods from Bulgaria.

With reference to the article on Trade in the Sudan published in our issue of March 31, and to the paragraph dealing with transit trade, a slight mistake was made in the amount of transit trade assigned to Abyssinia and the Congo, owing to a difference in the figures published in the quarterly and annual statements of the Sudan Customs. The transit trade done with Abyssinia and the Congo in 1914 was £E56,693, and in 1915 £E67,974; the previous record for transit trade with those two countries was in 1913, when the amount was £E68,339. The total transit trade handled by the Sudan in 1916 came to £E36,275, which is the highest figure attained since the reconquest.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Tenders will be received up to June 10 for the supply and delivery of linen and table requisites, including towels, linen sheets, tulle for mosquito-nets, tape, blankets, plates, dishes, tumblers, cups and saucers, spoons, carafes, serviette rings, salt-cellars, sugar-basins, and metal knives. Samples may be inspected and the *cahier des charges* and form of tender obtained at the Central Stores, Ministry of Education, Darb el Gamamiz, Cairo. Sealed tenders, accompanied by a deposit of 2 per cent. or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent. of the value of the offer, will be received up to the date mentioned above at the Central Stores, Ministry of Education, Cairo. A copy of the *cahier des charges*, etc., may be inspected by United Kingdom manufacturers of the above-mentioned goods at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paints, mainly for the scavenging and watering service. Bulaq. Date, July 15.

The Physical Service Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of weighing machines, balances and weights required for Government during 1916-17. Date, July 15.

The Army Finance Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 4,000 tins of petroleum at the Citadel Stores, Cairo, and 300 tins to be handed over to the Stores Officer, Egyptian Army, at Alexandria; also 1,600 gallons of petroleum in bulk at Cairo. Date, June 15.

Morocco.

The Acting British Consul at Casablanca has forwarded to the Board of Trade an extract from the local Press relative to openings for trade, from which the following translation has been made:—

In Morocco the most widely distributed goods of German manufacture which were formerly imported can be divided into five groups: (1) glassware and crockery; (2) textiles; (3) stamped metals; (4) ironmongery; and (5) clocks and watches. It should not be difficult to replace and improve on these goods, and already French firms supply a large quantity of tarbouches (fezzes) and nearly all the silk handkerchiefs, which have a great vogue in Morocco.

A large field offers in articles of clothing, which native industry can only supply at high prices. In this connection mention may be made of silk sashes (cummerbunds), woollen haïks, underclothing, woollen djellabas, flannel selhams, and cloth vests and burnous. In this class of goods all qualities would find ready purchasers, but only on condition that as regards fashion and ornamentation the Moroccan fashions are closely followed. It should be easy to introduce to the natives articles of equal quality and similar appearance at a cheaper price than those of Moroccan origin. When it is remembered that (save for woollen clothing, the fabrics for which are woven on the spot) all the raw materials for clothing are imported from Europe, that they are bought retail by the Moorish artisans, and that the making of cloths is entirely by hand, the reason for the high cost of native-made clothing can be understood.

Other articles for which there are markets are furniture and small household goods, the latter including white metal trays, metal coffee-pots, iron beaten or enamelled plates and dishes, metal candlesticks, glassware, floor rugs, etc. For all these articles there has been an important German trade, but German firms, like United Kingdom firms, have only introduced into Morocco goods manufactured for home consumption or for their colonies. Except for certain nickel-plated trays, no attempt has been made to prepare goods specially for the Moroccan market.

It should not, however, be difficult to borrow from native craftsmanship the forms and designs fixed by tradition to most of the furniture and household goods. For example, it should be no more difficult to imitate the carpets of Rabat, of Casablanca, or of the Berber districts than to attempt to popularise, by means of cheap moquettes, designs of the style of Louis XV. or Louis XVI. The good prices fetched by genuine Moorish carpets allow of a sufficient margin for the production of good and cheap machine-made imitations.

Glassware, of which the Moors use a great deal, furnishes another example. It should be possible on drinking cups and tea tumblers of all sorts and prices to substitute Arab decorations for the rudely designed flowers and fruits that are seen on goods of German origin.

NATIONAL WEALTH OF ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 9.

The national wealth of Roumania is difficult to estimate. The figure given is thirty-six milliards of francs (one milliard francs equal to £40,000,000), but seems very high when we take into account the area of the country, its population, the short period during which it has enjoyed the advantages of systematic administration, and the relatively recent origin of her industries.

The following list indicates the position occupied by the country in the hierarchy of wealth:—

United States	350 milliards
Great Britain	300 ,,
France	290 ,,
Germany	270 ,,
Russia	200 ,,
Austria-Hungary	130 ,,
Italy	80 ,,
Spain	50 ,,
Roumania	36 ,,
Holland	32 ,,
Belgium	30 ,,
Sweden and Norway	28 ,,

Roumania's national wealth is distributed as follows:—

Agriculture	17 milliards
Forests	4 ,,
Commerce and Industries	5 ,,
Mines	1·3 ,,
Town property	1·5 ,,
Railways and Merchant Navy	1 ,,
Gold in vaults of National Bank	420 million

CYPRUS SHIPPING RETURNS.

The number and tonnage of vessels which entered and cleared in the foreign trade of Cyprus for the year 1915 were as follows:—

Ports.	Entered. Total. No.	Entered. Total. Tons.	Cleared. Total. No.	Cleared. Total. Tons.
Larnaca	121	15,249	89	8,351
Limassol	188	50,349	166	62,368
F'gusta	171	65,479	122	29,223
Carpass	—	—	—	—
Kyrenia	—	—	7	559
Paphos	1	36	59	25,888
Latchi	—	—	5	1,715
Levka	11	24,039	33	25,055
Total	492 (of which 371 of 20,149 tons were sailing vessels)	155,152	481 (of which 359 of 19,749 tons were sailing vessels)	153,159
12 months ended Dec. 31, 1914	870 (678 sailing vessels of 28,682 tons)	290,014	872 (680 sailing vessels of 29,876 tons)	291,912

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, June 1.

Currants.

The market has been very active during this past week with an increasing demand for all kinds, and prices have generally advanced from 1s. to 2s. A further advance is almost certain, as stocks are considerably reduced and reports from Greece continue unfavourable.

Sultanas.

There has been only a small demand during the week, with more business done in Greek fruit at prices favouring buyers. Other kinds are somewhat neglected, although holder's quotations are slightly reduced.

Dates.

There has been a fair demand during the week, with full prices being maintained for all kinds.

Seeds.

The market for all seeds has been, more or less, quiet. Linseed was dull, London-Calcutta, spot, quoted at 72s. 6d., afloat, and June-July ditto. Bombay, ordinary, May-June, 73s. 6d. La Plata, Hull, May-June is offered at 70s. 9d. Rapeseed continues dull. Toria, June-July, is quoted at 68s., while brown Cawnpore, ditto, is offered at 65s. 6d. Cottonseed is quiet; London-Egyptian, June, £14 2s. 6d., and Sakelarides, loading, £13 12s. 6d. per ton. Mustard seed remains scarce and dear, while canary seed is rather quiet and cheaper.

Oils.

Linseed oil is easier, with a limited demand. Spot, pipes, landed, quoted £35 15s.; barrels, ditto, £36 15s. Rape oil is quiet. Ordinary brown, naked, spot, £49; English refined, barrels, £52 to £53. Cotton oil remains steady; crude, spot, in pipes, £45 10s.; refined pale, pipes, £49 10s., and barrels, sweet, £54 to £55 as to make.

Oil Cakes.

Egyptian cotton cakes continue very scarce on spot, and buyers are compelled to pay £10 10s. to £10 12s. 6d. for immediate delivery, while sellers of May-June shipment offer at £10 ex ship terms. English makes are dearer, commanding £10 10s. to £10 12s. 6d., whilst Bombays are not available. Linseed cakes during the week have been dull and inactive, but, owing to the small quantites of foreign on the way, and the restricted production in home mills, prices are well maintained. Best London made is offered at £12 17s. 6d. to £13, whilst fine quality seedy Calcutta is quoted at £13 5s. to £13 10s. per ton.

FOOD SCARCITY IN GREECE.

Cabling on May 21, the Special Correspondent of the *Times* in Salonika say that, great scarcity of food, and even actual cases of death from starvation, having been reported from the frontier towns of Florina and Koritza, an indignant outcry is being made by the Athens Government Press against the restriction of the food supplies imposed upon Greece by the Allies.

The measure in question had reluctantly to be adopted as the only means open to the Allies of checking the conveyance of foodstuffs to the enemy in Serbian Macedonia. The reported deaths from starvation in Greek Macedonia are contradicted by all impartial evidence, and have probably been invented by cornerers in provisions and by those interested in frontier contraband, with the object of bringing pressure to bear upon the Allies to allow larger imports. But even if true, they are attributable entirely to these harpies, whose greed has caused something approaching a famine in Greek Macedonia.

A partial check on frontier contraband was effected by the French occupation of Florina, where hundreds of horses and mules employed in this traffic were confiscated and several smugglers arrested; but a leakage is still known to exist at other points of the frontier, and while this continues it would be foolish for us to relax our grip on the importation of foodstuffs. If the population suffers, it is for the Government to bring relief by taking stern measures against native speculators.

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EGYPTIAN YARN TARIFF.

The *Official Journal* of April 6 last contains certain revised tariff valuations for use in assessing duties on cotton yarns imported into Egypt from April 5 to June 4, or until denunciation, as follows :—

Articles.	Import valuation per kilo (2·2046lb.) Milliémes.*
Cotton, single yarns, grey and bleached—	
From India—	
Nos. 4 to 12	71
Nos. 14 to 20	88
From other countries—	
Nos. 4 to 12	106
Nos. 14 to 20	113
Knittings—	
From India—	
Nos. 3 to 12	94
From other countries—	
Nos. 3 to 12	121
Cotton sewings, grey or bleached—	
From India	113
From other countries	120
Cotton doubled yarns, grey and bleached, Nos. 40/2	145
Cotton cable yarns, No. 20	145
Turkey red cotton single yarns	120
Other coloured cotton single yarns	140
Gassed or mercerised or prepared yarns, grey, bleached, or dyed—	
From India	ad valorem
From other countries	ad valorem

Note.—Duty is leviable on the valuations shown at the rate of 8 per cent.

The tare allowance for bales is fixed at 3 per cent.

There is a famine of leather goods in Greece.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

The following has been received from Alexandria, dated April 19 :—

"Notice is hereby given to the brokers that the Alexandria General Produce Association has informed the Committee of the Exchange that they consider it to be in the interest of the market to introduce a new 'Sakellaridis' contract, in which it will be possible to deal soon, even for November, 1916, delivery. This contract is meant to take in future the place of the present F.G.F.BR. contract.

"The F.G.F.BR. contracts will continue to be transacted on the Exchange, and will follow their course, but only as far as July-August, 1917, delivery, after which position it will not be possible to deal in F.G.F.BR. contracts on the Exchange.

"The Committee have also been informed that the Association have taken steps that the indemnity to be allowed to the sellers, and which has been raised from P.T. 40 to P.T. 80 should only apply to March, 1917, contracts.

"The Alexandria General Produce Association have asked the opinion of the Committee on this matter, and the latter have replied that they agreed to the proposal.

"In order to avoid any difficulties in case the new contract should come into force, the Committee requests you to stipulate for all the new business you may transact that contracts for delivery in and after March, 1917, will be subject to the new contract which may become official."

THE COAL SHORTAGE IN EGYPT.

The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works has issued an official communiqué notifying agriculturists that the Government has been able to secure a fairly large quantity of coal this year, which it proposes to sell to agriculturists on condition that it is solely utilised for irrigation works. The price will vary from time to time. It has now been fixed for one month from date at £E5.500 milliemes, delivery on the railway trucks at Mex, the purchasers defraying all expenses in connection with transport, etc., from Mex to the place of destination, in accordance with the railway tariff in force for the time being.

The coal will be sold only in quantities of ten tons or multiples of ten, and against cash payment, except in special cases.

Applications for the coal should be submitted to the Director-General, Mechanical Service, Ministry of Public Works, with the following particulars :—The name of the owner of the pumping engine, the district, the railway station where delivery of the coal is to be made, the quantity of coal required, the number of the licence, and the horse-power of the engine.

The amount of coal to be sold to any person will not exceed the requirements of his engine for more than two months.

An optimistic view is taken of the coming Egyptian cotton crop. An unofficial estimate places it at eight million cantars (800,000,000 lb.).

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Engineering Notes.

A Process of Refining Nickel.

Nickel, which abounds in Canada, is one of our most useful alloys, being largely used in the manufacture of "German silver"—which, by the way, is neither German nor silver—and of nickel coins in America, France, Belgium, Greece, etc. It is especially valuable for covering other metals, as it is little injured by damp, or by acids, except nitric acid. It is, therefore, of great interest at the present moment, when the necessity for careful attention to the progress of scientific research in connection with British industry is strongly emphasized, to hear that a new process of refining nickel has been discovered in Canada, by which 100 lbs. of ore can be converted in 50 lbs. of metal in forty-eight hours. The fact that the discovery was made by Professor L. P. Burrows, a British scientist, and in a region of the British Empire where the ore abounds is, of course, very gratifying. By Professor Burrows's method there is no preliminary roasting. The ore, when mined, is crushed and placed in the refining apparatus, where it is subjected to a gaseous treatment for about five hours. After this it is smelted and refined to the finished alloy in the form of a very fine powder, being a very superior article for alloying steel. This powder equals about 75 per cent. of the ore. If desired, the powder can be reduced to the metallic form, producing about 50 per cent. in weight of the ore, entirely free from sulphur and eminently suitable as a high-grade metal for many purposes, as well as for alloying steel. The steel produced by this alloy has proved better than steel produced by a higher percentage of alloy as done by the old method. With reference to "German silver," it may be mentioned here that it is an alloy of copper, nickel, and zinc, and is largely used in the manufacture of spoons and forks, teapots, salvers, and similar articles. It is easily attacked by vinegar, and for that reason forks and spoons made of it are usually plated with silver. The alloy was originally introduced from China; it is, therefore, neither "silver" nor "German," but by the Germanic law of appropriation and kultured subtlety of business the very useful alloy was so branded, and it is satisfactory to hear that even before the war the British Alloys Nomenclature Committee had suggested an alteration of the name.

The Demir Hissar Bridge.

According to reports from Athens, the difficulties that have arisen as a result of the destruction of the iron railway bridge at Demir Hissar, near Serres, by the Allies will soon be removed. By an order of the Greek Government the local staff of engineers have completed all the necessary plans and estimates for the construction of a temporary wooden bridge by the side of the one destroyed. The new bridge will have a length of 120 metres (393.60 ft.), and all the necessary wood and other materials, to the value of £1,200, have already been ordered in America. The construction will take about two months, and will begin as soon as the materials reach Demir Hissar. Trains and other vehicles will run over this new bridge as usual until the iron one is reconstructed.

Athens-Salonika Railway.

But for the war, Greece would now at last be placed in direct communication by rail with the rest of Continental Europe (says the *Economist*). The final link in the line connecting Athens with Salonika, which has been constructed within the last two years by a French firm of contractors, was opened with due ceremony in the presence of the King, the Crown Prince, and several Ministers on Monday last. It starts from Papapouli, near the mouth of the Peneus, and runs along the coast of the Gulf of Salonika, eventually joining the line from Monastir to Salonika, near Topsin, apparently just before the Vardar is crossed. Its completion was always opposed by the Porte, and has only been made possible by the victory of Greece and the other Balkan States in the first Balkan War of 1913; and it was facilitated by the action of the French Government in authorising the French company which owned the line from Athens to Larissa to cede its property to the Greek kingdom. The completion has been hastened for military reasons, but hereafter the line may be of high commercial importance, though no doubt the chief route to Greece from Western Europe will for many years pass through Brindisi, and at no distant date, it is to be hoped, there will be a railway from Valona or Durazzo to connect with the Greek system, possibly at Kalabaka. The war, indeed, is hastening railway extension elsewhere.

ZINC ORES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* (vol. xiv., No. 1) just published contains an article on "The Occurrence and Utilisation of Zinc Ores," from which the following are references to Near Eastern countries :—

Bulgaria.

Zinc ore has been raised from the Sedmolchileniza Mine, about six miles south-west of Vratza. The ore-bodies, which are found on the sides of a steep valley, occur as bands and lenses two to seven feet thick, in the stratification planes of a Triassic dolomitic limestone. The more important minerals present are finely disseminated zinc blende, zinc carbonate, and galena. Samples taken across the vein showed zinc 18 per cent. and lead 2.5 per cent. By hand-picking the ore, the proportion of zinc and lead can be raised to 28 and 6 per cent. respectively. At Roupio, ores containin workable amounts of lead, copper, and zinc have been obtained. Ore containing zinc 25 per cent. and lead 15 per cent., is obtained from the Blagodat Mine, in Kustendil.

Greece.

The most important mines appear to be those of the Laurium district, where both zinc blende and carbonates occur. The mines are of great antiquity, and yield ore at the contact of limestone and schists of probably Silurian age. The ore, which consists of argentiferous galena and zinc blende, with some pyrite, chalcopyrite, cerussite (lead carbonate), and smithsonite, occurs in lenses and pockets. Bedded deposits, varying in thickness from 2 to 40 feet, occur, in one case at least extending for a distance of 1½ miles; parallel ore-bearing beds are found at several levels. The carbonate ore is usually calcined before export, and then contains about 60 per cent. of zinc.

Deposits are found in many other localities, among which may be mentioned Mount Hymettus, where the ore occurs in irregular masses in limestone.

Turkey in Asia.

Little information is available regarding the nature and extent of the zinc deposits in Asiatic Turkey. Zinc ore has been produced from Iotape in the province of Adana, and from Balia in the province of Broussa; but it has been stated that the chief source of supply is Karsasu on the Black Sea.

BRITISH OIL COMPANIES IN ROUMANIA.

Oil News publishes a letter on the above subject from a "well-informed correspondent in Roumania who is a practical oil man, knows the language, and has resided for a considerable time in the country." He gives the total production of principal foreign companies in Roumania for the year 1915 as follows :—Dutch, four companies, producing 477,267 tons; German, two companies, producing 445,455 tons; one America company, producing 375,915 tons; and fifteen English companies, producing only 155,570 tons. [In reality there are thirty-five English companies, fifteen of which are mentioned. The others are not producing.] The writer then says :—

"As will be seen, there are no fewer than thirty-five English petroleum producing or would-be producing companies. The number of these concerns which are in the hands of the most undesirable type of foreigners is amazing; in fact, it is one of the chief reasons of the failure, or at the best slow progress, of these companies. It is almost absurd the way in which rash British speculators place these people in the most confidential positions. The following is a most striking example :—An English company, the local manager of which also holds the power of attorney, is sole representative. He is an Austrian subject, and, above all, one who holds a high position in the Austrian secret service. This is a most striking example of the negligence of some English directors and shareholders.

"Again, some concerns are in the hands of Englishmen. Honest—by all means, but men who when sent out to the oilfields 'taste gas' for the first time in their lives, and who promptly mix themselves in technicalities of which they know nothing. And what happens? In the practical work there is a stage when every beginner has learnt a little in the way of drilling, etc. Things then look very simple. In oilfield language a person at this stage is said to 'know enough to be dangerous.' From the interference of such persons all kinds of evils result—fishing jobs, collapsed pipe, water not shut off, in short, all sorts of disasters.

"Such are, I am sorry to say, the chief causes of the failures amongst British concerns.

"The public should bear in mind that every English failure means business passing into the hands of foreign companies, many of which now during war time are opposed to our cause. The country also is blamed and suffers through these mistakes. Roumania is the oil country with the finest future in Europe, and why? Because there are no real difficulties. Almost everywhere where serious drilling operations have been undertaken favourable results have been obtained. At Bana hundreds of cars (a car is 10 tons) of oil have been extracted from wells which have been 'drilled in' in a month and a-half to two months. The Baicoi wells, some of which are now producing enormous quantities of oil, did not take more than three or four months to drill. Roumania's oil-bearing territories are vast and easily got at in comparison with some of those of other countries. Another great advantage is that there is 'room for all.'

"Let us hope that after the war people will open their eyes and realise that past failures are not due to the difficulties of the country, but that the mistakes have chiefly been made by the directors in London."

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THE GREEK LOAN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, May 19.

The impossibility of raising a loan abroad has obliged the Government to try and arrange for an internal loan. This loan—the negotiations of which are now being concluded—will amount, according to official communication, to 100,000,000 drs. at 5 per cent., of which the National Bank will subscribe two-thirds of the whole amount, the issuing price to be 87 or 88. In other words, the bank will take over approximately 58,000,000 drs. But, as, on the other hand, the bank has already advanced to the State more than 35,000,000 drs., there will only be 23,000,000 drs. reverting to the latter; and if the other third of the loan, which is to be open to public subscription, is fully covered, the total net proceeds will be approximately 51,000,000 drs. Out of this sum there will have to be paid 30,000,000 drs. for requisitions, 15,000,000 drs. on account of allotments to soldiers' families, and 7,000,000 drs. on account of military supplies. The result is that, even supposing it is only intended to meet the most immediate demands, nothing will be left of the loan, which is a settlement of accounts rather than a source of revenue for the Exchequer. Doubtless, it is in consideration of this that, according to a Ministerial newspaper, the nominal amount of the loan will be raised to 115-120,000,000 drs. with a view to obtaining an effective surplus of about 20,000,000 drs.

Although nothing is positively known as regards the guarantees to be given to the bank, according to the Ministerial Press the principal securities consist in a tax on currants, in the surplus of the revenues devoted to the service of the old Debt, and the State's participation in the profits of the bank. The bank insisted on the right to issue further notes to the value of 30,000,000 drs., but the International Committee of Control refused to agree to this arrangement. Now it is asserted that the Government is disposed to prolong the privileges of the bank, which expire in 1930, for a further period of twenty years. The Liberal Press criticise this concession, which would bind the State for thirty-four years.

It is reported that maximum prices have been fixed in Roumania for petroleum and petroleum products. It is also reported that M. V. Bratiano, the Prime Minister's brother, is a strong advocate of the establishment of a petroleum monopoly.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The estimates chargeable to surplus balances, to be presented to the Legislative Council on May 13, amount to £22,100, and include £8,000 for relief of distressed Cypriots abroad; £3,000 for the campaign against fever; £2,500 for special tree planting; £2,500 for roads for motor traffic; £1,800 for forest service—saws and appliances, etc.; and £800 for railway improvement.

Harvest work is in full swing over the wide, fertile plains of the Mesaoria. Weather conditions have continued to be favourable.

The Animal Show held at Nicosia on May 12 was a success. Prizes were given for horses, asses, cattle, and sheep. High prices were offered for some of the prize animals. The entries were not numerous, partly, no doubt, owing to the claims of harvest.

NEW EGYPTIAN REGULATIONS.

The *Official Journal* of May 16 publishes a proclamation by Sir Archibald James Murray which contains, *inter alia*, the following prohibition:—

No person shall send or bring into Egypt or send or take out of Egypt any letter or other like document otherwise than through the post.

No person shall introduce into Egypt otherwise than through the post any newspaper of which he is not in possession for his own personal use.

No person shall carry on the business of receiving letters, telegrams, or other postal packets for delivery or transmission to the persons for whom they are intended without disclosing to the police on behalf of the military authorities the fact that he is carrying on any such business, and every person carrying on any such business shall conform to all such instructions with respect thereto as may be given him by or on behalf of the military authorities.

An order has been obtained which will relieve creditors of Ahmed Mustafa's Son, 52, Princess Street, Manchester, an alien enemy. According to the *Mercantile Guardian*, Mustafa at the outbreak of war was insolvent, and had suspended payment at his principal place of business, Constantinople. His compatriots would not hear of any Turkish money being sent to England, and his attorney in this country was left to apply for a deed of assignment. The war came and put a stop to the proceedings, but meanwhile the assets have been realised by the Public Trustee, and now the funds are ready for distribution.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

BANK OF ROUMANIA.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said:—In rising to move the adoption of the report and accounts for the year 1915, I have to deplore the death of the Dowager Queen Elizabeth of Roumania, which occurred on March 2 of this year. Her death is mourned by the many to whom she had endeared herself. I presume, gentlemen, that you will take the directors' report and balance sheet as read, and would only draw your attention to an item of £7,021, referred to in that report. This sum represents the balance of the cost of new fittings and of the erection of the strong room in the new premises at Bucharest, on which we have recently taken a lease. They are situated in a modern building in the Calea Victoriei, in what is, for us, a most advantageous position in the centre of the business quarter of the city. The strong room is constructed by an English firm, and contains a safe-deposit for the use of our clients. We have recently taken a lease of more convenient offices in London at No. 27, Throgmorton Street, which we expect to occupy on or about the 15th of next month. Our deposits in Roumania are approximately the same as at the end of 1914, and represent, to a considerable extent, the proceeds of bills, etc., collected in Roumania, which accounts, chiefly, for the large amount of cash in hand. An important part of our business during the year 1915 has been the transmission of money to this country in settlement of pre-war debts for goods supplied by shippers to Roumania. The total Treasury receipts amounted to Lei 557,798,014 for 1914-1915, as against Lei 608,502,889 for 1913-1914, while the total expenditure for 1914-1915 amounted to Lei 539,703,300, thus showing a surplus for the financial year 1914-1915 of Lei 28,094,714. The treasury receipts for the first half of the financial year 1915-1916 amount to Lei 208,053,671, as compared with Lei 217,236,194 for the same period in 1914. The gross receipts of the State Railways—3,702 kilometres in length—amounted to Lei 110,949,868 for the financial year 1914-1915, as against Lei 115,046,192 for the financial year 1913-1914, being a decrease of Lei 4,096,324. For the financial year 1915-1916 the gross takings for the period from April 1 to December 31, 1915, amounted to Lei 85,276,494, as compared with Lei 89,684,648 for the same period in 1914. The receipts of the State maritime service, State river services, and Danubian ports dues show a diminution for 1914-1915 of

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about seven million lei, as compared with 1913-1914. On the other hand, the State monopolies show a surplus over the Budget estimates for 1914-1915 of Lei 8,304,899. In the other items of the Budget no material change is recorded. The Consolidated National Debt amounted on April 1, 1915, to Lei 1,758,707,374, which should be reduced by April 1, 1916, through the operation of the Sinking Fund, to Lei 1,721,386,499. The National Bank of Roumania has, as usual, lent its full support both to the State as well as to the commerce of the country. During the year, its rate of discount was 6 per cent., and the rate for advances against securities 7 per cent. The rate of discount was, on 16th of this month, reduced to 5 per cent. The bank-note circulation amounted on December 31, 1915, to Lei 762,210,210, against which the bank held gold and gold bills for Lei 301,949,775, this representing about 39½ per cent. cover, the legal minimum cover being 33 per cent. The total output of crude petroleum for 1915 amounted to 1,625,242 tons. as against 1,722,868 tons for 1914. This reduction of 97,626 tons is primarily due to want of storage space. The prosperity of the country is strikingly demonstrated by the result of the offering for the first time in the history of Roumania of an internal loan. This loan, issued at 84, bearing 5 per cent. interest, repayable within forty years by the operation of a sinking fund, was underwritten by the banks in Roumania to the extent of Lei 150,000,000, of which your institution did its share. The total amount subscribed on the closing of the loan was Lei 400,000,000, subscriptions being received through this bank for an amount more than three times that of its underwriting. The prospects of the crop for the present year are reported to be very good, so far, but it is, of course, impossible at present to state definitely what the result will be. Owing to the absence of Major-General the Hon. H. A. Lawrence and of Colonel the Viscount Goschen on military duties, Mr. J. Mason Williams has accepted an appointment to the Board. I have again to express to the staff of the bank, both here and in Roumania, our thanks for the services they have rendered during these exceptional times. In view of the existing circumstances, extra allowances have been accorded them. I now beg to move: "That the report and balance sheet, now read, be received and adopted; that the sum of £7,525 15s. 11d. be placed to the credit of the reserve fund; that the dividend for the year ended December 31, 1915, be fixed at 8s. per share, free of British income tax, and that this dividend be paid on and after June 5, 1916."

Mr. E. W. H. Barry seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously; and the retiring directors and auditors having been re-elected, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman, the directors, and the management and staff both at home and abroad.

INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY

Mr. J. Herbert Tritton presided at the annual general meeting of the above company held on Tuesday. He said their communications through Germany were severed on July 31, 1914, and had remained so. Their South Russian and Persian lines had, on the other hand, done good service, their staff having everywhere remained at their posts. The Odessa-Constantinople cable, in which they had a joint interest, had been closed down since the entrance of Turkey into the war. There was no prospect of resumption of their main route, and it was the wish of the British Government and the cable companies with whom they had working arrangements that they should await the termination of hostilities before they committed themselves to any definite decision for the re-establishment of their through service to India viâ Russia, in order that the most suitable route should be determined upon by the administration and companies concerned in collaboration with themselves. At the meeting held last year, he said that they had received an assurance from the British Government that facilities would be given to the company for the re-establishment of the Indo route, and the Imperial Russian Government had also promised them facilities to the same end, together with an extension of their existing concession. Such extension should render possible the very considerable expenditure on capital account which would be involved in the re-establishment of their route. The report was adopted.

SOCIETE ANONYME DU BEHERA.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the above company was held in the company's offices at Alexandria on April 27. The meeting unanimously approved the accounts as submitted, and decided to carry forward the balance of the profits, amounting to £E56,448,371. The following are extracts from the directors' report read at the meeting:—"In the balance-sheet two new elements figure under 'Creditor and other accounts,' namely, accrued interest and accrued rents in suspense for amounts of £E42,725 and £E1,026 respectively. These figures result from the adoption of an automatic system of passing to reserve all interest on land sales and rents which, twelve months ofter maturity, still remain outstanding and include sums thus set aside from the profit and loss account in 1913, 1914 and 1915. The general tone of the balance-sheet is one of consolidation, while, on the one hand, a further sum of £E11,427 has been redeemed from the debenture (obligations) loan, on the other, your directors have thought it prudent to take advantage of the company's present financial situation to apply a considerable depreciation to plant and furniture and a further extraordinary depreciation of £E5,000 to the workshops. Capital expenditure within the limits previously referred to has been effected and includes two drainage installations capable of dealing with about 4,000 feddans each, of which one is for your Sidi Salem property. These installations will shortly be completed. As was to be expected, the sale of land has temporarily almost ceased, not only on the company's estates, but throughout the country. On the other hand, expropriations continue, though to a much less degree than in 1914. Dredging under Government contract has been maintained at the minimum provided by the terms of the contract, hence the reduction in the cubes dealt with as shown in Table III. This restriction of work is also reflected on both sides of the profit and loss account and is a further consequence of the war. Apart from a certain quantity of munition work, our shops have been normally occupied."

ABOUKIR COMPANY.

At the twenty-ninth ordinary general meeting of this company, held recently in London, the Chairman said, *inter alia*:—When last we met this company had been suffering in many ways from the effects of the war, and from the inactivity of trade and the low price of cotton. During the past year one at least of these drawbacks has disappeared. The price of cotton has risen nearly to the level of 1913 and the year's crop has been sold at £4 9s. 6d. per cantar, against £2 18s. in 1914, but other drawbacks have occurred, which have seriously interfered with the return of the company's accounts to a more satisfactory condition. I will mention four of these drawbacks. First, the returns of the cotton crop on two out of three of our divisions are considerably reduced owing to the reduction in the cotton area which was decreed by the Government in 1914, viz.—It was decreed that we should grow cotton on only one-third of our land in each year and other crops on the other two-thirds. This decree has since been rescinded, but, as I stated when addressing you twelve months ago, we are advised that in the interests of the quality and quantity of the cotton crop it is not desirable to revert to the former system of a two-years' rotation. Our manager considers that the growing of cotton on only one-third of the land each year will eventually be the more profitable policy, but for a year or two the adoption of this system will be at the cost of a temporary reduction in our revenue. Second, the insufficiency of the water supply, which has materially interfered with the letting. Third, the price we have to pay for various needful commodities, especially coal. A few months before the war broke out we made a shipment of anthracite coal delivered at Alexandria at £2 10s. per ton. Last year we paid £3 9s. 6d. per ton, and more recently, including the extra amount for freight, etc., the price works out at £7 10s. per ton delivered in Egypt. Fourth, both ordinary and pink bollworm undoubtedly account for a loss in yield, but the attack was not so severe as in previous years. As to the future, it is very difficult to forecast anything in these times. We are informed that the Nile flood this year is expected to be a poor one. It is possible that this drawback may to some extent be mitigated, owing to the fact that in certain districts the Government has greatly restricted the cultivation of rice, and in the district in which Aboukir is situated the cultivation has been entirely prohibited. This, however, will not affect the company, as we grow little or no rice. It is to be hoped that this action of the Government will enable a better supply of water to be given to the cotton lands, and we presume that is the object in view. The normal area of summer rice cultivation in Egypt is, I believe, about 200,000 feddans, but this year it has been cut down to 100,000. With regard to rent and fresh lettings, there does not seem any immediate prospect of improvement until and unless there is a good Nile. One of the features of this year, 1916, is the sale at a good price of berseem to the Army. The money received from this source will assist the tenants in the payment of arrears and current rent. With regard to the probable price of cotton for the year 1916, the directors do not expect to sell at a lower price than in 1915. The report of the directors was moved and adopted. No dividend is being paid for the past year.

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COMPANY REPORTS.

Bank of Roumania.

The directors, in presenting to the shareholders the balance-sheet made up to December 31, 1915, stated that the balance of profit, after making provision for bad debts, taxes, including British income-tax and writing down investments, amounts to £35,102 7s. From this is taken £7,021 (balance of cost of moving into new premises at Bucharest and of erection of strong-room and safes), and, after placing £7,525 15s. 11d. to the reserve fund and deducting the percentage for the directors, there remains a balance of £20,000. A distribution at the rate of 8s. per share, free of British income-tax, is recommended. The cost of moving into new premises and erection of safes now being fully covered, a portion of the contingency fund is thus freed, and the sum of £15,000 is transferred to the reserve fund. This transfer is in addition to the sum of £7,525 15s. 11d. mentioned above, and brings the reserve accounts up to over £200,000. The accounts in lei from Bucharest are calculated for the purpose of the balance-sheet at 25 lei to the £. As regards this rate and the abnormal exchange ruling at the end of December, due provision has been made for current business; and with regard to the capital employed in Roumania, the difference is covered several times over by the reserve accounts. In accordance with the articles of association, the retiring members of the board are the Right Hon. the Earl of Bessborough and Mr. E. W. H. Barry, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Since the last general meeting, Mr. John Mason Williams has been appointed a director, and, in accordance with the articles of association, retains his office only until this ordinary general meeting, but, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

Anatolia-Serdjiller Syndicate.

The annual report of the directors states that on the declaration of war with Turkey the immediate closing down of the company's mine in Asia Minor and the dismissal of the employees became necessary. Mr. Dawson, the superintendent at the mine, in his great desire to leave everything on the property in good order and well protected, unhappily reached Dardanelles only to find that he had become a prisoner in the hands of the Turkish Government. Unfortunately, he has not yet been released. Under the terms of an agreement dated March 16, 1914, Mr. Dawson's engagement with the syndicate was for two years from February 20, 1914, and would, therefore, have expired in the ordinary course in February of this year. The directors are advised that the effect of the war having rendered the performance of the agreement impossible, no legal responsibility on the part of the syndicate in respect of Mr. Dawson's services remained after November 4, 1914, the date on which all operations on the property ceased. Under the very regrettable circumstances, however, of his detention in Asia Minor, a moral responsibility rests upon the syndicate to render to his wife and family such financial assistance as they may require until the syndicate can reinstate him in his former position at the mine or he is able to return to his home. There is no immediate probability that operations upon the property can be resumed until hostilities between Turkey and the Allies have been concluded. The total expenditure during the twelve months to March 31 last, including an allowance to Mrs. Dawson, was £803 14s. 6d. The cash position at that date, including uncalled capital, showed a surplus of £7,843.

At the request of the Crédit Foncier Egyptien, mortgage creditor of about 1,000 feddans of land belonging to Messrs. Nicolas and Jean Axelos, of which the Daira of Prince Halim is the third holder, the Mixed Court of Appeal has appointed Mr. J. H. Russell as judicial sequestrator of the estate. This measure has been taken owing to the fact that the Daira has ceased to meet its payments to the mortgage creditors and has rented the lands to the firm mentioned, from whom the Daira bought them. Mr. J. H. Russell was recently appointed Controller of the Daira of Prince Halim.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN.—Gemsah, for the week, 14 tons (previous week, 169 tons). Hurgada, 498 tons, against 555 tons.

BANK OF ROUMANIA.—On and after June 5 a dividend of 8s. per share, free of British income-tax, will be paid to the shareholders, against delivery of Coupon No. 24.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.—First 5 per cent. debenture coupons No. 35, falling due on the 1st inst., are payable at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 27, Clements Lane, E.C., at the face value, and at the branch offices at Cairo and Alexandria, at the current rate of exchange.

FOUR PER CENT. EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT IRRIGATION TRUST CERTIFICATES.—The numbers are announced of the certificates, amounting to £39,800, drawn for redemption on July 1, when interest thereon will cease.

GEORGE NUNGOVICH EGYPTIAN HOTELS COMPANY.—The numbers are announced of the debentures, Series A, B, C, and D, redeemed on May 1.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED.—Week ended May 20, 510 tons.

SUEZ CANAL.—Receipts for May 28 amounted to 340,000 fr., as compared with 370,000 fr. for the corresponding day last year.

The Bureau of Railway News and Statistics report that the Constantinople line was open for through traffic on January 15, 1916, there being two trains each way per week, the distance of 1,521 miles being covered in 60 hours. From Vienna to Constantinople occupies 48 hours, sleeping berths being charged at 16 marks per night.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that on and after the 5th June, a DIVIDEND of 8s. per Share, free of British Income-tax, for the year ended 31st December, 1915, will be PAID to the Shareholders on the books of the Bank at the close of business on the 16th instant, and against delivery of Coupon No. 24 of the shares to bearer.

The coupons must be entered on forms, which can be obtained on application at the Bank on and after this date (Saturdays excepted) and left three clear days for examination.

H. LOCKE, Secretary.

7, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.
31st May, 1916.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Côtes du 16 Mai, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt		11⅝ to	—
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	84 ,,	85
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11¼ ,,	11⅜
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5 ,,	—
priv.	L.E.	2⅝ ,,	2⅝
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	123 ,,	124
Bons de Panama	Frs.	95 ,,	95½
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs.	47½ ,,	48
Privilégiée	Frs.	87 ,,	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	73 ,,	—
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2⅛ ,,	—
Comptoir Financier and Commercial d'Egypte	£	⅜ ,,	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	⅛ ,,	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	⅛ ,,	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	3⅛ ,,	—
Bonded Warehouse	L.E.	4⅜ ,,	5
Unifiée	L.E.	79 ,,	79⅜
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4¼ ,,	4⅜
Fondateur	£	20 ,,	—
Pressage et dépôts	£	27½ ,,	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	1⅛ ,,	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	3⅜ ,,	3⅜
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅛ ,,	—
Ord.	£	17/- ,,	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3⅜ ,,	—
Egypt. Delta Light Railway	£	4⅛ ,,	5
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£	105 ,,	—
Jouissance	£	152 ,,	—
Egyptian Markets		22/9 ,,	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	150 ,,	—
Div.	Frs.	93 ,,	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	88 ,,	90
Egyptian Salt and Soda		16/9 ,,	17/-
Crédit Foncier d'Egypte	Frs.	572 ,,	—
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	306 ,,	307
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	246 ,,	247
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	253 ,,	—
Delta Land	£	⅜ ,,	—
Port Said Salt		32/- ,,	—
Cotton Ginners	£	⅛ ,,	—
New Egyptian	£	5/6 ,,	6/-
United Land	P.T.	4⅛ ,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.		25/3 ,,	25/6
	Fondateur	90/- ,,	95/-

Marché nul.

LONDON EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	—	80
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	76⅝
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	66½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	63xd
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	56
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	54
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	50
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	43
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	52½
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	48½
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	66
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, 8c., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	76½
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	68½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	4⅛
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69xd
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	11⅛
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½xd
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	12⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	—
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	4⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord	17½	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅞
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirsus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Abonkir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	1⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	⅛	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2⅛
Do. Do. Def.	⅛	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8⅛	—	5⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/4½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	⅜
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅜
,, ,, Founders	⅛	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	-	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	72½
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	⅜
Sidi Salem Co.	⅜	—	⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅞	—	1⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	⅝
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1⅛	—	⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	-	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	24/-
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	18/-
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	1⅛
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅛	—	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Sues Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2⅛	—	1⅛

OIL.	Price on May 24.	May 31.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	6/9	6/9
Anglo-Persian	20/-	20/-
European Oilfields	3/9	3/9
Roumanian	12/9	13 -

PARIS BOURSE.

	May 24.	May 31.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	445	440
Canal de Suez	4500	4525
Credit Foncier Egyptien	615	625
Turkish Unified 4%	59.40	60.40
Egyptian Unified 4%	90	87.30
Serbian, 1895	60.70	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 266.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The past week stands out prominently even in a war of sustained effort and violent shocks. A naval battle with the whole German High Sea Fleet off the Horn Reef; the struggle before Verdun raging with an intensity that eclipses the most desperate attempts yet made by the enemy during fifteen weeks of uninterrupted attack; another grim duel for the possession of shell-battered Ypres; in the Trentino the Austrians striving to hold against the Italians what they have been able to win only at a heavy cost; and last, but by no means least, a fresh thrust on the part of the Russians along the whole of the southern portion of their European front, which, if not checked, promises at last to modify the situation in the Balkans—these are the main happenings which have to be recorded since the appearance of the last issue of THE NEAR EAST. Little wonder that the world has been profoundly stirred and is asking how long such a conflict can last.

To the strain that the British nation has had to endure has been added a great personal loss in the tragic death of Lord Kitchener. No other living personality had acquired such a hold on the popular mind. At the outbreak of the war he was acclaimed as the one man who could make up for the past neglect of national defence. He had long foreseen the war with Germany, and he was fully aware of the inadequacy of Great Britain's military organisation to play a proper part in it. As Secretary of State for War he compelled the nation to prepare for a long struggle, and gradually persuaded it to put forth its maximum effort. No one else at the time was able to conceive the results which he deliberately set out to accomplish. Lord Kitchener was still on duty—he had never been free from it—when his life came to an end. But his main task had been accomplished, and he has passed away, leaving the Empire, whose service he loved so well, in reality more secure than when he started to serve it. For although the dangers it has had to face and is still facing are greater than any that have confronted it before, the arousing of the nation's consciousness to an appreciation of its latent resources has given the Empire, under his direction, sufficient confidence in its strength to bring it through all the difficulties that beset it.

Important as are the struggles now raging before Verdun and, in lesser degree, before Ypres, attention in these pages must be directed mainly to the course of events in the East. The Russian offensive has opened with important successes. In a few days over 40,000 of the enemy have been taken prisoners, as well as large quantities of guns and ammunition. Russia has penetrated the enemy's lines before by sheer weight of numbers, but this time she is supported by the artillery that she has lacked hitherto, and the thrust for that reason becomes the more serious for the Austrians. Whether it is the first move in a general advance, or whether it is a timely operation intended to relieve the pressure on the Italian front, remains to be seen. If the Austrian line should prove unexpectedly weak, the attack may develop beyond the original intentions of our Allies. The theatre of the operations, it will not be forgotten, is of special significance to Roumania. Somewhere in the Bukovina, it is believed, exists a line which the Roumanians are only waiting for the Russians to cross, in order to play the part in this war that the national interests and the national desire have long since mapped out as the policy to which the country must sooner or later commit itself. The main Russian success of the last few days has been obtained within twenty miles of the Roumanian frontier.

For a day or two the thought must have flashed through the Near East that after all the British Navy had shared the country's fatality for registering failures in its early efforts in every war. The German version of the Battle of Horn Reef had for geographical reasons a good start. It was followed by a somewhat unhappily worded statement from the British Admiralty, which correctly characterised the British losses as heavy, but failed to emphasise the completeness of the enemy's discomfiture. Neutrals cannot be blamed for not appreciating the fact, which the Admiralty itself showed that it had not adequately grasped—that more counts in a naval battle than mere loss of ships. The German Navy left the safe anchorage where it has remained hidden throughout the war and sallied forth on a mission known to itself. It was very quickly engaged by a portion of the British Fleet, which endeavoured to hold the enemy's ships until other units of the Grand Fleet, more of a match for the Germans, could arrive on the scene. In the fight that ensued the enemy made the most of his superior strength, and the British losses were considerable. But before Admiral Jellicoe's battleship squadron could take an effective part in the battle, the German Navy was flying for safety in different directions to its own ports. It was pursued up to the mine-protected area, and the British Fleet returned to the scene of the engagement in the hope of saving life, in due course

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making its way to British waters. Five hours after its arrival in harbour it was able to report itself ready to put to sea again. From these facts neutral States will draw their own conclusions in regard to the "victory" claimed by the Germans. The German Fleet, whether its losses were great or small, remains a prisoner in German waters, and the blockade of Germany continues as before.

The fighting in Asia Minor continues to mark a transition stage in the history of the campaign. By the time the Russians had advanced as far westward as their resources for the time being allowed, the Turks had been able to draw upon their local reserves and to hurry forward reinforcements from Constantinople. These forces sufficed to hold up the Russian line and to force it back some distance. By now, however, the advantage in numbers held by the enemy a few weeks ago is being counteracted by his losses, and the Russians are in a position to push home occasional counter-attacks. The future course of the struggle at this point would seem to depend entirely on the question of reinforcements. Whichever side is able to throw more men into the firing line will once more be in a position to advance. For the present the problem of reinforcements is a difficult one for both our Allies and the Turks, but the general situation in Russia justifies the expectation that steps have long been in train to maintain the Grand Duke Nicholas's army at full strength. The chief purpose of the Russians is served so long as they contrive to keep the main Turkish forces occupied; but they will be at a disadvantage in holding any front in this region which does not leave them in possession of the highway connecting Trebizond and Erzeroum.

Of the Russian columns operating in the directions of Mosul and Baghdad there is little to report. Fighting has taken place in the neighbourhood of Khanikin, on the Persian frontier. Turkish positions there, which are described as strongly fortified, have been occupied and Turkish battalions have been cut up. At Rowandiz the Russian advance is still checked, and, as in the case of the army west of Erzeroum, is probably awaiting reinforcements. A Turkish *communiqué* reports that there has been no change on the Tigris below Kut, a statement which the silence of the British War Office tends to confirm. On the other hand, a Turkish reference to the sector east of Nasiriyeh, where three large sailing ships laden with foodstuffs for the British forces are said to have been captured, draws attention to an outpost of the Mesopotamian Expedition about which little has been heard of late. There has been a garrison at Nasiriyeh for some time. It is to be hoped that the Turkish report does not point to a successful attempt to cut its lines of communications.

Various indications point to the approach of interesting developments in the situation in Greece. The Bulgarian invasion, following hard upon the overwhelming success of M. Venizelos and two of his supporters at three by-elections, has led to some remarkably outspoken criticism of the powers that be. It is, therefore, not a matter for surprise to find that the Government is contemplating the proclamation of martial law. Feeling is running high in the country, and will inevitably become more embittered as the Bulgarian occupation of Greek territory is extended. The Government cannot fail to realize its own precarious position, and unless it is prepared to stultify its whole past and admit that it has remained in office merely to do Germany's bidding, it must take steps to safeguard itself. But the proclamation of martial law will knock the bottom out of King Constantine's pose as a constitutional monarch. It will regularize a despotism, and show the world that the King and his Ministers have found military force necessary in order to coerce the country into maintaining a policy to which it is almost unanimously opposed.

To the majority of people acquainted with Greece and the chief persons in this Athens drama the situation is as bewildering as it is regrettable. King Constantine and his Ministers are far from being condemned unheard. The former has been prolific in explanations, which seem to have convinced no one. His Government has adhered to a single line of defence—that of undisguised fear. It knows nothing of national honour, principles, or faithfulness to a pledged word; its policy, it openly avows, is dictated solely by the consideration that to fight means disaster to Greece. Its attitude may be sound. If it is, it constitutes a sad reflection on the Greek army, or at least on the courage and efficiency of the Higher Command. But the Government's attitude is weakened by the support it receives in the Press. This support is frankly subsidized by Germany: the papers which uphold the Government do so because they both expect and want Germany to win the War, and feel that the present Ministry, like themselves, are on the side of the Central Powers. With the great bulk of the nation in sympathy with the Allies, this attitude, asserted with no little aggressiveness, is combated with the utmost bitterness. Greece's neutrality, therefore, is persisted in only at the expense of the nation's domestic harmony.

In some quarters the Allies are asked to believe that King Constantine and the Greek Government are deliberately imitating the trick played so successfully by King Ferdinand of Bulgaria; that under the guise of neutrality they are clandestinely preparing for the moment when they will throw in their lot with the Central Powers against the Entente. We should require very explicit proof of Greece's treachery before giving credence to such an assertion. No doubt, the attitude of the Greek Government encourages a number of Greek officials to play into German hands, and probably for this reason the Franco-British authorities at Salonika have at last felt compelled to supersede all Greek officials in the town. But, even if no other consideration held good, we may feel confident that the Greek Government's fear of the guns of the Allied Fleets is at least as deep-seated as the fear of Germany's military might. The factor that weights the scale on the side of the Central Powers is the knowledge that there is little chance of escaping Germany's ruthlessness in the event of her winning, while the tenderheartedness of the Allies, particularly of Great Britain, may safely be relied upon, if Greece should by chance "put her money on the wrong horse."

The visit to Constantinople of members of the Reichstag has been duly followed by a visit to Berlin of members of the Turkish Parliament. As was to be expected, the fullest advantage was taken of the occasion to impress upon the Turks the complete identity for all time of Ottoman and German interests. At every gathering in honour of the visitors, as far as can be gleaned from the reports in the German Press, the Turks were reminded of the "Central Europe *bloc*," which is to spell political and economic blessings for the participants. In the replies to these enthusiastic toasts, however, the subject was with equal persistence avoided. The nearest reference that the spokesman of the Turks allowed himself was in responding to the speech of the Imperial Chancellor, when he reminded his hearers that the alliance with Germany "which so far has imposed sacrifices on us" was to prove in the future a valuable means for progress. In the past the obstacle to progress in Turkey had been the Capitulations. This had been cancelled, and Turkey looked to the war to free her from European intrigues and to allow her freedom to reorganise. Young Turkey was pledged to reform, and felt the necessity of entering the circle of European culture. With this end in view it had engaged Germans to remodel its judicial and educational systems, and was sending its children to be educated in Germany. If the Germans had failed to realise before that their scheme of a "Central Europe from the North Sea to the Persian Gulf" evoked no responsive enthusiasm in Turkey, they must have learned the fact from the visit of the Turkish parliamentarians.

However much one may feel tempted to discount reports of conditions in enemy countries, there is unfortunately good ground for supposing that the state of the Syrians leaves much to be desired. Pathetic accounts of the sufferings of the people continue to reach

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us from many quarters. One of our correspondents pleads for the formation of a Syrian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, urging that, as the result of a variety of causes, the inhabitants are faced with ruin and starvation. It need hardly be said that such a request is not likely to be lightly disregarded in this country. But it must be apparent to anyone fully acquainted with all that the people of Great Britain are doing to relieve distress in various parts of the world and with all the duties imposed upon them by the war that a fresh appeal at this stage has little chance of meeting with the success it deserves, and, indeed, would have to meet, if it were to fulfil its object. Perhaps American generosity will feel stirred to champion the cause of the Syrians, not only with financial assistance, but also by means of diplomatic representations at Constantinople.

American interest in Syria has already been aroused by the efforts of the late Ambassador, Mr. Morgenthau, to interest the Porte in the future of Palestine. His scheme was to dispose of it to the Zionists, and we may be sure that the suggestion was prompted by altruistic motives. The hope of several portions of the Ottoman Empire, and particularly of the Christian sections of the population, lies in some form of autonomy. One of the immediate effects of the Turco-German alliance was to aggravate the condition of the Porte's Christian subjects. The Armenians were massacred, the Greeks were harried from pillar to post, and Lebanon was deprived of its autonomy. It is not without interest to note that the fate of Lebanon when left entirely to Turkish mercies aroused misgivings among Germans settled in Palestine. The necessity of ousting French influence was admitted, and allowance was made for Turkey's natural desire to re-establish her authority; but German trade interests prompted an expression of hope in the German Press as long ago as last November that Turkey would be content to change things slowly. It was pointed out that Lebanon, though most regrettably under French influence, had managed its own affairs satisfactorily, that it was impossible for Germany straightaway to fill the whole of the rôle which France had played, and that Turkish administration was not yet equal to replacing in its entirety the autonomous régime. Some of these considerations must have weighed with the Turks, for Lebanon was left in part to carry on with its own administrators; but as the strain of the war has increased the lot of the Lebanese has been less fortunate, and they are probably as badly off to-day as any portion of Syria. As both France and Britain are interested in this part of Turkey, it would be well if some relief could be brought by force of arms to the wretched inhabitants.

Changes have taken place in the British Foreign Office which have a particular interest for those who have followed closely the course of British diplomacy in the Near East. After a long and successful diplomatic career, Sir Arthur Nicolson, Permanent Under-Secretary of State since 1911, will shortly retire, and has received the well-earned honour of a peerage. In resigning his office he has the satisfaction of knowing that Near Eastern affairs will henceforth be given more attention than they were able to command in this country before the outbreak of the war. He is succeeded by Lord Hardinge, who thus returns to a post which he occupied before he was appointed Viceroy of India. British diplomacy has suffered a special loss in the untimely death of Mr. H. J. O'Beirne, who perished with Lord Kitchener and his staff on board H.M.S. Hampshire. He was a diplomatist of considerable promise, and if his appointment to Bulgaria had taken place at an earlier date there would have been at least a strong probability of the war in the Near East following a very different course from that which it has taken as a result of the defection of Bulgaria.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 24.

H. H. the Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan proceeded to Alexandria on Tuesday last, accompanied by the Ministers, the Financial Adviser, and his suite. Contrary to custom, no official reception took place at Abdin before his departure, but the senior officials and leading notables assembled at the station to bid the Sovereign farewell. His Highness was received with acclamation at the chief towns through which his train passed, and at Alexandria, where on arrival he proceeded to Ras-el-Tin Palace.

Three days before he left Cairo the Sultan made another journey into the Delta, this time visiting Shebin-el-Kom, one of the more important provincial towns and the capital of the flourishing Mudiria of Menufia. His visit was a veritable triumph, and he received ovations from the people the like of which have not been witnessed for many years. His Highness on this occasion distributed decorations of the "Fellahi" Order to deserving cultivators, and delivered a stirring and instructive address to a mass gathering of the inhabitants. He also caused a free meal and food to be given to several thousand poor persons in honour of his visit, and when he finally left again for Cairo crowds of fellaheen followed his train along the line for some distance, cheering him in an enthusiastic manner. There is little doubt that the Sultan is gradually establishing for himself a special place in the affections of his people. The result of this visit to Shebin-el-Kom fully bears out what I wrote on this subject last week. The people are openly contrasting him, to his great advantage, with his predecessor, Abbas Hilmy Pasha, who entirely lacked his princely dignity, and whose visits, partaking as they did of the nature of a revenue-raising raid, were ever a source of dread to his long-suffering, much-mulcted subjects. They are comparing their present ruler to the Khalifs of mediæval times, and the personal note, which is characterising more and more the actions of Sultan Hussein I., bids fair to make of him a modern Haroun er-Rashid.

The seat of Government is now transferred for the summer to Alexandria, where the Ministers are already in residence, and whither some of the ordinary staff will proceed at the end of the month. For economical and other reasons, no wholesale transfer of personnel will take place this year to Egypt's second capital, but Government officials are all to be given leave of absence. It is in a year like this that we feel the need of some hill station, such as Cyprus possesses in Mount Troödos and the Sudan in Erkoweit. Alexandria and Port Said are all very well as summer resorts for the local population, and on occasion for foreign residents; but European officials, many of whom have not left the country for three years now, and who have since the outbreak of war one and all been subjected to unusual strain and stress of work, require something more bracing and a more complete change than those seaports can offer them; and, in the circumstances, it has been decided to give them special permission to proceed to Europe on ordinary leave of absence.

New Egyptian Coinage.

It has been arranged that a new issue of Egyptian coinage shall be made. The new coins will be of the same denomination as those already in circulation, but the design will be quite different. The gold piece—an Egyptian pound of one hundred piastres—will have on one side the "toughra" (monogram) of Sultan Hussein I., with below it the date of his accession to the throne, all in Arabic; and on the other side the words "Al Sultana al Masryia" (the Egyptian Sultanate), with the value and minting date in Arabic and Euro-

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pean characters. The inscriptions will be framed by two palm branches. The silver, nickel, and bronze coins will be similarly inscribed, with, of course, variations in the values, and will be the same as those now in circulation with the exception of the nickel coins, which will have a hole in the centre. The issue of new coinage has been rendered necessary, of course, by the change in the status of Egypt, the coins in circulation to-day all bearing the "toughra" of the Sultan of Turkey, as suzerain of Egypt. The inscription of the values and dates in European as well as Arabic characters is also an innovation, and will be welcomed by all newcomers, who, at the outset, always experience difficulty in recognising the Arabic numerals. It is understood that the order has been passed to the mints, but that the coins will not be available for some good time yet. As soon as they arrive a decree will be promulgated legalising their circulation. The style of the present issue dates, it is understood, from the readjustment of the local currency in 1885, the only change made since that date being when Mohammed V. succeeded Abdul Hamid, and a different "toughra" had to be inscribed.

The Bomb Outrage.

The trial of Helbawi and Shemsed-Din on the charge of being implicated in the attempt last July on the Sultan's life is still unfinished. It was suspended for a day at the end of the week, owing to the temporary indisposition of Sir William Brunyate, counsel for the prosecution; and the Court, which has hitherto only sat in the mornings, is sitting this afternoon in the hopes of getting the trial concluded by the end of the week. At the present moment Shemsed-Din is in the box, and is giving his version of the reason he rented the ill-fated house, a version which is by no means convincing. The prolongation of the trial is due to the fact that every question has to be put through the interpreter. There have been one or two interesting passages in the evidence, but no useful purpose would be served by quoting them.

General Sir John Maxwell.

No little pleasure was expressed in all circles out here when it became known that the late G.O.C. the British troops in Egypt, General Sir John Maxwell, had been appointed to deal with the Irish disturbances. His success in Dublin has come as no surprise to anyone; for we all know his sterling qualities and his fitness for the work. General satisfaction is felt locally that an occasion has so quickly arisen to bring him once again before the public eye, and that, as the latest London papers would seem to indicate, the true value of his work in Egypt is beginning to be appreciated at home.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, May 22.

Heat Wave.

The week beginning May 14 has been marked by a heat wave of extraordinary intensity for the season, thermometers registering 90° to 92° F. in the shade. The "oldest inhabitants" do not remember such oppressive weather in May. The heat has been rendered worse by dampness. On the coast this is always a trying feature; but the climate at the capital has undergone considerable change. The dryness which used to characterize it all through the summer has given way, owing to tree planting and other causes, to a large increase of moisture.

The troops move from their winter quarters to their summer quarters on May 23. The march is made as a rule in three days. The High Commissioner, the Chief Secretary, and certain officers leave Nicosia on June 4. At the height of the camp the nights are still chilly in June.

Inter-School Athletic Sports.

The annual meeting of the English School at Nicosia, at which the events were contested by boys of the American School at Larnaca, were largely attended. Sir John and Lady Clauson were present, and the latter distributed the prizes. The majority of the events were won by the Larnaca boys, to whom fell the challenge cup presented by the late High Commissioner, Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams.

Passports for Greece.

The issue of passports to persons desiring to proceed to Greece, which was recently suspended, is now allowed.

SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, May 22.

The weather has been extremely depressing here. The temperature crept gradually higher, and there has been a number of sand storms, while the short shower of rain that did come was not sufficient to cool the air, but did make it damp. The nights especially have been hot and oppressive. Rain has, however, fallen over a considerable part of the country, and native experts hope for long and considerable rains.

The Blue Nile is beginning to show signs of the "false" rise which occurs shortly before the real one.

An outlaw, El Hag Ali Taher, who has long evaded justice, became a serious danger, as he shot at and wounded several people in the Blue Nile Province. The local authorities, however, hunted him down, and he met his end endeavouring to escape arrest. He had for years been the terror of certain districts.

ALI DINAR.

Darfur, the scene of the recent fighting in the Sudan, when the forces of its Sultan were routed by a mixed Government force, has always been prominent in the history of the Sudan. During the 16th century the Sultans of Darfur were among the most powerful Mohammedan potentates in the world, but their fame was rivalled, and subsequently outclassed, by the Sultan Adlan, of Sennar, who is reputed to have reigned from 1484 to 1526. During the life of this monarch the fame of Sennar became known throughout the whole of the Near East, and his Court was visited by learned men from various important centres, including Cairo and Baghdad.

The war-like characteristics of the Darfur people, however, appear to have led them to triumph long after the fame of their more pacific neighbours was forgotten, and in the early part of last century we find them in possession of the Kordofan Province. This province remained as part of the kingdom of Darfur until 1821, when it fell before a sharp onslaught by an Egyptian Army during Ismail's campaign up the Nile in that year. The invading army on this occasion was commanded by Mohammed Bey, the *defterdar*, son-in-law of Mohammed Ali, who ultimately returned to Shendi to revenge the death of Ismail, who, with his chief officers, had been burned to death while feasting in the house of a treacherous *mek*.

In the year 1877 General Gordon, who had just arrived in the Sudan as Governor of the Egyptian territories outside Egypt proper, was called upon to suppress a revolt in Darfur. Although he was successful in this, and received the submission of Suliman Zobeir—son of Zobeir Pasha—who was at the head of a gang of slave traders, there was further trouble in the following year. The local disturbance was soon quelled, but Suliman, acting upon the instruction of his father in Cairo, broke out into open revolt against the Government and was ultimately executed.

It was in Darfur that Slatin Pasha surrendered to the Mahdi in 1883. That some of the difficulties which had to be contended with in that district were the direct result of misgovernment may be gauged by the following extract from a note written by General Gordon from Darfur in 1879:—

"The government of the Egyptians in these far-off countries is nothing else but one of brigandage of the very worst description. It is so bad that all hope of ameliorating it is hopeless."

During the time of the Khalifa the peoples of Darfur veered from their allegiance to the Mahdist cause, and prior to the Battle of Omdurman Darfur had thrown off the Khalifa's yoke entirely, and was again under a native sovereign, Ali Dinar. It was to this ruler that the last surviving Dervish Amir of any importance surrendered in 1902. When, therefore, the definite reorganisation of the country began, and its various provinces were placed under the direction of English Mudirs, or Governors, an exception was made in the case of Darfur, and Ali Dinar was permitted to hold his Sultantate, subject to the payment of an annual tribute to the Government of £500. The state has an approximate area of 150,000 square miles.

MOHAMMEDAN MYSTICISM.

In the course of an address delivered last week before the Société Internationale de Philologie, Science et Beaux-Arts, on "Eastern Mysticism from a Western Point of View," Dr. John Pollen said: Let us turn now to the Islamic mystics—the Sufis—and ask whether Mohammed himself was a mystic or not. I think there can be little doubt that he was. He was one of those earnest ecstatic souls who crave for direct revelation from God. He felt God both afar off and also very close at hand, transcending yet immanent, the light of the heavens high above the earth, and yet the worker right in the midst of the world and in the very heart of man. All thinking religious Moslems are mystics, and recognise Emmanuel (God with us) as profoundly as the most mystical and orthodox of Christians. He who dies to self lives in God; and *fana*, the consummation of this death to self, marks the attainment of *baqr* or union with the Divine life—the ultimate aim of true Sufism.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, May 27.

A Fresh Incident.

Another "incident" between the Entente Powers and the Government has arisen as a result of a statement made in the Chamber by the Minister of Communications and of Finance, M. Rallis, who declared that the said Powers were putting pressure upon Greece to make her abandon her neutrality. The incident has terminated, like the earlier ones, in the discomfiture of the Government. As soon as they heard of M. Rallis' statement, the Ministers of the four Powers called together on M. Skouloudis, and protested energetically. Just what M. Skouloudis replied is not known; but the governmental *communiqué* given out by the Press Bureau the same evening sufficed to show that the representations made by the four Ministers must have been very strong. For M. Skouloudis had to admit that the Greek Government had six months ago acknowledged in writing a declaration of the Powers to the effect that they had neither the intention nor the wish to make Greece abandon her neutrality. This admission, which was published in all the journals, created intense surprise. But what caused a feeling of positive stupefaction, and gave rise to all sorts of comments, was the first part of the Ministerial *communiqué*, in which M. Rallis' remarks in the Chamber were referred to as rumours, rumours which had given rise to his declarations, which were thus indirectly represented as containing no allusion to vexatious measures against Greece on the part of the Entente. It was only a "family matter," so to say, between M. Skouloudis, who edited the official *communiqué*, and M. Rallis, who was absent from Athens! What struck many people most forcibly was the revelation made in the *communiqué* that the Government, having received such a categorical declaration from the Entente six months ago, and having acknowledged it in writing, had not only carefully kept this fact from the people, but had even accused the Powers referred to, both in the Chamber and in the Ministerial Press, of exercising pressure on Greece in order to force her to abandon her neutrality.

On the day of the four Ministers' *demarche* and of the *communiqué* which followed it M. Rallis was at Larissa for the opening of the new railway, and it was there that the President of the Council informed him, in a long telegram, of the Entente representations regarding his remarks. To this doubtless one must attribute the fact—learned with lively surprise—that a few hours later M. Rallis, in addressing the King in connection with the subject of the new line, made grateful mention of the services rendered by *la chère France* in regard to the work. But the censorship—exercised, it is said, by his colleague, M. Gounaris, who was also at Larissa—struck out the word "*chère*" from the Press telegrams, and replaced it by "*noble.*"

Behind the Scenes.

The rivalries which have existed from the first between the members of the Cabinet have not been laid aside for an instant. It is stated that both M. Rallis and M. Gounaris are working and manœuvring behind the scenes with a view to the formation of a fresh Cabinet. Needless to add, each is working in his own interests and playing for his own hand. Each believes that he has a majority. It is rumoured in political circles that as soon as the 1916 Budget has been voted—it is to be presented on June 5—a vote of confidence will be taken; another report has it that M. Gounaris is waiting for the fall of Verdun to have himself proclaimed President of the Council. Such a situation, dragging on from day to day, naturally gives rise to rumours of Ministerial crises, which are, equally naturally, denied. It is certain that such a Cabinet, composed of political adversaries, would have been wrecked long ago, if its leaders were not more or less held together by the fear of seeing their common adversary, M. Venizelos, recalled to power.

The Torpedoing of Greek Steamers.

Three Greek cargo boats have been torpedoed in three days by German submarines. Everyone has been considerably impressed by this activity; but the Governmental Press has endeavoured to excuse this act of piracy on the part of the Germans by representing that the torpedoed Greek boats were carrying contraband of war destined for the Entente! The Liberal Press, on the other hand, recalling the heavy losses caused to Greek shipping by the Germans since the beginning of the war, blames the Government strongly for not having protested energetically to the Central Powers instead of declaring, through its Press, that it is expecting information as to the conditions in which the outrages were perpetrated.

SIR ARTHUR NICOLSON.

The news of the honour conferred by his Majesty the King upon Sir Arthur Nicolson will come as no surprise to those who have had opportunities of observing the excellent work accomplished by Sir Arthur during his tenure of the responsible position which he will shortly vacate. It would be difficult to overestimate the value of his services to this country and, since the outbreak of war, to the Allied cause. His knowledge of the Near East, which must have been turned to good account during this time of stress, was gained at first hand. It was in 1879 that he went to Constantinople as a Second Secretary, and he was almost immediately appointed Superintendent of Student Interpreters in Turkey. In 1881 he was appointed, with Sir C. Wilson, to inspect consulates in Syria and Asia Minor, and the following year he accompanied Lord Dufferin to Egypt. Thereafter he saw service at Athens, Teheran, and Budapest before returning to Constantinople as Secretary of Embassy. In 1894 he went to Bulgaria as Agent and Consul-General, and the following year was promoted to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Tangier. In 1905 he became Ambassador at Madrid, and the following year he represented this country at the Conference of Algeciras. With his transfer to Petrograd (or St. Petersburg, as it was then called) in 1906 his association with the Orient and the Nearer East terminated, but both in Russia and afterwards at home as Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs his work for his country continued—with results which have been made so happily apparent during the past twenty months. That his services have been appreciated is proved by the honours bestowed upon him. He was made a C.M.G. in 1886, a K.C.I.E. two years later, K.C.B. in 1901, K.C.V.O. in 1903, G.C.V.O. in 1905, G.C.M.G. in 1906, and G.C.B. in 1907. He also holds the Grand Cross of the Order of Charles III. of Spain and the Grand Cross of the Russian Order of Alexander Nevsky.

TORTOISES AND KINDRED REPTILES OF PALESTINE.

Last week at a meeting of the Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-Arts Dr. H. M. Léon read an instructive paper on "The Family Testudinæ or 'Shield Reptiles' of Palestine." He said the most common species of tortoise found in the Holy Land was the Mauritanian tortoise. This was found in every part of the country with the exception of the district around Hebron. Its southern limit appeared to be the hill country of Judæa, south of which and of the Dead Sea it was replaced by the species known as Kleinmann's Tortoise. It so closely resembled Testudo græca as often to be confounded with it; this latter species being the one which was very frequently brought to this country, and whose flesh, it was said, was often used to make "turtle" soup. These creatures were vegetarians, but the two species of terrapin that inhabited the streams and pools of Palestine lived on an animal diet. One (Emys Lutaria Lacépedé) was a pest to sportsmen, seizing and dragging under water any killed or wounded bird, and another (Emys Europæa) regularly stalking fish. Said Dr. Léon: "The tortoise watches its opportunity, slowly it half crawls, half swims along the bottom, rises imperceptibly by a few gentle movements of the widely spread-out webbed feet, then opens as widely as possible its sharp cutting jaws and makes a grab at the belly of the fish. Frogs are most easily stalked when they are seated upon a floating leaf. The tortoise rises from below, and often waits with nostrils and eyes just above water close to the frog."

With reference to the report that the Greek Government proposed to proclaim martial law throughout Greece, Reuter's Agency is informed that telegrams received at the Foreign Office as late as Tuesday afternoon gave no indication that such a course had been adopted.

At a meeting of Alexandrine Greeks it was resolved to send a message to King Constantine protesting against the Bulgarian invasion of Greece, and urging Greek co-operation with the Entente Powers in order that the enemy might be ousted. The Association of Greek Patriots in Paris passed a similar resolution on Sunday.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 16.

Prince Carol's Escape.

His Royal Highness Prince Carol had a lucky escape on May 10. He was driving his car down one of the principal thoroughfares when a cart laden with hay drove across his path from a side street. In order to avoid it the Prince swerved, and crashed into an electric tramcar which was travelling in the opposite direction, and hidden by the cart. The Prince, who fortunately escaped without injury, descended calmly, and proceeded on foot to the Palace of Cotroceni.

Russian Soldiers in Roumania.

On May 10, at break of day, twenty-five Russian soldiers swam across the Danube and landed at Turnu-Severin. They had been taken prisoners by the Austrians, and were employed at work in the fields when they took to the river.

Turko-Bulgarian Megalomania.

We read in the *Nationalul*:—

To judge by the tone of their Press, the Bulgars and Turks have developed what is known as Megalomania to a degree hitherto unknown. Whereas, before they became the Allies of the Central Powers, the Bulgars still consented to enter into polemics with Roumanians, Greeks, or Serbs, as the case might be, they now measure themselves with, and even treat with contemptuous merriment, the English, French, Italians, Americans, etc., that is, people of their own calibre.

The Turk—who seems to call out incessantly: "Pull him off me, lest I slay him" (as we say in Roumania)—is also performing prodigious feats, such as the reduction of Kut-el-Amarah by starvation. The Smyrna journal *Anadalu*, speaking of the Turkish victory (!?) at Kut, says: "Napoleon III. expressed himself as follows with regard to the Italians: 'The Almighty created the Italians that they might be beaten by the Austrians.' To-morrow history will say: 'The English were created that they might be wiped out by the Turks.'"

Landlords v. Tenants.

Contracts for the lease of houses, flats, shops, and so on are signed at two seasons in the year, one in the Spring, on St. George's Day, which falls on May 6 (new style), and the other on the day of S. Demetrius, which is November 8. About this time in spring and autumn one generally has the impression that all Bucharest is moving, the streets presenting a curious sight with their strings of vehicles of every description laden with an infinite variety of household goods, all piled up pell-mell. We missed this familiar sight on last St. George's Day, as a result of recent legislation, which prohibits owners from raising rents during the whole course of the war. To facilitate the proper application of this law, a clause was added making illegal the expulsion of a tenant even on expiration of his contract. This measure is excellent, and approved by all but house-owners, for rents were really becoming exorbitant. But the framing of a law is no simple matter, and if, as in this case and other instances of recent legislation, the project is prepared hastily and without due attention, each man interprets it as he pleases. Naturally owners and tenants have not always the same point of view, so that the last St. George's Day was characterized by an unusual number of quarrels, arguments in many cases being emphasized by blows. Police agents have had all their work cut out, having had to give immediate ruling in the questions at issue. Infractions of the law have been frequent. There are said to be some seven hundred house-owners awaiting trial.

In accordance with the desire of the Sultan of Egypt, Sir Archibald Murray has commuted to penal servitude for life the sentence of death on Shem-ed Din and Helbawi, who were found guilty of complicity in an attempt to assassinate the Sultan by throwing bombs.

Under date of May 29, Reuter's Bucharest correspondent reports:—It is officially stated that a fire which broke out in the arsenal at Bucharest destroyed two small powder stores and one of the workshops where cartridges were made. Thanks to the courage of the troops and the speedy help that was forthcoming the munitions and artillery were saved, thus averting a great disaster. King Ferdinand directed in person the salvage operations. The cause of the fire is not believed to be an accident. A military inquiry is proceeding.

THE STATE OF SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 20.

When the *Mokattam* published a few weeks ago those gloomy accounts of a new informant regarding the economic distress and incipient famine in Syria, and the barbarous treatment of the population by the Young Turks, the Syrians abroad were naturally deeply agitated. Some, to comfort themselves and others, pronounced these accounts as gross exaggerations, published with a purpose, and preferred to hope against hope. Now, however, another important organ of the Arabic Press comes out with accounts, far surpassing in seriousness those of the *Mokattam*. This paper declares that the recent visit of Enver Pasha to Syria spelt disaster to the Lebanese, because he actually cut off their rocky mountain from the neighbouring vilayets, and allowed only an unwholesome quality of flour, made up of dark barley and vetches, to enter the Lebanon and be distributed at the rate of 4 kilos per head every twenty-five days. As the already poor Mountain had been laid bare by the locusts, the starved population were lately finding difficulty even in collecting weeds of the fields. When some of the notables begged for merciful treatment the Mutessarif, Ali Munif Bey, replied that it was the Government's concern and not theirs. Most of the leading members of well-known families are said to have been exiled lately; beasts of burden have been taken away; and the weak and unfit, left behind, are dying of starvation, so that the land could not be ploughed and sown. The strict prohibition of shooting has barred the last door to the poor people's natural resources; and it is said that the death-rate was so appalling that the Mutessarif had to allow burial outside the cemeteries. Whole families are alleged to have disappeared, and some of the villages lost more than one-third of their population! While the oke of bread in Beyrout is sold at about 5 piastres (10d.), it is sold in the Lebanon at 25 piastres, if it can be found. The Lebanese are said to be prohibited from buying provisions in Beyrout; and those who do so are, on crossing the frontier, deprived of their purchases, and subjected to personal maltreatment. The paper goes so far as to state that up to the beginning of this month the death roll in the Lebanon had attained the appalling figure of 80,000. Such remittances as are sent by the Lebanese emigrants in America to their people, through the American Mission, for distribution have now to be deposited at the Ottoman Bank, with a list of the payees; and orders have been passed to the said bank not to effect payment till one year after the date of the receipt of the money, and only in Government paper. Hanging on a large scale is said also to be still carried on, and during last month eleven executions are said to have taken place in Beyrout, eight in Aley, seven in Damascus, and nine in Caiffa.

According to a New York paper the Maronite Patriarch's delegate at Philadelphia has requested the U.S. Ambassador at Constantinople to use his good offices with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with a view to arranging for a shipment of grain and foodstuffs to the Lebanon, and the Ambassador has kindly promised to reserve space for a quantity of foodstuffs for the Lebanon by the steamer that is to ship a cargo for the Jews and Armenians of Turkey. The Syrians of Egypt are also taking collective action with a view to obtaining permission from the British and French Governments to send relief to their unfortunate countrymen irrespective of creed.

May 22.

On the day following the publication of the accounts regarding the very serious situation in the Lebanon, of which I sent you a summary last week, the editor of the paper in question gave a categorical confirmation of the authenticity of the news. The writer at the same time made careful inquiries at serious and reliable sources, and, to his infinite regret, got a further confirmation of the facts. The last informant's account tallied, in almost every important detail, with that of the person who had preceded him in his secret journey to Syria and the Lebanon, and whose account was published in the *Mokattam*, save that the situation had since developed for the worse, and was daily assuming a more alarming character. The sinister design of the authorities there began to manifest itself at the beginning of last February. The last informant brought with him samples of the flour said to consist of a mixture of bad barley and vetches, and, on examination, it was found to be bad-smelling and more like a mixture of bad flour and sawdust. A military cordon is drawn around the Mountain to prevent any smuggling of foodstuffs from the neighbouring districts, and the wealthy and influential clergy, including the monastic establishments, have been dispersed so as to bar the last means of succour to the starving population. The Maronite

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Patriarch's staff has been broken up, and only one clerk left to the aged prelate, and even this man was at the beginning of May called away to Aley, while most of the Maronite, Greek Orthodox, and Greek Catholic bishops were called to Damascus, together with forty of the leading spiritual heads. At the same time, the leading members of influential families and tribes were exiled, the total number from Beyrout, Baalbek, and the Lebanon being estimated at 4,000.

To one who is acquainted with the Lebanon it is not difficult to understand how the whole population of such a province can be starved. The chief means of livelihood of the Lebanese are the rearing of the silkworm, the cultivation of fruit trees and vegetables, the rearing of cattle on a small scale, and transport by mules, donkeys, etc. The blockade has killed the silk industry; the commandeering of all sound cattle and beasts of burden has ruined the limited agricultural resources of the mountain and the muleteers' business; while the locusts have put the finishing touch to the work of desolation of the Turk. Further, the seizure of the remittances from abroad has tightened the cord round his neck to the degree of strangulation.

There can be little doubt left as to the design of the Turco-Germans. Just as they have attempted the extermination of the Armenians, so now they are trying, by more silent means, to dispose of the Lebanese, as an equally inconvenient element. Talaat Bey, with cynical impudence, declared lately that, if some of the exiled or massacred Armenians were not actual rebels, they were expected to become such. To the writer's own knowledge, the German Consuls in Syria did not scruple to manifest their hatred of the Christian element, whom they regarded as a stumbling-block in their way. Since then the majority of the Moslem Arabs have come within the circle of their hatred.

The Allies cannot divest themselves entirely of responsibility in this further crime which the Turco-Germans are committing against humanity. The French occupation of Ruad Island, the constant cruising of the Allied Fleets along the Syrian coast, and the occasional aerial reconnaissances, while acting as pin-pricks to the enraged Turco-Germans, have been feeding forlorn hopes in the hearts of the poor Syrians and prompting some of them to overt acts of sympathy, which only led to the multiplication of the cases of hanging. It may be argued that in a world war like this military exigencies must over-rule humanitarian considerations; but, even from a strictly military point of view, the speedy liberation of Syria and the Lebanon imposes itself. A landing in Syria before the complete extermination of the male population is accomplished would seem to be advisable.

The Syrians and Lebanese abroad are wealthy, and the threatened extermination of their countrymen and the devastation of their country have awakened in them a deep sense of their responsibilities, and, both from the point of view of feeling and of material interest, they would gladly contribute as far as their means permit to the expenses of a prompt expedition to Syria. If only the Allies would give them encouragement, they would endeavour to organize forthwith a movement to that end.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY.

We much regret to learn that the fund raised by a committee, of which Sir Louis Mallet is the president, for the relief of British refugees from Turkey, is almost exhausted. In Constantinople itself there are many British families who have been deprived of their means of livelihood by the war, and who are yet unable to leave the Turkish capital, and in Greece there are many quite destitute British who have fled from Turkey. There are also refugees in London who are being helped. The committee appeal for subscriptions to enable them to continue the relief which they are giving, and we very earnestly recommend the appeal to our readers. The headquarters of the committee are at Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, Belgrave Square, and the bankers of the fund are the Union of London and Smiths Bank, Sloane Square branch.

THE SIRDAR AND LORD KITCHENER.

Reuter's correspondent at Erkowit telegraphs (June 8):—

Sir Reginald Wingate, Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, has sent the following despatch:—"On behalf of the British officers and officials of the Sudan, the officers and men of the Egyptian Army whom he led to victory, and the inhabitants of the Sudan whom he released from Dervish tyranny and misgovernment, his successor in this country and comrade-in-arms offers heartfelt sympathy to Lord Kitchener's family in what is a personal and national bereavement."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

UNHAPPY SYRIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The kindly attitude that you have continually adopted towards Syria and the Syrians encourages me to draw your attention to the severe famine, cruel poverty, and utter destitution that prevail in Syria. Reports of the most grave and disquieting character have lately reached this country from Syria. The situation there is pitiable in the extreme. The complete isolation of the country, the strict blockade imposed by the Allies, the ill-treatment meted out by the Turks, and, finally, the havoc caused by the locusts to the crops have all contributed to render the condition of the people most miserable. If such a state of affairs is allowed to continue indefinitely, the complete ruin and starvation of the unfortunate inhabitants is sure to result.

On the attitude and sympathies of the Syrians I need not touch. Suffice it to mention that they have long reposed unshakable confidence in the English people, and were looking forward (even before the war) with intense eagerness to the time when Great Britain would come to their rescue from a long term of ill-treatment, oppression, and cruelty. Now they are suffering; they are dying; they are in need of help and relief. They look to the English for help and protection. Is it not possible for you to champion their cause, to evoke the interest of the public on the matter? As you are probably aware, there are numerous Syrians who possess considerable wealth, and are very eager to help their fellow-countrymen. What they actually lack is proper guidance, encouragement, and support from a sympathetic and generous nation. If a fund were started, I am sure it would receive liberal support.

Sir, the Syrians are in distress. They have suffered sufficiently already. No ruler has contributed more to the chaos of the history of Syria and Palestine than the Turk. At his hands the Syrians suffered; they were oppressed; they were hanged. It is therefore ardently to be hoped that some sort of help may soon be forthcoming, and that this war may see the passing of the Holy Land into the possession of a Christian Power. Indeed no time is more opportune for such a desirable and long-cherished eventuality than the present. The British Government could afford the deplorable loss of many thousand soldiers in Gallipoli; they are risking the lives of many brave soldiers in Mesopotamia and at Salonika. Could not soldiers be spared for Syria and Palestine, where the Allies are sure to receive a hearty welcome, and thus bring to an end a much-vexed question?—I am, etc.,

A FORMER HAIFA RESIDENT.

Alexandria, May 24, 1916.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Dardanelles and Gallipoli Operations. June 1.

Sir H. DALZIEL urged that papers respecting the Dardanelles and Gallipoli operations should be published forthwith, whatever the consequences to individuals might be.

Colonel CHURCHILL said that the decisions with regard to both the naval and military operations connected with the Dardanelles and Gallipoli were come to in this country by the Cabinet and War Committee, and it would be very injurious to the reputations of Ministers and those who had been Ministers if it could be represented that they were trying to delay the publication of the papers to shield themselves and allow the whole blame to fall upon the military or naval commanders. Personally he was in favour of publishing everything that the public interest would permit to be published. That course would enable Ministers to free themselves altogether from the charge of seeking to throw an undue burden upon Sir Ian Hamilton and other officers.

Mr. BONAR LAW, having explained that the Prime Minister had asked him to deal with this subject, said the Government had come to the conclusion that papers relating to the Dardanelles operations should be laid before the House. They would be as full as possible, because if the story was to be told, it should be the whole story, so that if there were any blame it should be fairly apportioned. It was obvious, however, that there might be among the papers documents so confidential that they could not be published. A limitation to his promise would, therefore, arise in that respect. There was also a possibility that some of the papers might throw light on operations still going on though not at the Dardanelles. Such papers, if there were any, would not be published.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

STUDIO DAYS.*

The writer of the book under review has decided opinions, whether they be on art or on Aberdeen, on life in general, or on those individual actions which go to make up the comedy called life. That is the first impression gathered from "Hearts and Faces." It is followed by the conviction that the author is a consummate artist, a man seeing the colour and form of all things and sketching them boldly. The result is that, with the exception of the central figure, who is decidedly unconvincing, especially in the later chapters, we are presented with a series of portraits drawn with admirable skill and ease. Unfortunately, the types sketched are of Western Europe (and America), whereas Near Eastern faces, if exception be made of an "international" mask caught sight of at a riotous carnival at Vienna, are conspicuous by their absence. Nevertheless, there are Aberdeen men and women scattered broadcast throughout the world, and to them the book will appeal strongly, for it "smells" of that wonderful town far away up North. It is the old Aberdeen we are shown—say thirty or more years ago, when, in all probability, the author himself was studying at King's College, ploughing his way through a translation of Eurypides, and, as likely as not, cursing his luck and longing for a life of more strenuous activity. The Aberdeen of those days was a quieter place than the Aberdeen of to-day, lying almost within gunshot of the great battlefields of the North Sea, and, therefore, it appeals the more to the many Aberdonians roaming abroad, and who are of maturer age. One I remember distinctly—tall, gaunt, gingery, with small blue eyes and beard unkempt (at least, it looked like it), who had been everything and had played all parts in the land of the Turks, except that of a "meenister" or an apostate, and who honestly hated both Bulgars and Greeks. According to his conception of Near Eastern propriety, he broke no commandment by coveting anything that belonged to a Greek (perhaps he also had translated Eurypides in the days of his youth at King's College), and when war broke out I left him in possession—somewhere in Turkey—of a fruit farm which had originally belonged to a Hellene obliged by major force hurriedly to escape the wrath of the Young Turks. What has happened since I do not know. In all probability the farm has gone to weeds, and my friend, who was decidedy of an adventurous disposition, has joined his Majesty's forces in some roving capacity.

From Aberdeen Mr. Murray Gibbon, or, rather, George Grange, the boy student who burns his books (or does he sell them?) and devotes himself to art, takes us into the studios and art classes of London and Paris. But before doing so, we are introduced to two of the finest characters in the book—Mrs. Middleton, a sane, motherly being full of humanity except when, now and again, she plucks some higher psychic and philosophic theories on her path to and from the kirk—to the honest disgust of her friend and distant cousin, Nathaniel Reid, artist. The latter is, without a doubt, the most perfectly drawn character in the book. Rugged as is the granite of his native Aberdeen, he is equally strong, and his philosophy is of that homely, wise kind that can only be acquired by an observant man after a long life of dearly bought experience. How different are those two beings from the men and women hobnobbing together in Chelsea or the Quartier Latin! The contrast, though not implied by the author, is there, nevertheless, and it adds to the value of the book by emphasising the hurry and flurry, wear and tear of modern city life seething with ambitions, passions, sorrows, joys, and longings. Painters of renown and hopeless failures, all-knowing critics and keen-scented parasites, virtuous women and—others: we meet them all pell-mell, much as we meet types and faces in a crowded thoroughfare. The portraits are admirably sketched, but the author—journalist, artist, and now one of the "big" men of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company—has a knack of emphasising defects and failings rather than virtues, whereby he resembles a cartoonist more than a portraitist. However, these chapters on studio life, full of life, vigour, and the human touch inseparable from all good, lasting work, are good reading. C. R.

* "Hearts and Faces." By J. Murray Gibbon. (Lane. 6s.)

SOME ANGLO-EGYPTIAN WRITERS.

(From a Correspondent.)

In a recent number of the *Egyptian Mail* mention was made of Mrs. R. L. Devonshire's admirable translation of Vallery-Radot's "Vie de Pasteur." It is evident that the book, which was published some years ago, is not as well known in Egypt as it deserves to be. Among other works by Anglo-Egyptian writers, Mrs. A. C. Hann, of Alexandria, is responsible for a dainty adaptation from Rostand's "Chanticler." Shortly before the outbreak of war Mr. A. T. Cull, of the Ottoman Bank, who now holds a commission in the Army, published a small volume of verse, "To Pavlova," which is no mean tribute to the great artist to whom the poems are dedicated, and by whom they are one and all inspired. A writer of short stories which continue to find their way into the better-class English magazines is Mr. Micklem, of the Egyptian State Railways. And, if it be not impertinent to ask the question, when may we expect a second volume of "Egypt in the Nineteenth Century," by Mr. D. A. Cameron, H.B.M. Consul-General in Alexandria, thereby bringing his interesting history up to date?

Among Anglo-Egyptian writers who have, alas! left Egypt, the works of Mrs. Butcher (*née* Floyer), Mr. A. E. Weigall, and Mr. René Francis are widely known and appreciated.

Finally one would welcome in book form the collected stories and sketches of Egyptian life with which the late Bimbashi Claud D'Aubuz, under the pen-name of "Madge Hoole," was wont to enliven a considerable number of readers in Egypt and at home.

The tragic death of Lord Kitchener gives a mournful interest to a book nearly completed by Mr. Harold F. B. Wheeler, F.R.Hist.S., "The Story of Lord Kitchener." But two chapters remained to be written when the fateful news arrived of the sinking of the Hampshire, and the book will be available in a very short time. It will be published by Messrs. Harrap and Co. at the price of 3s. 6d.

THE MASSALJI, OR TURKISH STORY-TELLER.

At one of the meetings of the Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-Arts, last week, Dr. Léon gave a most interesting address on the *Massalji* or story-teller. The lecturer said that he first made acquaintance with the *Massalji* many years ago when in Morocco; subsequently he had met many of the class. He had a very distinct recollection of one occasion, when, sitting in a house in a little village about six or seven hours' ride from Brusa on the way to Eskishehr, they had just finished their evening meal when the little girl of the house came running in, crying out: "The story-teller has come! Hurrah!" The man was given a meal, and then sat down to tell his story, illustrating it with gesticulations. It lasted a full week, night after night, during which time the *Massalji* was boarded and lodged free, and received sundry small coins from people who came to see and hear him. The story was told not only to the people of the house, for the neighbours also came in to listen; and during the daytime, while the men of the house were absent, the ladies were entertained with either another story or an elaboration of the one that he was telling in the evenings. According to Turkish custom the ladies did not come into the same room as the *Massalji*, but sat in one room while he was in another. The story he told was an elaboration of one found in the Talmud, and related how a man who had travelled from afar fell in love with a beautiful maiden, who returned his affection. Then he received a letter from his father summoning him home, and before going went to his lady-love and asked her to plight her troth that she would marry him and none else. She was willing to do so, but asked: "Where are the witnesses?" In the Talmudic version the man calls the well and a weasel to witness; but Islamic law requires three witnesses to a betrothal, and in the version told by the *Massalji* the coney was added as a third witness. The story then related how the man returned to his father, forgot his vow, and married another woman. Night after night the girl waited at the well for the lover who did not come back to her, the coney entertaining her at these times with many stories that were interwoven with the original story, after the manner familiar to every reader of the "Arabian Nights." Meantime the married couple had a child, which grew up to be four or five years old. One day when it was sleeping in the garden the coney whispered to the weasel that it was the child of an enemy of weasels, and that it would itself kill weasels when it grew up. The weasel thereupon bit the child's neck and caused it to bleed to death. Afterwards another child was born, and this, one day, wandering in the garden, came upon a well. Stooping over this it saw its reflection in the water, and leaning too far over fell in and was drowned. When the little body was drawn out the agonised father remembered the witnesses he had called to his betrothal with the girl in the far country—the weasel and the well. He repented of the wrong he had done her, and the coney came to enforce the lesson and to tell him that but for his repentance he would himself have been the next victim. He told his wife, and she bade him divorce her. He did so, making a settlement upon her; and returned to the girl to whom he had first been betrothed, to find her still waiting for him. He begged her forgiveness; this was given; and they were married.

Dr. Léon told one or two other very popular Turkish tales. He said there were many such stories recounted by the *Massaljis*. Most of them had not yet been reduced to writing, and but very few had been printed.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. June	1916. May.		1334. Shaban.	5676. Sivan.
9	27	Friday	7	8
10	28	Saturday.....	8	9
11	29	Sunday	9	10
12	30	Monday	10	11
13	31	Tuesday	11	12
	June.			
14	1	Wednesday	12	13
15	2	Thursday	13	14

Sunday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Olga of Greece, eldest daughter of Prince Nicholas and Princess Helen, who was born at Tatoi, May 29, 1903 (O.S.).

Next Wednesday is the birthday of the Queen of the Hellenes, who was born in 1870, and was married in Athens on October 15, 1889.

Next Thursday is the anniversary of King Peter's accession to the throne of Serbia in 1903.

On the departure of King Peter of Serbia from Ædipsos on Thursday of last week, his Majesty was given a hearty send-off, says an Athens telegram. He left a sum of money for distribution amongst the local poor.

Prince Christopher of Greece left Marlborough House on Monday, and is now in Paris.

On Sunday Prince Christopher visited the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace and took luncheon with their Majesties. He had previously attended Divine Service in the Marlborough House Chapel.

Princess Ouroussoff, the wife of the First Secretary to the Russian Legation at Athens, left London for Petrograd last week.

At the Greek Church of St. Sophia, Moscow Road, Bayswater, on Sunday morning, a Te Deum was sung in commemoration of the name day of the King of the Hellenes. The Great Archimandrite, Dr. Constantine Pagonis, officiated. Among those present were the Greek Minister, M. P. N. Delyanni, M. Constantine Collas, Captain Criezis, the Greek Consul-General, the staff of the Consulate, the Roumanian Minister, and members of the Greek Colony.

The Greek Minister and Madame Gennadius held a reception at the Legation in the afternoon. It was attended by the principal members of the Greek Colony in London. The Hellenic Community in London, through the Greek Minister, sent a congratulatory message to the King of the Hellenes.

The Duke of Sutherland, who had recently been staying at Shepheard's Hotel for a few days, has now left Cairo on active service.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier, has returned to London from Petrograd. M. Yovanovitch, who accompanied M. Pashitch to Petrograd, has also returned to London.

M. Grouitch, Serbian Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who was formerly Serbian Chargé d'Affaires in this country, arrived in London from Corfu on Saturday.

Sir Ronald Ross has been elected a vice-president of the Poetry Society.

H.H. Prince Kiamil Fazil, doyen of the family of Mohammed Aly, has received a communication from the High Commissioner of Egypt informing him that he has been commanded to thank his Highness for his loyal telegram to King George on the occasion of the anniversary of his Majesty's accession.

Our Bucharest Correspondent reports (May 16):—

Mr. Vopicka, United States Minister in Bucharest, has been indisposed as a result of gastric trouble. His illness has, however, not been serious, and we are glad to hear that he will soon be completely restored to health.

Mr. Couché, formerly Chancellor of the United States Legation, has returned to Bucharest. It will be remembered that, wishing to travel to Salonika in the course of last winter, he was arrested near Sofia on the charge of attempting to bribe a public servant. This was the result apparently of offering a backsheesh to an official, the amount of the backsheesh, we may assume, not corresponding with the Bulgar's expectations. Mr. Couché was detained several months, during which time he was tried on the charge mentioned, and has now been finally acquitted by the Court of Appeal.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (May 22):—Mr. Jardine, of the Chief Secretary's Office, left for Somaliland to take up the duties of Chief Secretary, on May 15.

The Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, who since the outbreak of the war has been in Egypt, arrived in the island on May 15.

We congratulate Lieutenant-Commander H. C. Lukach, R.N.V.R., on having obtained his "half-stripe" by a well-earned promotion. This officer, who for more than fourteen months has been engaged in the arduous, and at time tedious, labour of directing the civil affairs of Mudros as Government Secretary, is perhaps better known to readers of THE NEAR EAST as the author of "The Fringe of the East" and "The City of Dancing Dervishes." We understand that Lieutenant-Commander Lukach, R.N.V.R., will probably shortly return to Cyprus to resume his duties in the administration of the Enchanted Island.

Sir Ronald Graham, who, as announced in another column, has been promoted to the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary in the Diplomatic Service, has certainly earned the promotion. He has been Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior since 1910, and has fulfilled his duties with great tact and skill. Before going to Egypt he had served in Paris, Teheran, and St. Petersburg, had been on special service in Crete (in 1906), and had been British Agent in the Muskat Arbitration at The Hague.

We are pleased to notice the name of Mr. Ronald Storrs, Oriental Secretary at the British Residency, Cairo, in the list of Birthday Honours. Mr. Storrs has long served in Egypt, where his many friends will learn with pleasure that his Majesty the King has been pleased to appoint him to a Companionship in the Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Lieutenant-Colonel Percy W. Machell, who has just been awarded the D.S.O., has a long record of service in Egypt to his credit. He served with the Nile Expeditionary Force in 1884-85, and, joining the Egyptian Army in 1886, was in command at the capture of Fort Khor Moussa, and took part in the operations at Suakin and Gamaizah ('88), the Toski Expedition, and the capture of Tokar. From 1891 to 1895 he commanded the 12th Sudanese Battalion; in 1896 he became Inspector General of the Egyptian Coastguard, and two years later he was appointed Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, which post he held till 1908.

Sir Armand Marc Ruffer, whose name makes a welcome appearance in the list of Birthday Honours, is well known for his work in Egypt in various branches of sanitation and hygiene. He is president of the Sanitary, Maritime, and Quarantine Council of Egypt, President of the Municipal Delegation, and Vice-President of the Municipality, Alexandria, and Egypt's representative on the International Bureau of Hygiene. He has taken an active interest in the work of the Red Cross in Alexandria since the outbreak of the war.

A second honour goes to Alexandria by the conferment of a C.M.G. on Dr. Alexander Granville, Director-General of the Municipality there (and not in Cairo, as stated in the official announcement). Dr. Granville, who was formerly an official of the Public Health Department in Cairo, has occupied his present post with conspicuous ability for a number of years, and has made himself extremely popular among the cosmopolitan community of Egypt's commercial capital.

Captain Sir Arthur Henderson Young, whose name also appears in the Birthday Honours, has been Governor of the Straits Settlements since 1911. He was formerly in Cyprus, where he was Commandant of Military Police at Kyrenia in 1878, and afterwards became Assistant Commissioner and then Commissioner at Paphos (1878-9), and at Famagusta (1882). He next became Director of Survey and Principal Forest Officer ('92), and then Chief Secretary ('95). He administered the government of the island at various dates up to 1906, when he was transferred to the Straits Settlements.

Mr. Mansfeldt de Cardonnel Findlay, C.B., C.M.G., H.M. Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Christiania, whose name appears in the Birthday Honours, was born in 1861. He was educated at Harrow and nominated Attaché in 1885, serving at Stockholm and Constantinople. In 1896 he acted as Chargé d'Affaires at Belgrade, was in charge of the Agency at Sofia during part of 1897 and 1899, and of H.M. Agency at Cairo during the summer, 1902-07. In the latter year he was appointed Counsellor of Embassy at Cairo, a post which he held until his transfer to Dresden and Coburg as Minister Resident (1908-09). From 1909 to 1911 he was Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Sofia, after which he was transferred to the post he now holds.

A Bucharest message, considerably delayed in transmission, reports that Captain Cantemir Campineanu, son of the Roumanian ex-Minister, has been killed in an aviation accident. Captain Campineanu's mother is President of the Roumanian Red Cross.

A tablet erected in Winchester Cathedral to the memory of Major Arthur John Byng Wavell, of the Welsh Regiment, killed in action on January 9, 1916, near Mwele, British East Africa, while in command of the Arab Rifles—a force raised by him in August, 1914, to protect Mombasa—was last week unveiled by Major-General Sir Thomas Fraser. Major Wavell, who served with distinction in the South African War and was a well-known author and explorer, was the eldest son of Colonel A. H. Wavell, also of the Welsh Regiment, and was educated at Winchester and Sandhurst. The tablet was dedicated by the Dean of Winchester.

The organisers of the Serbian Relief Matinée, held at Drury Lane Theatre on May 9, regret that owing to a mistake the name of Prince Bibesco was included in the programme. The mistake was the more regrettable owing to the fact that Prince Bibesco, as a Roumanian diplomatic representative, is in mourning in consequence of the death of the Dowager Queen of Roumania.

Every Ambassador and Minister accredited to the Court of St. James has visited the Foreign Office to express sympathy with the Government in the loss of Earl Kitchener and his companions in the Hampshire.

Lord Bryce, speaking at the meeting to initiate the repatriation of the Armenian people, held last Wednesday at the Mansion House, said that one of the most attractive features of the character of the late Lord Kitchener, was that he always got on well with those of other races who were placed under his charge. There was no one more popular in Egypt, no one who had done more to make British rule go smoothly in Egypt than Lord Kitchener. He had been there but a very short time when he had won the respect and confidence of the Egyptian people.

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Sir Mark Sykes, Bart., M.P., at the same meeting, said that the loss of Lord Kitchener to those who knew him personally was as great as it was to those who knew him only as a public man. The beginning of his career Lord Kitchener had spent in Armenia trying to do something to get that wretched country straight. Perhaps if more men of the same stamp had gone there, or if he had remained longer, we should not be faced with the situation that we are faced with to-day. At any rate, he was there, as elsewhere, the protector of the weak.

A telegram from Constantinople states that General Townshend arrived there, but did not enter the city, being taken immediately to the island of Halki, adjoining Prinkipo.

A meeting of the Nile Society was held on Wednesday afternoon at 17, Fleet Street, when Mr. S. H. Leeder lectured on "Popular Misbeliefs About Egypt." The objects of the society, it may be noted, are :—"To create a better understanding between the Egyptian and the British nations; to correct mis-statements circulated about Egypt; to serve and defend Egyptian interests by every peaceful means; and to promote scholarly interests amongst the Egyptian students in Great Britain and to help them in every possible way."

The Sufi Order of Universal Brotherhood held its annual reception last Wednesday, the venue being 86, Ladbroke Road, W. Sir Francis Vane, who has just returned from Ireland, presided, and there was a crowded assembly. Among others whom we noted as being present were the Princess Tolly Ottino, Colonel and Mrs. Cockburn, Professor and Mrs. Léon, the president of the Islamic Society, Dr. Majid, and its honorary secretary, Mr. Hussein Aly. The proceedings were opened by a short address by the chairman. Inayat Khan and the Durbar musicians delighted the audience by Oriental music, and a long programme of songs, recitations, etc., with intervals for conversation, kept the proceedings going until a late hour.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the fourth class of the Order of the Nile upon: El Kaimakam F. Fail Bey, formerly Veterinary Department; Kaimakam W. G. Huskisson Bey, formerly Assistant Financial Secretary; Kaimakan R. E. M. Russell Bey, formerly Sudan Government; Kaimakam C. C. Macnamara Bey, formerly Officer Commanding Equatorial Battalion; Kaimakam S. S. Butler Bey, formerly Sudan Government; Kaimakam A. M. Collard Bey, formerly Officer Commanding 14th Sudanese; Kaimakam C. L. Smith Bey, V.C., formerly Second in Command, Camel Corps; Kaimakam C. L. Barlow Bey, D.S.O., Sinai Peninsula; Kaimakam Abd El Wahhab Bey Habib, Officer Commanding 7th Battalion; Bimbashi J. L. F. Tweedie, formerly Sudan Government; Bimbashi S. Hutchins, Department of Supplies; and Bimbashi L. Tunnard, Sudan Government.

On Thursday, June 15, at 5.30 p.m., at the Æolian Hall, New Bond Street, under the auspices of the Anglo-Hellenic League, Dr. R. M. Burrows will give an address on "The Present Condition of the Balkans."

Magdalen College, Oxford, has voted £20 to the British School at Athens.

The Governor of the Gold Coast has forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies a draft for £110, being the sum contributed by the Syrian traders in Lome, Togoland, to the British Red Cross Fund.

The Association des Journalistes Serbes (22, Rue de la Paix, Paris), has been established to assist Serbian "intellectuals" who are suffering as a result of the war. The president of the association is M. Naoum Dimitrievitch, former editor and director of the *Tribouna*, of Belgrade, and now director of the weekly magazine the *Nouvelle Serbie*, edited in Paris; the vice-president, M. Mil. G. Glouchtchevitch, docteur en droit, Secretaire de la Legation Royale de Serbie, Paris; the treasurer, M. Douchan Chiatchiki, director of the *Straja de Belgrade*; and the secretary, M. Georges Utesenovitch, of the *Nouvelle Serbie*. In order to accomplish its contemplated work the association appeals for the sympathy of the British public, and asks them to contribute to the work of the organisation just formed. Subscriptions may be addressed to the care of Mr. John Lane, the Bodley Head, Vigo Street, London, W.

On Monday the Grand Duke Michael of Russia opened, at the Royal Institution Galleries, 195, Piccadilly, a striking exhibition of Serbian war photographs, taken by a Russo-Serbian artist, M. Tchernoff, who accompanied the Serbian Army during the Balkan Wars, during its campaigns in the present war, and in its retreat across Albania to Corfu. The Serbian Prime Minister, M. Pashitch, and the Permanent Under-Secretary of State, M. Jovanovitch, and a large company of guests attended the ceremony.

According to information received in Bucharest it seems absolutely certain that Marshal von der Goltz was assassinated at Baghdad by Keimal Bey, a staff officer. As soon as the crime was committed Keimal Bey was killed by a German official. From the same source it is learned that General von Bluem was also assassinated in Armenia after the taking of Trebizond by the Russian Army.

The Right Hon. Archibald Fitzroy George Hay, 12th Earl of Kinnoull, of Balhousie Castle, Perth, who served on the Staff of Baker Pasha in the Sudan, left unsettled personal property in the United Kingdom valued at £24,245.

M. Venizelos has given £400 to the Serbian Red Cross.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

The King has been pleased to approve the promotion of Sir Ronald Graham, K.C.M.G., Counsellor of Embassy and Adviser of the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, to the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary in his Majesty's Diplomatic Service.

The *London Gazette* announces the promotion of Major-General (temp. Lt.-Gen.) the Hon. Julian H. G. Byng, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., M.V.O., Colonel 3rd Hussars, to be Lieutenant-General.

Colonel (temp. Brig.-Gen.) J. J. Asser, C.B., has been appointed from the Retired List to be Major-General on the Active List.

Captain (temp. Lt.-Col.) P. W. Machell, C.M.G., retired, has been awarded the D.S.O.

Our Khartoum Correspondent writes (May 22) :—Major Logan arrived in Khartoum from the Sobat Pibor district, and proceeds to England on medical certificate.

Capt. Alexander has arrived from Wad Medani, and proceeds to England on sick leave.

Major Stigand has reached Khartoum from the Upper Nile Province, and has been appointed to special duty in the West.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of May 19, reports :—Mr. Buckley, Inspector, 2nd Circle of Irrigation, who has been for several months on a special mission on the Blue Nile, is expected back at Cairo early in June with Mr. Prowde, private secretary to the Under-Secretary of State for Public Works, who accompanied him on his mission.

The *Cyprus Gazette* announces that the King's Exequatur empowering Monsieur Margarot to act as Vice-Consul of France at Larnaca has received his Majesty's signature.

Our Bucharest Correspondent reports (May 16) :—

M. Costinescu, Minister of Finance, has had his leave prolonged until June 8. M. V. Antonescu, Minister of Justice, will continue to act as his substitute.

M. Michel Pacliano, Roumanian Minister at Berne, has been in Roumania on leave, but is now on the point of returning to his post.

M. Emile Pitishteanu, Roumanian Consul at Bitolia, has been decorated by the French Government with the Cross of the Legion of Honour.

M. Alexander Loievitch has been appointed Attaché to the Russian Legation in Bucharest.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (May 22) :—Mr. Thompson, recently appointed District Medical Officer at Larnaca, has arrived and taken up his duties.

Reuter's Athens correspondent reports that King Constantine, on his name day, conferred the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Redeemer on M. Skouloudis, the President of the Council, and M. Rallis, the Minister of Communications.

Kaimakam C. L. Barlow Bey, D.S.O., Sinai Peninsula, Bimbashi S. Hutchins, Department of Supplies, and Bimbashi L. Tunnard, Sudan Government, have been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

Major A. W. B. Wallace, Durham Light Infantry, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer, with the temporary rank of Bimbashi.

Captain Robert K. B. Walker, the South Wales Borderers, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army, with the rank of Bimbashi, and posted to the 15th Sudanese.

Captain R. W. Eaton, 3rd County of London Yeomanry, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer. He is granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi and attached to Kordofan District for duty.

Second Lieutenant C. G. Kemp-Small, R.E., has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer. He is granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi and attached to the Military Works Department for duty.

The following transfers have taken place: Bimbashi J. L. Garstin, Bahr-el-Ghazal District to Department of Supplies; Bimbashi R. B. L. Bazley-White, 1st Battalion to Equatorial Battalion; Bimbashi (temporary) A. H. Betterton, Camel Corps to Cavalry and M.I.; Bimbashi (temporary) B. T. Phillips, 12th Sudanese to Equatorial Battalion.

KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

The following are amongst the honours conferred by the King on the occasion of his birthday :—

A barony of the United Kingdom has been conferred upon the Right Hon. Sir Arthur Nicolson, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.

A knighthood has been conferred upon Armand Marc Ruffer, Esq., M.D., President of the International Quarantine Board in Egypt.

Sir Arthur Henderson Young, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Straits Settlements, is promoted from a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George to a Knight Grand Cross of the Order.

His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Teheran, Mr. Claude Murray Marling, C.B., C.M.G., has been promoted to a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

H.M. Minister Plenipotentiary at Christiania, Mr. M. de Cardonnel Findlay, C.B., C.M.G., also receives similar promotion.

Dr. Alexander Granville, Director-General of the Municipality of Alexandria, has been made a Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Mr. Ronald Storrs, Oriental Secretary at the Residency, Cairo, has also been made a Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

H.E. Sheikh Jubar bin Mubarak bin Subah, Sheikh of Koweit and Dependencies, has been appointed an Honorary Companion of the Order of the Star of India.

H.E. Sardar Arfa, Amir Nuyan Sheikh Khazzal Khan, ibn Hajji Jabir Khan, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Sheikh of Mohammerah, has been promoted to be a Knight Grand Commander of the Indian Empire.

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OBITUARY.

Mr. H. J. O'BEIRNE, C.V.O., C.B.

We have to record with much regret that Mr. Hugh James O'Beirne, C.V.O., C.B., was amongst those who lost their lives as a result of the sinking of H.M.S. Hampshire off the Orkneys on Monday night. His death will be severely felt in the Foreign Office, where he was regarded as a particularly able diplomatist, and he will be sincerely mourned by many friends not only in this country, but wherever his diplomatic duties and his travels had taken him.

Born in 1866, Mr. O'Beirne entered the Diplomatic Service in 1892, and was appointed to St. Petersburg (Petrograd) the same year. In 1895 he was transferred to Washington, and two years later (now a Second Secretary) to Constantinople. After a very short time in the Turkish capital he was moved to Athens, temporarily, and thence to Paris (1900). Early in 1904 he was promoted a First Secretary, and in December of the same year he served on the North Sea Inquiry Commission. For a short time in 1905 he acted as Chargé d'Affaires at Washington, and was then transferred to Paris again, having meanwhile been made a C.B. In July, 1906, he was promoted to be Counsellor of Embassy at the Russian capital, and in 1913, after acting on various occasions as Chargé d'Affaires, he was appointed a Minister Plenipotentiary.

In July of last year, when the situation in Bulgaria was recognised as extremely difficult, not to say dangerous, Mr. O'Beirne was sent to Sofia in the hope that, if anybody could turn King Ferdinand of Bulgaria and his Ministers from the course on which they appeared to be set, he would be able to do it. That he was unable to do so was due to circumstances beyond his control, and, as is now realised, probably beyond the control of any man. He left Sofia on October 7, 1915, and returned to London, where, the following month, he was transferred to the Foreign Office.

LIEUT.-COL. A. G. FITZGERALD, C.M.G.

Lieutenant-Colonel Oswald Arthur Gerald Fitzgerald, C.M.G., who was drowned with Lord Kitchener, belonged to the 18th King George's Own Lancers, the same regiment as Lieutenant-Colonel Clive Wigram, Assistant Private Secretary to his Majesty, and Colonel Maxwell, Military Secretary to Lord Hardinge, during his Viceroyalty. "Fitz," as he was familiarly known, originally joined Lord Kitchener's Staff when he was Commander-in-Chief in India, subsequently accompanying him on his mission to Japan, Australia, and New Zealand, and has been his constant companion ever since, whether at the Residency at Cairo, the War Office, or Broome Park. He was a man of exceptionally attractive and lovable personality, and had well served Lord Kitchener, who was greatly attached to him.

ADMIRAL THE HON. H. L. A. HOOD.

Rear-Admiral the Hon. H. L. A. Hood, who lost his life in the sinking of H.M.S. Invincible, had seen stiff fighting on the Nile in the course of his long and distinguished service. A correspondent writes:—

"Nowhere will the death of Rear-Admiral the Hon. Horace Lambert Alexander Hood, C.B., M.V.O., D.S.O., be received with greater regret than among his old comrades and friends in the Sudan. Although it is about seventeen years since they were together in the struggle waged by the British troops against the waning power of the Khalifa, Hood's splendid services, his charm of manner and his whole-hearted enthusiasm for whatever duty he was engaged upon, are remembered and sometimes talked of. His great ability as a gunner was generally acknowledged, and General Kitchener found in him one of his most brilliant and reliable officers. It was in March of 1898 that a British brigade—1st Battalions of the Warwickshire and Lincolnshire Regiments, and the Seaforth and Cameron Highlanders—was despatched to reinforce the Egyptian troops. Hood—who was at this time but twenty-eight years of age—was attached to the naval brigade. The intention was to intercept Mahmud's force and the capture of its commander, and, as is known, both objects were accomplished. Mahmud, with Osman Digna and a large force, was making for Berber. On April 8 was fought the battle of the Atbara, in which Hood took a very prominent part in connection with the gunboats on the Nile, which rendered invaluable services. Hood was with Major T. Hickman of the 15th Egyptian Battalion when he occupied Shendi, on March 28, 1898, after a short fight. The Sirdar (then Sir H. H. Kitchener) mentioned Hood's name very prominently in his despatches on the battles of both the Atbara and Omdurman, upon which occasion Hood was awarded the 4th Class of the Mejidieh."

Subsequently, as captain of the Hyacinth, Hood landed in command of a Naval Brigade for the capture of the Mullah's stronghold at Illig in April, 1904, was mentioned in despatches, and received the D.S.O. (General East African medal, Somaliland, 1902-4, clasp).

Another gallant officer who took part in the capture of the Mullah's stronghold at Illig and won the Somaliland medal with clasp, and who is reported killed in the battle of last week, was Lieutenant Cecil Abercrombie. He was a midshipman on the Hyacinth when he formed one of the landing party for the capture of Illig. In the early part of this war he was on service down the Mediterranean. He was killed on board the Defence.

Captain Cecil Prowse, of H.M.S. Queen Mary, and his Commander, Sir Charles R. Blane, who are officially reported to have lost their lives in the great North Sea battle of May 31, had both seen service in Near Eastern waters. Captain Prowse was midshipman of the Agincourt during the Egyptian war of 1882, and had the Egyptian medal and the Khedive's Bronze Star. Afterwards he was first lieutenant of the Racoon, and served in the Naval Brigade landed by Rear-Admiral Rawson at Mombassa for the punishment of an Arab chief, the expedition resulting in the capture of the stronghold of M'weli in 1895. For his services he was decorated with the General African Medal. He was also present at the capture of the Sultan of Zanzibar's Palace in August, 1896, by the squadron of Rear-Admiral H. H. Rawson. Commander Sir Charles Rodney Blane was also present, as a midshipman of the St. George at the bombardment of the Sultan of Zanzibar's Palace. He also served in the expedition which landed to punish the King of Benin in 1897.

The death is announced of Commander W. Maitland-Dougall, R.N., retired, at Scotscraig, Tayport, aged sixty-three years. He served as aide-de-camp to General Sir Arnold Kemball during the Turco-Serbian campaign of 1876, and was at the siege of Alexinatz, and took part in the battles of Preschinitza and Junis, and the subsequent occupation of Alexinatz. Commander Maitland-Dougall also served as aide-de-camp and secretary to General Kemball throughout the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-8, and was present at the relief of Kars. He was under Moukhtar Pasha in the retreat from Kars to Erzeroum, and was at the battle of Deveh Boyoun and subsequent investment of Erzeroum. He was specially mentioned in despatches, and received the Turkish war medal. Commander Maitland-Dougall, who was the eldest son of Admiral W. H. Maitland-Dougall, married in 1886 Charlotte, daughter of Mr. F. King, of Fryern, Sussex.

Captain Charles Kennedy Kennedy-Purvis, R.N., retired, second son of Mr. Arthur Purvis, of Darsham, Suffolk, died at Rathcline, East Molesey, last week, aged sixty-six years. As lieutenant of the Penelope he was at the bombardment of Alexandria in 1882. He was seriously wounded at Kassassin during the repulse of the Egyptian reconnaissance, necessitating the amputation of one of his feet. At the time he was in command of the naval detachment serving with the 40-pounder, which was mounted on a railway truck. Lieutenant Kennedy-Purvis was specially mentioned by Sir Garnet Wolseley in despatches, and promoted for services rendered during the operations, receiving the Egyptian medal, the Alexandria clasp, the Khedive's Bronze Star, Osmanieh, 4th Class.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1916.

LORD KITCHENER.

Death has been kinder to Lord Kitchener than to the nation which loses him in this grave crisis in its history. After a life of crowded activity, spent in the service of the Empire and full of achievements for which his countrymen have reason to be grateful to him, he has passed away with a suddenness that a soldier covets and in a manner which, for all the tragedy surrounding it, is strangely in keeping with his known dislike for the trappings of public ceremonies. Lord Kitchener died, as he had lived, in harness. His first consideration in this struggle had been to see that Britain provided her maximum of man-power for the prosecution of the war. This task accomplished, he was free to devote closer attention to the co-ordination of the Allies' efforts, on which depends the successful conclusion of the war. It was in the furtherance of this object that Lord Kitchener was called to a personal consultation with the Russian Government and military authorities. With the members of his Staff he started for Archangel on board H.M.S. Hampshire, but before the cruiser had left Scottish waters she was struck by a mine or a torpedo. No escort apparently accompanied her; she sank, and all those on board perished.

The British nation received the news of the death of Lord Kitchener as it would have received the announcement of a severe defeat to its arms. It felt for the moment stunned; and in that feeling may be found the finest tribute that could be paid to the great soldier. Lord Kitchener was a stranger to all the arts and qualities that are supposed to evoke spontaneous recognition from the public. No man so keenly susceptible at heart to popular approval ever tried less to court popularity. His reserved disposition as well as his dislike of public speaking and of all pomp and pageantry made him shun platform and public gaze. From this attitude arose the popular conception of a Kitchener who cared nothing for anybody, but was bent on having his own way. But while he regarded all obstacles as only existing to be overcome, and was accustomed to ride roughshod over anything or anyone blocking the achievement of the purpose he had in hand, he would have suffered acute disappointment, if he could not have counted upon carrying with him the approbation of his countrymen. Not that the knowledge that he was running counter to public opinion would have deterred him from any course of action on which his mind was set. He was accustomed to rely too much on his own judgment to seek promptings from others. Nothing, therefore, but his actual achievements and force of character had won for him in the public esteem a place which, during this war at least, he shared with no other man. To the great bulk of his fellow-countrymen as well as to the outside world Lord Kitchener stood as the embodiment of the British character—forceful, thorough, and tenacious. When the war broke out it was to him that the country turned instinctively to rescue it from the slough of its own unpreparedness. It looked to him less as a successful commander in the field than as the one man capable of the necessary driving power to carry through an undertaking of the vast proportions of a European war. The national confidence was not misplaced. Lord Kitchener took over control of the War Office, and at once thought and spoke in millions, where others would have dealt hesitatingly and apologetically with hundreds of thousands. During his tenure of office he schooled the country into an adequate appreciation of the magnitude of the struggle in which it was engaged. This was a fitting crown to his life's service. The hard logic of work done for the Empire had won for him the whole-hearted faith of the people. He at once put that faith to the test, and found the people ready to follow his lead with a spontaneity which no one else could have aroused to an equal degree.

Lord Kitchener leaves behind him a record which must ever prove an invaluable asset to the British Empire. In the United Kingdom his activities have been restricted to the present war; in South Africa and India he was engaged on purely military duties; in Egypt alone—the scene of his earlier achievements—he had opportunity to build an administrative edifice on the foundations which he himself had helped to lay. Throughout all the other phases of his eventful career he looked back to Egypt with unfailing interest, and always spoke of it with affection. It was there that a lucky accident set his foot first on the ladder of fame. Colonel Kitchener had been recently appointed Sirdar when Khedive Abbas, then a comparatively young man, took it upon himself to make in public some undeserved criticisms on the efficiency of the Egyptian troops. Lord Cromer's reply was to insist that the British Government should at once confer the dignity of knighthood upon the Sirdar in order to dissociate itself from the strictures passed by the Khedive. The honour was merely premature, for it was Sir Herbert Kitchener who thought out, with Lord Cromer, and eventually carried through the reconquest of the Sudan. When after the Boer War and the period of his command in India Lord Kitchener returned to Egypt as British Agent and Consul-General, he gave evidence of the particular solicitude he felt for the country. No longer the inaccessible military commander, he made it his business to listen to all that anyone in Egypt who had a claim on his attention might have to say. No detail of the public service escaped being handled by him, and thanks to his personal prestige the régime achieved admirable results. Bluebooks tell the story of the continued advance of Egypt's prosperity; in Lord Kitchener's popularity among the fellaheen is to be found the record of the success achieved by his paternal administration. In that popularity Egypt repaid in some measure its debt to him, just as among his fellow-countrymen at home, we have not the least doubt, he found his main reward for a life of unstinted service in the unique position which he occupied in their esteem. His career will prove in the years to come an incentive to many in the service in which his heart was. In his own generation his personification of certain national characteristics served, it may be, to arrest the danger of their becoming atrophied, and before his death he had the satisfaction of seeing the nation as a whole, partly at his instigation, vindicate once more its reputation for vigour, thoroughness, and tenacity of purpose.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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"KITCHENER OF KHARTOUM."

AN APPRECIATION.

With flags at half-mast, but with her heart already steeled to the energy of a new resolution, Britain is mourning the death of Lord Kitchener of Khartoum. Lord Kitchener is dead, but Kitchener's Army—five million men in arms—remains to see that his cause endures. Never before has a fallen soldier left such a monument as this; never surely was the wonderful spirit of the Field-Marshal more powerful than in this the hour of his death. In life the name of Kitchener was a name to conjure with, in death it has become something more than this, it is already a symbol and a goal. It is a symbol of all that we as Englishmen hold most dear, silent strength builded upon foundations of unassailable moral and physical courage; it is a goal because only in compassing his standards may we hope to attain the end of victory.

It is hard to realise that on the 24th of this month Lord Kitchener would have celebrated his sixty-sixth birthday. Notwithstanding the fulness of his life, the advancing years had fallen upon his virile personality so lightly that they had left him seemingly untouched and in the full prime of his manhood. It is only when we look back into history and see the part he had played in its making that we can appreciate the fact that Lord Kitchener was no longer a man of middle age. By a remarkable coincidence his life as a soldier ended in the same manner as it began. For it was as a private in the French Army fighting against Prussia that he began service; it was as a Field-Marshal fighting against Prussia that he ended it. Lord Kitchener's first appointment in the Near East—where he was ultimately destined to become world-famous—was in 1874, when he accepted a position on the staff of the Palestine Exploration Society. For three years he acted as assistant to Lieutenant Conder, R.E., and subsequently remained in sole charge to complete the survey. It was here, working under conditions of considerable hardship, and exposed to the frequent attacks of marauders, that the young officer laid the foundations of his reputation. His work was done with a thoroughness and attention to detail that was quite unusual in so young a man, and his periodical reports proved him to possess exceptional powers of observation. From that time onward Kitchener never turned back. Step by step, and by sheer ability and resolution, he worked his way up to the high position which was thrust upon him at the beginning of the present war.

We do not propose to attempt any detailed account of Lord Kitchener's career in this article. It would indeed be impossible to do so; the daily papers have already devoted column after column to the subject, and have still been forced to leave it incomplete. But the reputation of Kitchener of Khartoum belonged in the first place to the Near East, and the personal sense of loss which comes to Englishmen at the thought of this giant personality removed is by no means ours alone. Lord Kitchener served through the campaign consequent upon Arabi's revolt in Egypt; he smashed through the Khalifa's hosts at Kerreri and conquered the Sudan; yet his name is magic in both lands, and it is not the magic of fear. At the beginning of his career he determined to master the Arabic language; at its end he had mastered not only the language but the people who spoke it, from Alexandria to Gondokoro. His popularity in the Sudan was the more remarkable because it was attained so quickly. His first message was at the "mouth of his clean-lipped guns," a message of vengeance and of death; but scarcely had the Sudanese time to realize defeat before their conqueror appeared before them in the new light of the white man who understood. He left to subordinates no work of importance that it was humanly possible for him to undertake himself. No incident of government which affected the native was too trivial for his attention in case of complaint.

And so it came about that the character of the avenger of Gordon was speedily lost in that of a munificent distributor of justice, a fit subject for reverence. Upon the foundations laid by his organizing and administrative genius in those early times rest the loyalty and well-being of the Sudan to-day. When he left the Sudan for South Africa he left a country bright with the vision of regeneration and already moulded to meet the new demands of civilization. The devotion of his staff and other officers was never wholly devoid of fear, but it was spontaneous and sincere, and not a man would have remained behind had the opportunity presented itself of following him to South Africa.

For many subsequent years the scenes of his labours were laid in lands far distant from that which he had conquered, but the Sudan, advancing in knowledge, grew increasing proud of its hero, the first lord of Khartoum. When he was at last given the appointment which he held when war broke upon Europe that nameless magic which was his alone among Englishmen set peace upon the Egyptians in a day. To no man of modern times has such a reception been given as to Kitchener of Khartoum when, as we are told, in opposition to the advice tendered by those who had watched the growth of Egyptian nationalism, he appeared alone on the steps of the Bab-el-Louk and looked down upon the people. Here, as at a later date in the Sudan, his personality, cold and stern as it seemed to many even of his own countrymen, touched the crowd and stung it to a wild and unprecedented enthusiasm. From that moment the whole aspect of Egyptian affairs was changed. With characteristic penetration, Lord Kitchener grasped the essential needs of the nation; with equally characteristic energy he proceeded to satisfy them. His administrative measures were brilliantly successful, and he would be remembered with gratitude even if the Egyptian public had only the Five Feddan laws and the popularisation of the cotton *halakas* before it as evidences of his tenure. The subject of education in Egypt was, as he informed the present writer, the one which was of all others nearest to his heart. But he held that no move at all was preferable to any action that had not been thoroughly weighed from every point of view, and he was naturally forced to postpone an elaboration of his cherished scheme until the more apparent needs of the country had been dealt with. The establishment of Kitchener's school in Khartoum was the inspiration of a mind capable of looking far beyond the needs of the moment; in all his dealings with Eastern peoples, as in the establishment of this wonderful voluntary army of Britain to-day, he showed the same breadth of vision. With his passing, the East and West, united in their loss, may look back with almost equal pride upon the memory of this man who had served them both so well. Somewhere beneath the waters of that sea which has so lately given to our Empire another victory, Kitchener of Khartoum has gone to a warrior's grave. His work and his example remain. Carry on!

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I see that, according to Mr. Robert S. Stapleton, who was the American Consul at Erzeroum, several German officers who were present at the massacre of fifty Armenian artisans just before the entry of the Russians into the city made no attempt to take a hand in the congenial business themselves. This is as surprising as it is gratifying, but perhaps they felt that their presence at the entertainment, giving moral support to the murderers, was all that was necessary in the circumstances, considering that the work was sure to be well done. At the conclusion of the ceremony they proceeded to appropriate certain wives and daughters of the murdered artisans to themselves, thereby demonstrating the true spirit of German kultur and refinement to the homeless ones. There are some beings infinitely more degraded than the red-handed murderer!

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A correspondent who has recently returned from the Mediterranean has written to one of the technical papers saying that Egypt is an ideal country for the motorist just now; there are no placards urging him not to motor for pleasure, neither are lighting or speed regulations in force. Things have altered since I was last there if the latter assertions be true, but, candidly, I doubt it. In my day the one ideal run, from Cairo to the Pyramids, was frequently beset by lurking *shawish*, and my chauffeur ran me in for a fine for a breach of the lighting order while driving home a new car on the day it was purchased. Indeed my recollections of motoring in Egypt are far from ideal in any way, for the difficulties of street driving are immense. For many years accustomed to regulate traffic by the simple expedient of shouting "Mind your legs!" to the obstructing pedestrian, the *arabaghi* was a trying person to deal with, and as after a considerable period of driving I escaped with no charge of man—or even horse—slaughter against me, I always considered myself to be one of the very fortunate.

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The story published by the Bombay Government of the treatment meted out by the Turkish authorities to three Indian Moslem pilgrims to Kerbellah is not a pleasant one. It shows, to my mind, at least, what a grip on the luckless Turkish Empire German influence had obtained even before the war, for it is impossible to account otherwise for the brutal treatment of helpless Moslems by their fellow-Moslems. It has always been the boast of Islam that its followers regarded one another as brothers, and behaved accordingly, but the influence of the Germans and the Young Turks has evidently changed all that! When Zakir Husain and his companions "protested that we were Moslems" these improved (?) and up-to-date Turco-Germanized gentlemen "never paid heed." Again, we are told: "The Turkish authorities issued orders that the goods and women of Indians were the legal property of those who plundered them." No wonder that the indignant pilgrim, who had been visiting the sacred shrines accompanied by his mother and sister, exclaims: "They themselves are no Moslems, and do not act according to the precepts of Islam." That is the naked truth. Enver, Talaat, and company have sold themselves body and soul to their Hunnish masters. They are not, and never have been, "true Moslems," any more than the arch-impostor Wilhelm II. is a Moslem, despite the frantic attempts to mislead the Moslem world on the matter. They care not one whit for the precepts of Islam, which they have done their best to disgrace eternally by their hypocritical professions. The sooner the Moslem world realizes the truth fully the better for Islam, the better for the safety of Moslem pilgrims, and the better for the reputation of the Holy Cities. As one who sincerely admires the great religion of the Arabian Prophet, I deplore the stain cast upon it by conduct such as that of the German-inspired Turkish officials who treated Zakir Husain, his women-folk, and his fellow Indians in Mesopotamia in such disgraceful fashion. But I am glad that the victim put his finger so unerringly on the explanation of that conduct: "They *are no Moslems.*"

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I hope to return at an early date to the subject of Germany's despicable efforts to mislead the Moslem world in order to serve her own utterly selfish ends, for I have been favoured with a copy of a very remarkable document which throws an interesting light on the dirty work. But this week there is a subject even more pressing—the subject of the German attempt to mislead the whole neutral world as to the result of the North Sea battle last week.

***

To give the Huns their due, their advertising agents did *their* part to perfection. The latest and greatest German Lie was launched with a swiftness and a mass of corroborative detail that went perilously near to giving a touch of artistic verisimilitude to what would otherwise have been "a bald and unconvincing narrative" indeed. Perhaps the most artistic touch of all was the patronising admission that our poor, deluded, defeated, generally-mopped-off-the-face-of-the-earth sailormen had "fought bravely." For one awful moment that nearly persuaded me that the Huns had, by some miracle or other, done something of which they might legitimately feel proud; and, of course, there is no good denying that most people in this country felt far from happy on Friday night. It looked as if we had had "a nasty one in the eye," and though we did not for one minute accept the German Lie at its face value, we feared that "someone had blundered." Now we know the truth; and we are kicking ourselves for being misled, even momentarily, and to such a slight extent. Admiral Jellicoe and his brave men were too busy sweeping up the pieces of the German High Seas Fleet, which could not keep the High Seas, to let us know the good news at once. But it *was* good, in spite of the splendid men and the fine ships we have lost.

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But what effect, I wonder, will the Lie have in that part of the world with which THE NEAR EAST concerns itself? A lie that gets a good start is always hard to kill. The Germans recognized this fact long ago, and with characteristic thoroughness they have turned it to the best advantage for themselves. They have lied often and lied early. And by its sheer daring their latest effort is like to make many dupes. America, Holland, Norway, Sweden, and the rest of the Western nations have already learned the truth. But what about Persia, Arabia, and other countries not well placed for getting the real facts? I hope our Government will see to it that everywhere the German Lie is nailed to the counter promptly.

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Will anybody in Turkey or Bulgaria really swallow the Lie? Of course, a lot of people in both countries will have to pretend to do so. For them I care not a rap; they will share the fate of the German Government itself when their dupes find out the way they have been tricked and bamboozled. But I am sorry for the others. They really cannot be blamed for being fooled. The Germans had the news of the "Great Victory" out almost before the remnants of their fleet had got themselves safely tucked away in their harbours of refuge; and I am not sure that that wonderful old party the King of Saxony had not hustled off his congratulatory wire before the first of the runaways had reached safety. Indeed, giving him credit for not being quite so fatuous as he looks, I suspect he was in a mortal hurry to dispatch it before the truth leaked out. And his message and the other messages from the All-Highest, the German Admiral—Admiral Sheer-off, is it not?—and the rest of them got a fine start. Let us hope, however, that even the Turk and the Bulgarian are beginning to appraise German "officials" at their true worth at last. They are neither of them learned in seafaring matters; but they are not quite fools. And they have had only too many chances of sizing up the Huns by now.

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On the morning of the day that brought us news of the Bulgarian invasion of Greece I happened to stop before a second-hand bookseller's in Chelsea. The first book that caught my eye was a Greek primer, and, opening it, this was the first paragraph which caught my eye:—

> All through Greek history there is the same cause at work, ruining the power of Greece, and causing it endless miseries—the incapacity of the Greeks for acting together.

There in a nutshell is the position of 1916; the nation is divided and uncertain in face of events which might have carried it to the summits of its ambition, which might, on the other hand, drag it to the last depths of misery and despair. The happenings of any moment now may suffice to deprive the Greek people of their right of choice; fate will not wait for ever. Already we see the blackness of the separating shadow that seems destined to fall between Greece of to-day and the traditions of her past. Can nothing be done to snatch the blinding veil from the eyes of her people before they lose in darkness the power of sight? The passing moments are charged with tragedy, but the people dream on, content to bicker at the brink of their nation's grave. "The moving finger writes"—has it already written "Too late"?

CORSAIR.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Lord Kitchener.

Out of the great mass of Press comment on the death of Lord Kitchener, we have chosen, almost at random, the following:—

The *Morning Post*:—

But let the nation console itself with the thought that Lord Kitchener has done a great work, and that the great work remains. . . . He laid the foundations of success, and the nation will honour him best by schooling itself in his silence, his energy, and his grim resolution. The country will raise the best memorial to his name by carrying his work on to the victory for which he prepared. Let us all work the harder and set our teeth the firmer because he is gone, and resolve that there shall be neither stop nor stay nor any shadow of turning until this great work is done.

The *Times* says:—

High in fame with the masses of his countrymen and in the esteem and confidence of all the Allies, in the unabated vigour of his powers, at the hands of the enemy and in the discharge of duty, Lord Kitchener of Khartoum has died a soldier's death. . . The one effect of his death at German hands will be to heighten their anger against the enemy and their zeal for the prosecution of the war. Of that Allies, neutrals, and enemies may rest assured.

The *Daily Chronicle*:—

When he was called to the War Office in August, 1914, he had no personal desire for the post. He held the highest position in Egypt, which he was filling with extraordinary credit. To his reputation as a war-organiser he was adding a scarcely less remarkable reputation as an Oriental statesman. . . . Nevertheless, he responded to the call, and took up his new duties with characteristic thoroughness.

The *Evening News* printed the article from which we quote within a few hours of the soldier's death:—

While he yet lived we made a sort of legendary figure of him. It pleased us to see in Kitchener a type and tall image of our race. Praising him we praised ourselves, saying that this was your Englishman, strong and silent. This although very few Englishmen have ever been like Lord Kitchener. . . . He came deliberately to his fame and honours. There was a Lieutenant Kitchener, a sapper subaltern who did good work, engineer's work, for the Palestine survey. There was a Captain Kitchener who went to the job of making troopers out of Egyptian peasants: it is recorded that Captain Kitchener said, "We'll have to drive it into those fellows"; he spoke so little that a light word of him is remembered. And then we in England began to hear of Colonel Kitchener when people talked of the long account that would some day be settled by the Mahdi. Colonel Kitchener was Sirdar of the Egyptian Army. The fellah was drilled and blooded to the work on the Nile: Colonel Kitchener had "driven it in." Then came a day when we knew that the army was for Khartoum. Atbara: Omdurman: the names are already of old battles, but we remember them. Kitchener was Kitchener to us at last.

From the *Morning Post* (June 8) we take the following expression of American opinion:—

The *Sun*: "He was a genius of efficiency, and his advice was invaluable. His prestige was such that at any council table in Europe he was a commanding figure. When the history of the war is written it will probably be found that he had more to do with consolidating the military resources of the Allies and effecting co-operation between their armies on the various fronts than any other man. His talents were indispensable to England and the common cause." Referring to Lord Kitchener as a great moral force, to the power of his name, and to the faith which the English people had in him, the *Sun* adds: "England can ill spare him. He was a man among men, always brave, calm, stoical, resourceful, confident, a born leader, a tower of strength. Armies can be replaced, it matters little if battleships are sunk, but to lose the organiser of victory, as England fondly believed him to be—that was a cruel blow of fate."

An Eve-less Eden.

To the June *Blackwood* Lieutenant-Commander H. C. Lukach, R.N.V.R., contributes a most interesting and delightfully written article on Mount Athos in Peace and War. The sketch of the history of the peninsula and of the "Holy Parliament" is valuable indeed, but it must be studied in the original article. We have space for only two short quotations. The first is a character sketch of the Kaimakam, who in 1907 received the author and his friend, Mr. H. Pirie-Gordon, on the occasion of their first visit to the Holy Mountain:—

Papayanni Bey was an Albanian and a Christian, but, despite his Christianity, showed a regrettable lack of affection for his holy charges. Regrettable, but not altogether incomprehensible. For years he had associated with none but black-robed *kalogeroi*, had heard no livelier music than their nasal chants; moreover, it annoyed him, the deputy of the Grand Signor, to have to submit to the law banning everything female from Athos. He admitted that in principle such a law was all very well for monks—was, in fact, a most salutary precaution; but he felt that it was humiliating for the Governor to be bound by a regulation intended solely for the welfare of the governed. Also, he thought, it was erring on the side of over-caution to extend the prohibition to useful beasts such as ewes and hens. It was not clear to him how the morals of the monks were thereby benefited; on the other hand, it meant that his milk was perforce condensed, and his eggs imported from Salonika

The second passage refers to Chilendar, the monastery established by Stephen Nemanya and his greater son, St. Sava, towards the end of the twelfth century. Mr. Lukach is of opinion that "the epitome of Serbian history is to be found, not at Belgrade, but at the Holy Mountain:—

Surrounded by a dense forest of pines and enclosed within stout, battlemented walls, Chilendar imports into the placid atmosphere of Athos a whiff of the wilder air of the Balkans; the very porch gives indication of the vigorous habits of its builders. A triple gate of great strength wards off unwelcome visitors; above it, holes cunningly devised for the passage of boiling oil render still more perilous the advance of the intruder. Within all is of an indescribable picturesqueness, Slavonic mediævalism at its best. Around you are Romanesque cloistered buildings, their walls inlaid with priceless Rhodian dishes; across the great Court stretches the Church of many domes, a marvel of thirteenth-century architecture and decoration. But it is in the interior of the Church that the significance of this Serbian microcosm is realised to the full. Either by a tomb, or a banner, or some precious offering, each national dynasty is represented here, has left some tangible record of its share in its country's making. It is here, in the monuments of this glorious specimen of Eastern European art, that should be read the tangled story of the Serbs, for here, and not on their own soil, is the whole of that story written. At the time of my first visit to the Republic of the monks, what most impressed me in Mount Athos was its aloofness from the teeming world around it; I am not sure that Chilendar, as the embodiment of the living soul of Serbia, will not be the most lasting memory of my second.

Greece and Bulgaria.

We are now able to give further expressions of Press opinion on the Bulgarian invasion of Greece, which were too late for inclusion in our last issue, but which have since appeared under various dates. The *Morning Post* begins a leading article by saying that "Those Englishmen who used to take an almost paternal pride in the re-birth of Greece must have thoughts too deep for tears."

After showing that the policy of Venizelos alone can prevent the destruction of Greek aspirations, the paper continues:—

But the national interests of Greece are the sport of her Government, which knows nothing of, and cares nothing for, the spirit and the traditions of a people once great and free. For whatever the King may think, Germany is not going to win. And the Greek Army might even now hurl the Bulgars back across their border, for it would have the support of the strong British and French force at Salonika and the reconstituted Serbian Army. The Greeks may take this chance or leave it. If they leave it the opportunity will never come again. Either, as we believe, the Allies will be victorious, when the Greeks, if they do nothing, can expect no consideration, or Greece will be faced by the victorious Bulgars and Turks. Such is the choice to be made. But the King, who is now openly working for the victory of Turkey and Bulgaria, is determined that the Greek people shall have no voice in their own destinies. He has even put the keys of the frontier in the hands of the enemies of his

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country. Such is the position to which Greece has been reduced by a policy designed not to further the interests of Greece, but to secure the victory of Germany. It remains to be seen whether the King in this design has not strained his power too far. To surrender hard-won fortresses and frontiers cannot be popular with the army which conquered them, while it is certainly detestable to the rest of the Greek nation.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* concludes a leading article with the paragraph quoted below:—

The attitude of the Greek Government would be perfectly comprehensible on the assumption that it acts entirely in the interests of Germany and in close collusion with Berlin. Upon no other theory are its proceedings reconcilable with national interests and feeling, or with reason and honour. Whether their country has a real independent existence or whether it is a mere Prussian outpost is a question which the Greek people must feel to be clamorous for a clear decision.

The *Birmingham Daily Post* says that—

there is very good reason for affirming that messages which represent the situation with truth and impartiality are remorselessly held up. And in the circumstances, if this be not a sign of conscious weakness, it is indubitably a policy of misdirected energy. For the Greek people will form their own opinions upon the facts well known to themselves, while the suppression of news can do nothing to assist the cause of Greece abroad. A contrary view might, of course, be held if the Allied Governments had shown any disposition to make capital out of Greek internal dissensions. But they have not. They are fully mindful of the difficulties of the Greek Government, and they have already demonstrated the sincerity of their desire that the policy of Greece shall be determined solely by herself, in accordance with her own national interests.

The *Western Press* points out that King Constantine has consistently over-ruled the Constitution since the outbreak of war, and adds that "Thrones have tottered under the pressure of events less sensational than those which are in process of being enacted in Greece."

Government and People.

A special correspondent of the *Morning Post* (June 8) in Rome writes:—

That the Government realises the gravity of its situation, even with a big majority in the Chamber, is evident from to-day's postponement of the re-opening of Parliament and the rumours of the proclamation of Martial Law, thereby suspending the Constitution even in theory, as it has long been in abeyance in practice. But neither the majority in what is universally considered a "mock Parliament" nor the golden wreaths which the Government agents at Piræus are getting up by so-called "public subscription" to be presented to King Constantine on his Fête Day on Saturday on the part of Piræus working men for having "saved Greece by his wise policy" can stand against the irrepressible feelings aroused by the re-appearance of the hated Bulgar on Greek soil, and the unresisting surrender to him of Greek fortresses in the fairest Greek provinces, where the blackened ruins of Demirhissar, Seres, Doxato, Alistrati, Nigrita, and a dozen other towns and villages still bear witness to his desolating passage in 1913. It is useless for the Greek Government to plead the necessity of impartiality between the Bulgars and the Allies, for the two sides stand in diametrically opposite relations to the Greek nation. When the Allies came to Macedonia, and wherever they have penetrated there, the populations felt no fear and made no move to fly. Not all the Germanophil intrigues of the various Greek officials and officers succeeded in poisoning the minds of the Macedonian Greeks against the Allies, and if thus far Greek public opinion has shown a reluctance to plunge into civil war over the violations of the Constitution and organised intrigues for the establishment of a Monarchical Government on Prussian lines, it will hardly show itself equally long-suffering on the Bulgarian question.

Nearer Asia.

In turning from other theatres of the war to the struggle in Nearer Asia, the *Observer* (June 4) says:—

If we could all see what is happening in that region the final conflict between the Grand Duke and his opponents would cause us to hold our breath with suspense. It may well be, as has been reported, that General Mackensen is in command of the Turks. In any case, the Russians have to meet the shock in the manner we have expected. The Turks are at high strength, and it is probable that the Grand Duke is again outnumbered—no new thing in his experience, but a factor with which he is accustomed to grapple. The evident object of the Turks was to sever both his wings, to close on his centre, to drive him out of Erzeroum, and then to recover all Armenia. They have made a stubborn effort, but reckoned without the ability of their antagonist and his colleague General Yûdenitch. . . . If Verdun is the tremendous episode of the siege-war, the Armenian campaign, with its Mesopotamian extension, is fascinating as a war of manœuvres. The Central Empires are known to be profoundly disquieted about the fate of Turkey in the present campaign. They have reason. We have a feeling that the Grand Duke will hold his own and will yet be heard of in wider fields.

Articles to Note.

"The Soldier in Egypt," by Stephen Graham, and "General Townshend's Island Prison, in *Country Life* (June 3).

"Lord Kitchener," Memoir in the *Times* (June 7).

REPATRIATION OF ARMENIAN PEOPLE.

Last Wednesday a meeting, over which the Lord Mayor of London presided, was held at the Mansion House, for the purpose of initiating a movement for the repatriation of the Armenian people. In opening the proceedings the Lord Mayor said that the Armenian Refugees' Fund that had been started in the Mansion House last October had been so successful that over £53,000 had been collected and distributed amongst 250,000 people. Now the problem was one of repatriation rather than of relief, for all the able-bodied men and women were hastening back to their homes, and, unless they were placed in a position to support themselves before next winter, there would be famine.

Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., chairman of the fund, read letters of regret from various eminent people unable to be present—among these was one from the late Lord Kitchener—and gave details explaining how the money that had been raised had been distributed. Among other beneficiaries were a Moslem race who lived by the shores of the Black Sea from Trebizond to the Russian frontier, whose homes had been destroyed by the war. To these £1,000 had been sent. Mr. Williams said that nothing would prevent the able-bodied Armenians flocking back to their homes, so the chief work of the fund was to help the women and children who had been found in Armenia suffering terrible distress when the Russian armies advanced, and to assist the men to re-establish their homes.

Among subsequent speakers were Lord Bryce, Lady Ramsay, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., and Sir Mark Sykes, Bart., M.P. Sir Mark Sykes said that in Oriental countries the questions of religion and nationality were extraordinarily confounded, and it was not purely a religious persecution that the Armenians suffered from, but he believed that, if the Armenians would have abandoned their religion, it would have brought their troubles to an end. He remembered the events of 1896, and had always found magnificent examples of right-dealing by leading, learned, pious, and just Moslems. Among others, Ibrahim Pasha had saved four thousand Armenians, and given them an asylum. In the East the perpetrator of a crime was often but an instrument, and it was so in this case. Among those who acted with their eyes open was the German Emperor. Immediately after 1896 he went as a bagman to get concessions for his people, and to do so condoned the massacres. The massacres that had taken place since the outbreak of the war were the worst since the time of Timour. Evidence that he (Sir Mark Sykes) had been able to collect satisfied him that the massacre at Diarbekr, for instance, was everything that rumour said. He had also evidence that these crimes were not the uncontrollable acts of an excited populace; on the contrary, the populace acted under orders, and were driven to massacre by threats against themselves. Another thing that came out plainly was that the German advisers were all over the place, and condoned the crimes. For over a thousand years the Armenians had been a persecuted race. Nearly all the conquerors marching east or west had trampled over them. If it were not that the instinct of sticking to their land was developed in them to an extraordinary degree there would not now be such a name or people. It was our duty to assist the surviving remnant to perpetuate themselves as a nation and to fulfil their destiny.

THE MARTYRDOM OF ARMENIA.

A meeting of the Anglo-Russian Literary Society was held at the Imperial Institute on Tuesday last, at which Major Edward Atkin delivered an address on Armenia. He said that no one could approach the subject without a feeling of humiliation that civilised and Christian Europe had stood aside for forty years, seeking excuses for inaction rather than striving after practical schemes for the rescue and preservation of a people second to none in fidelity to the faith of its fathers and love of home life, and gifted with high intellectual powers that had won for its sons high places in the world's records of literature, art, science, music, the drama, and all departments of commercial enterprise. The Armenian nation was founded more than 2,000 years before the Christian era. The earliest authentic account of the introduction of Christianity dated from the apostolic exertions of St. Gregory the Illuminator in the Fourth Century, and Christianity was confirmed by Mesrob's translation of the Bible in the century following. In 1439 part of the Armenian church accepted papal supremacy, while retaining its national and ritual peculiarities. Thus the church was split into two sections fanatically opposed to each other. But no nation in the world had been better served by its clergy; they worked for the people with a zeal that never flagged, watched over, fed, and clothed the poor, ministered to the sick, comforted the suffering, and pleaded throughout Europe for the widows and fatherless. The best friends of Armenia, he said, were the Armenians themselves. Nothing could exceed the devotion and generosity of those living outside their own country in their endeavours to help its unfortunate inhabitants

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

My reference last week to the new branch of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Marseilles is followed to-day by a comment from a correspondent in Cyprus, who writes: "The establishment of an agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Marseilles (Rue St. Ferréol, 38) is welcomed in commercial circles. A good deal of trade is transacted with that port in normal times, and facilities for business should be increased. In the wine trade relations with Cyprus have fluctuated considerably. At the time, *e.g.*, when phylloxera ravaged French vineyards, there was a large demand for Cyprus red wines for blending purposes. Then, again, it fell off, and, moreover, the folly of the Cypriot in over-plastering his wines, which were in consequence repelled, added to the trouble."

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The news published elsewhere that the Egyptian Government has at last decided to order the liquidation of Stein, Tiring, Mayer, and Salamander, the great enemy furnishing stores in Egypt, will be genuinely welcomed as an excellent, though tardy, measure. I have frequently insisted that this should be done, and THE NEAR EAST has continuously advocated that a clean sweep should be made of enemy firms in our new Protectorate, and has quoted from eminent trade writers in support of drastic action. The object fought for having thus been achieved in the particular cases of Stein, Tiring and Mayer, it behoves us now to reconstruct the furnishing business with British capital and goods. For this purpose we must bear in mind the class to whom Stein, Tiring, etc., appealed, namely, the big native and Levantine class—the people who want cheap, showy goods and ready-made clothes, etc., of no particular merit. A large British store selling high-class goods will never appeal to the above class. Some there are most likely who will still persist in saying that if we educate these people to our tastes they will finally buy what we give them. Rubbish! Instead of wasting our time in trying to foist on foreign markets goods that are inacceptable to our prospective buyers, let us study their tastes and needs and give them what they want. If not, when war is over a new Stein, a new Tiring, a new Mayer and Salamander, stocked with cheap, bad enemy goods, will rear their ugly heads in Egypt. For the time being we have satisfactorily cleared them out of the way, but unless we replace them and cater ourselves for the class alluded to above (which, by the way, is on the aggregate the biggest purchaser in Egypt), the enemy will rush to do so when war is over. There is a fine chance *now* for some enterprising British firm to prepare a "Stein" or "Tiring" on the lines which have enabled these firms to wax fat in Egypt and the Near East.

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A curious circumstance has been brought to light by the French Chamber of Commerce at Athens. It appears that a Greek firm in that city represents a Paris house, but, unknown to the latter, also represents a German firm at Karlsruhe in the same line of business. All the samples sent by the French firm to Athens are immediately forwarded by the Greek representatives to the German firm at Karlsruhe, together with prices and other details. The Karlsruhe firm in due course supply an article somewhat of the same pattern, but underselling the French article at whatever its price. There is such a thing as dishonest trading, and the above certainly falls within this category. It is a danger attendant on foreign trading, and can only be avoided by the careful choice of agents. Needless to say, what applies to French firms applies to British firms as well. It is hardly likely that our Greek friend will differentiate between them. It is a pity that the latter's name has not been published for the edification of his guild.

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Domestic troubles are assailing the Egyptian Markets, and I very much regret it. In a nutshell, the position is as follows: The death at the Front of General Kenna, V.C., one of the directors, deprived the board of the services of a very admirable man, and now, it is stated, Major le Breton, the chairman of the company and its guiding spirit during the past many years, is retiring. In the interim the directors have appointed, owing to his knowledge of Egypt, Mr. P. W. F. le Breton, son of the chairman, to the board, and have, I understand, circularised shareholders informing them that it will be necessary to confirm the appointment at the ensuing annual meeting, to be held in London some time this month. In the meantime, an Egyptian group has backed another gentleman, Mr. S. H. Redwood, for the vacancy, and is presumably circularising shareholders and asking for proxies in support of their candidate. Personally, I hold a brief for neither the board nor its dissentients, but, in the interests of the Egyptian Markets, which have been doing extremely well during the past few years, I would urge warrant-holders carefully to study the circulars issued before they give their proxy to either one party or another. The company's circular can be obtained at their offices; that of the dissentients has been issued, I believe, in Egypt.

***

As stated above, I regret that this domestic disputation should have occurred now. The company's prospects are excellent in every way, but if they are to bear fruit it is essential that at the head of affairs should be somebody whom the Egyptian Government can regard with confidence. However keen the business man placed in control of the Markets, if he does not know Egypt, its conditions and possibilities, he is a useless superfluity. Shareholders should bear this in mind if they wish their property to continue paying anything between 8 and 10 per cent. dividends.

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The German-Roumanian Convention, about which such a lot has been written tending to accuse Roumania of breaking faith with the Entente Powers, is as far from realisation as ever. The whole story reads like a comedy, if we read between the lines of the article on the subject contributed this week to THE NEAR EAST by its Bucharest correspondent. In the first place, we have Germany eager to obtain foodstuffs in Roumania—at any price—in exchange for manufactured articles. The Roumanian Government agrees, but, not wishing to have foisted on her worthless German truck, she insists on the appointment of a Roumanian Bureau in Berlin to supervise all purchases. The Huns, nothing loath, considering that they were only keen on procuring foodstuffs and of advertising their "friendship" with Roumania to the world, agreed. The second act shows Germany persuading Hungary not to permit the transit of German goods to their Roumanian destination, with the result that as the only open route passes through Hungary, the Roumanians could not receive their purchases. The upshot was that King Ferdinand's Government had to bargain with the Hungars before they could get their goods through! But the third act is the sublimest piece of Boche effrontery that has been seen for some time. Disgusted with the fact that Roumania had been able to come to terms with Hungary, and perceiving no further obstacle which they could possibly place in the way of the transit of the goods already sold to their customers, the Huns calmly put up the price of the goods, in some cases 200 per cent., and naturally asked for payment in advance! It is the old story over again—"scraps of paper." I trust, however, that the Roumanian Government has been alive to German deceit, and has refused to allow the passage out of the country of any foodstuffs until the German goods, with their final price attached, had been received. In which case they could calmly put up by at least 200 per cent. their price of barley, wheat, etc.

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Actuality attaches to my remarks last week anent the statement that the "German and Austrian Governments had given permission for the free transit on their railway systems of goods from Bulgaria." I hinted at the time that this was merely a bribe in order to oblige Bulgaria to enter the Central European Economic Union, but I did not realise at the time that my words would come true within a week. Nevertheless it would appear as though the bribe had already had its effect, judging by the following message received in London on Monday: "The Bulgarian Government has agreed to conclude with Germany a new commercial treaty for a period of fifty years. A draft treaty has been prepared by the commercial department of the German Foreign Office, and this is now being examined by a committee nominated by the Bulgarian Government. It is expected that the treaty will be signed before the end of this month." So far, so good, and the bribe has worked. But do the Bulgars know that last week the Argentine Minister in Berlin telegraphed to his Government that the financial and commercial state of Germany was now such *that it was advisable to warn the Banco de la Nación Argentina?* What will they say when they know this, and what will Roumania say, and Turkey, and our friends the Hellenes?

COMMENTATOR.

WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS
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kindly to mention
"The Near East."

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The Egyptian Cotton Crop.

The Supply of Fine Cotton.

BY PROFESSOR TODD.

The one thing that cotton people would most like to know just now is whether the various cotton-growing countries of the world will this year return to their normal acreage before the war restriction of 1915, and what is likely to be the amount of the chief crops this year. The question is of special importance in regard to the Egyptian crop, because, as will be seen from the table below, the reduction there was very severe, the acreage in 1915 being only 68 per cent. of the record acreage of the previous year. Unfortunately no area statistics for Egypt will be available for some time yet. The Direct Taxes Department did not issue their estimate till August last year; and so far we have nothing to go upon but an opinion recorded by the Alexandria General Produce Association in their first report of the season that "the area sown with cotton has again become normal owing to the fact that the restriction which was issued in October, 1914, has not been renewed."

Under these circumstances the only light that can be had on the subject is to be obtained from the statistics of previous years which are summarised in the table below. This shows what the area has been in recent years, though one can hardly speak of a normal where the figure has been rising steadily for many years. Assuming, however, that the area this year is equal to that of 1914, and we think that is rather an optimistic view, what crop may be expected? That again can only be inferred from the recent history of the average yield per feddan, which is also shown in the table. The figure of the crop for 1915 is, of course, only an estimate as yet, but the facts upon which that estimate is based are also given. The total arrivals up to May 26, the latest date available at the moment of writing, were 4,537,928 kantars. How much still remains to come in can be guessed with tolerable certainty by comparing the figures for the same date in previous years, and from this it will be seen that the estimate of the total crop of 1915 at 4,750,000 kantars is likely to be on the high side; 1914-1915 was quite an exceptional year in respect of the late arrival of the crop.

Taking the total amount of the past season's crop at this figure, it is next to be noted that the average yield for the past two years has been decidedly low, and the cause is pretty well known—the devastation done by the new insect pest, the pink boll worm. It would, we fear, be over sanguine to hope that this will be much improved this year, and it would therefore be well not to estimate on an average yield this year of more than 4 kantars per feddan. On this footing, and taking the area at, say, 1,750,000 feddans, we do not think it would be wise to count upon a crop of more than 7,000,000 kantars. This hardly agrees with the highly optimistic "unofficial estimate" quoted in THE NEAR EAST of June 2, which places the crop at 8,000,000 kantars.

There is, however, a further point to be considered in regard to Egyptian cotton, and its probable value during the next season—namely, the advent of boll weevil to the Sea Island district of America. Floridas and Georgias, which are second-grade Sea Islands grown in the coastal areas of these States from original Sea Island seed, are the chief competitors with the best Egyptian cottons, especially Joannovitch, Abbassi, and Sakellarides. The boll weevil in its steady advance westwards encroached upon this Sea Island area in 1913, and there is every reason to believe that its progress through that district has already been rapid, and will be still more so in the future. For all the conditions in the Sea Island area are peculiarly favourable to boll weevil, especially the ample vegetation and a mild winter climate with the minimum of frost. It is to be feared, therefore, that the history of the Mississippi Delta area will be repeated in the Sea Island country. In the Delta, when the boll weevil appeared, the growers of long staple cotton simply gave in without a struggle and abandoned their superior cotton without waiting for the weevil to do the actual damage.

Should this forecast prove anything like true, the Florida and Georgia crop is likely to be seriously reduced in the immediate future It is all the more to be regretted, therefore, that the Egyptian crop should at this juncture be in danger of falling so far below its record, and everything possible should be done at once to combat the new pest in Egypt.

Season.	Area.	Crop (adjusted total).	Average yield per feddan.	Arrivals to May 26.	Total Arrivals.
	Feddans (in thousands).	Kantars (in thousands).	Kantars.	Kantars (in thousands.)	Kantars (in thousands.)
1907-08	1.603	7.235	4.51	7.038	7.172
1908-09	1.640	6.751	4.12	6.639	6.678
1909-10	1.597	5.001	3.13	4.889	4.912
1910-11	1.648	7.574	4.57	7.518	7.579
1911-12	1.711	7.424	4.33	7.228	7.278
1912-13	1.722	7.533	4.37	7.438	7.474
1913-14	1.723	7.684	4.46	7.567	7.612
1914-15	1.755	6.490	3.70	6.222	6.367
1915-16	1.186	4.750*	4.00*	4.588	?

*Estimated.

A PAPER MILL FOR EGYPT.

According to *Misr*, Sheikh Khalil Afifi, a merchant of Zagazig, has submitted to the Sultan a report on the creation of a paper-mill in Egypt. The sheikh says that it would be very easy to establish such a mill as the materials from which paper is made exist locally, the profits would be 21 per cent. if the Government were not to charge custom-dues on the paper made, and 14 per cent. if it should.

The sheikh estimates that the cost of the construction would be £E50,000, which could be subscribed in 10,000 shares of £E5 each. Of this sum £E17,000 would be spent on machinery, £E7,715 on buildings, £E1,928 on working the mill during the first three years, and £E3,857 on unforeseen expenses.

If the mill works 350 days of every year it can produce from three and a-half to four million kilogrammes of paper of various sorts, which can be sold for £E38,580. Of this sum £E31,651 will be spent on coal or crude petroleum, salaries, wear and tear of the machinery, insurance, etc. The net profits will therefore be £E6,927, or 15 per cent., says the *Egyptian Mail*.

The Sultan has recommended the sheikh to see the members of the Industrial-Commercial Commission on the subject.

Commenting on the above, *Al-Akhbar* says that sheikh Khalil is an energetic merchant who is anxious to promote the industry of his country; but making paper is a particular industry which requires expert workmen who are not easy to obtain from Europe just now, while their salaries, the price of coal, and other materials would at present be too high. Our contemporary concludes by asking the Industrial-Commercial Commission to give its explicit opinion on the matter.

THE HUNS AND ROUMANIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, May 16.

When Roumania decided to establish in Berlin a bureau which, acting as a branch of the Central Importation Commission, should receive and execute Roumanian orders with regard to raw materials, which Germany is compelled to cede in accordance with the recent agreement, the German and philo-German Press hailed this simple commercial convention as a political event of first importance, presaging a rapprochement between the kingdom of the Danube and the Central Powers. It is pleasant to read that British commonsense would have nothing of this explanation, and refused to invest an arrangement so obviously commercial with any political significance, recognising, in the words of "Commentator" in THE NEAR EAST, that "someone must be on the spot to prevent the Prussians dumping worthless stuff—as is their custom—on the Roumanian market."

A portion of the philo-German Press went even further and announced the stoppage, on the part of Russia, of all exports destined for Roumania. The lying nature of this statement has been amply proved, because, apart from categoric official denials, the Russian authorities have displayed extreme goodwill in the matter of meeting Roumania's economic needs, and have exported into Roumania in the course of the last six weeks some three hundred wagons of materials.

Russo-Roumanian Agreement.

Moreover, I hear on good authority that a reciprocal commercial arrangement will shortly be conducted between Roumania and Russia. The Russian authorities have already made known to Roumania the articles which they would be disposed to export, but the convention cannot be expected to be fruitful of immediate results, because there are in Russia even more export and other "commissions" than in Roumania, and formalities are in consequence numerous.

An indispensable condition for the prompt execution of the German-Roumanian convention is the free and rapid transit through Austro-Hungarian territory of goods destined for Roumania. There were no reasonable difficulties to be foreseen from this direction. Nevertheless, the Austrians (we may read "Hungarians") have thought good to raise objections and to uphold them, claiming certain economic compensations. The upshot of the matter is that a convention is said to have been signed (after much haggling) between Austria-Hungary and Roumania, analogous to that existing between Germany and the latter.

As a result, we might have expected the early arrival of German goods here had not fresh difficulties arisen, namely, as regards prices. The Germans have, indeed, put war prices on the articles destined for exportation into Roumania, amounting in many cases to 200 per cent. of the commercial value! The surplus is fixed by the German Government and goes to defray military expenses. Such terms are not acceptable to Roumania, so that the Germans will have to reduce their prices considerably, or Roumania will have to raise the cost of the articles she exports into Germany to a corresponding degree.

BULGARIAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, May 24.

The Bulgarian Commission for Requisitions has informed its branches in the provinces that all wool, whether of the old or the new shearings, as well as that now in the weaving factories, must be requisitioned.

Possessors of wool must be informed that they have not the right to sell any they possess. The Commission branches are requested to collect figures as to how much wool exists and to proceed in the country to requisition all there is.

What this order indicates is not known, and is causing great discontent among the possessors of wool.

Mr. Radeff, Mayor of Sofia, has presented a report to M. Radoslavoff, according to which the bakers complain that the supply of wheat is both irregular and short of public needs.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paints, mainly for the scavenging and watering service. Bulaq. Date, July 15.

The Physical Service Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of weighing machines, balances and weights required for Government during 1916-17. Date, July 15.

The Army Finance Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 4,000 tins of petroleum at the Citadel Stores, Cairo, and 300 tins to be handed over to the Stores Officer, Egyptian Army, at Alexandria; also 1,600 gallons of petroleum in bulk at Cairo. Date, June 15.

The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of agendas required for Government Departments. Date, July 12.

The superintendent of Stores, Ministry of Education, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 3,600 table serviettes required for the school year 1916-17. Date, July 5.

The Army Finance Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of brooms, baskets, basins for zirs, and hooping iron, to the Citadel Stores, Cairo. Date, June 15.

The Army Finance Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of copper cooking utensils to the Citadel Stores, Cairo. Date, June 20.

The Egyptian *Journal Officiel* contains revised tariff valuations (No. 2) for use in assessing Customs duties on coal and coke imported into Egypt, with effect from May 1 to May 31. The valuation per ton of 1,000 kilos (2,204 lb.) is stated in millièmes, 1,000 of which are worth 20s. 6d. :—South Wales coal, 7.050 millièmes; Newcastle, Sunderland, and other North Country coal, South African, and Indian, 6.900; Lancashire, Yorkshire, North Wales, and Scotland, 6.900; gas coal (Newcastle) for use in gas factories, 6.650; briquettes (patent fuel), from Swansea and Scotland, 7.000; dust, slack coal, and small coal of any origin, also rubbly culm and duff (excluding nuts), 6.400; foundry coke and cannel coal, 7.900; gas coke of any origin, including chemical coke, 7.400; American, Belgian, and French coal, 6.800; anthracite coal of any origin, 7.100 millièmes.

Morocco.

His Majesty's Consul at Fez writes, with reference to the appointment by British firms of Moorish merchants as agents in Morocco, that one of the greatest needs for the development of British trade there is for United Kingdom firms to establish houses of their own for agency business at Mequinez and Fez. Particularly is this so in connection with the new trades which are coming into existence by reason of developments of the country since the French Protectorate was established, and also as regards competing for a share of the trade in Morocco formerly carried on by German and Austrian firms.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED
WHITE
& BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hansen's, London, England.

EGYPTIAN CUSTOMS IN APRIL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 21.

The Customs statistics for April, just published, show a continued improvement in general trade conditions. Imports amounted to £E2,348,274 and exports to £E1,482,860, as against £E1,476,767 and £E2,287,723 a year ago respectively.. It is interesting to note that whilst imports have increased and exports have decreased by about the same amounts (£E871,507 and £E804,863 respectively) as compared with April, 1915, a comparison with the corresponding month in 1914, when everything was normal, shows that imports are this year £E78,677 above the figure recorded for April two years ago, whereas exports are £E693,087 better. As a matter of fact, for the first four months of the current year, imports have been £E460,472 and exports £E1,105,324 above what they stood at at the end of the same period of 1914.

Under imports, the main increases are, preserved fish £E16,152, jams and preserves £E31,688, biscuits £E10,446, beer £E48,131, liqueurs £E40,673, candles £E5,234, medical products £E19,741, stationery £E41,356 (all attributable to the presence of troops), coal £E278,043 (but the quantity is approximately the same, 73,000 tons), textiles £E444,585, and worked iron and steel £E38,718. Petroleum fell off by £E56,430; as a matter of fact, none came in. No indigo was imported, and, likewise, no chemical manures, whilst the diminution in cereal imports continued, the decrease amounting to £E68,661 as against an import of £E142,103 in April, 1915, and one of £E253,694 in April, 1914.

The main increases in exports were eggs £E28,935, maize £E71,888, rice £E21,881, sugar £E79,505, and alcohol £E28,198. It is interesting to note that there was scarcely any export of sugar and maize in April, 1914, and none of alcohol, whilst rice was about 30 per cent. less than this year. Important decreases are recorded in cottonseed by £E105,057, oilcake by £E20,753, and cotton by £E843,007; of the latter 406,921 less cantars were exported, and of cottonseed 187,656 less ardebs were exported. Gold and silver bar exports fell off by 65 per cent., whilst cigarettes remained practically stationary.

Under countries sharing in the trade of Egypt, Great Britain is more than holding her own. She sent over half the total imports and took just under that proportion of the exports during April, her chief contribution in the former being textiles, coal, flour, and worked metals. The Colonies also took a prominent share, India again sending all the sacks and a large portion of cotton threads. America fell off both in imports and exports, her share in cotton decreasing by about half. Switzerland also reduced her purchases, but in her case the decrease was by about 90 per cent. Imports from France improved very much, as also did those from Italy, but the latter's purchases fell off by nigh on 40 per cent. It is interesting to note that Holland and Denmark imported between them beer to the extent of £E18,735 out of a total import of £E57,783, and that half the milk imports came from Holland.

Sudan Trade.

The total trade turnover between Egypt and the Sudan during April amounted to £E151,671, as against £E113,668 the previous year. Imports into Egypt, which came to £E65,799, comprised livestock £E10,936, sesame £E11,689, maize £E3,720, charcoal £E3,151, and cotton £E20,484. Traffic in the opposite direction, which amounted to £E85,872, included refined sugar £E22,176, flour £E1,298, coffee £E2,940, cotton tissues £E15,973, and ready-made clothes £E4,160.

The Egyptian Customs Administration has increased the import dues on paper for newspapers, consignments of which have of late arrived at Alexandria from England, by arbitrarily estimating the value of the paper at 40 per cent. over and above the price paid for it in England.

PERSIAN TRADE REPORT.

H.M. Legation at Teheran reports that during the year ended March 20, 1915, the trade of Persia with foreign countries amounted to £16,279,000, as compared with £20,054,600 in the twelve months ended March 20, 1914, a decrease of nearly 19 per cent. Of the total trade in 1914-15, imports amounted to £9,078,600, or nearly 56 per cent., and the exports to £7,201,000, or a little over 44 per cent. As compared with the previous twelve months, imports showed a decrease of £2,688,000 and exports a decrease of £1,087,000.

Of the countries trading with Persia, Russia headed the list in 1914-15 as regards both imports and exports. Persia exported to Russia goods to the value of £4,772,000 and imported from Russia goods to the value of £5,093,000, making a total of £9,865,000, or almost 61 per cent. of the entire foreign trade of Persia. Nevertheless, this total was £2,098,000 less than in the corresponding period in 1913-14. It is pointed out, however, that these figures do not really give an accurate estimate of Russo-Persian trade. For example, a large quantity of tea enters Persia as being of Russian origin, whereas in reality it is Indian tea imported viâ Batoum. Again, a considerable proportion of exports from Persia, although declared as destined for Russia, are in reality destined for other countries.

In 1914-15 the British Empire continued to occupy the second place among the countries engaged in trade with Persia. The British Empire supplied Persia with £2,692,000 worth of goods, or nearly 30 per cent. of the total imports, and received from Persia goods to the value of £1,606,000, or 22 per cent. of the total exports. The marked difference between the amount of trade done with Persia by the British Empire and that done by Russia is to be accounted for by the fact that the Northern Provinces of Persia, which are the richest, export to Russia, while the Southern Provinces, which export to the British Empire, are the poorest. The important exports from Persia to the British Empire are grain and dates from Arabistan, carpets from Kerman, gums, pearls, wools, skins, opium, tobacco, and oil from the Anglo-Persian oil fields.

German trade ranked third with a total of £349,000, a decrease of £256,700 on the preceding twelve months. German trade would probably have figured more largely were it not that a large quantity of German goods imported into Persia were included under Turkish imports. The war has seriously affected German trade with Persia, and particularly the grain trade through Hamburg.

France continued to occupy fifth place, with a total trade of £222,000, a decrease of £218,000 on the preceding twelve months. This decrease was principally due to smaller imports from France of sugar, tissues of all kinds, motor-cars, and wine and liqueurs.

The position of Italy in the list of countries trading with Persia fell from sixth in 1913-14 to twelfth in 1914-15. This was almost entirely due to the fact that the export of raw silk from Persia to Italy became impossible by the closing of the Dardanelles.

During the period under review exchange rates fluctuated between 55.75 krans per £ sterling in April, 1914, and 62 krans per £ sterling in March, 1915, rising as high as 68.5 krans in December, 1914. The market was greatly affected by the sudden rise in Russian exchange on London at the outbreak of hostilities, and for a considerable period transfers from Petrograd to London were unobtainable. There followed a complete cessation of exports to Russia. On the other hand, buyers of exchange for the import of Manchester goods and tea were plentiful. It was only at the end of 1914 that exports to Russia were resumed on a small scale.

The transit of sugar through Bulgaria can now no longer take place without permission from the Ministry of Finance, says our Bucharest correspondent. This means that any quantity of sugar coming from Austria and bound for Turkey can be drawn upon up to 50 per cent. of the whole quantity.

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The Extension of British Trade in Egypt.

Under the above title, Mr. C. W. Green contributes an article to the *Monthly Journal* (April) of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, from which the following extracts are reproduced :—

"If the commercial campaign is to be brought to a satisfactory conclusion, it will be necessary for the old-fashioned British supplier, to the manufacturer or merchant, to change his views and methods in many respects.

"The well-known attitude of a class of British firm : 'that is our way of doing business, if it does not suit you, please look elsewhere,' has led to the purchaser looking elsewhere, and in two out of three cases finding what he wanted in Germany. This attitude has probably arisen from a laudable pride in the knowledge such firms have that their articles are excellent of their kind, and no doubt superior to those produced by their foreign competitors, and in the belief that in the long run good merchandise will obtain and hold the position it deserves in any given market. This latter is, however, only a half truth, for while it is correct that the good article will maintain its position in the market where the demand is for a high class of goods, the same article will be ousted in the market where the purchaser is not so particular as to quality, and chiefly concerned with lowness of price. Again, if a certain type of goods is in demand it will usually be found more satisfactory to endeavour to meet that requirement, rather than to expend time and energy on trying to force a different article upon the purchaser.

"By these remarks it is not intended to suggest that it would be politic for the British manufacturer to make a practice of turning out an inferior class of goods simply because some of his foreign competitors have apparently derived benefit from doing so. The reputation of British merchandise is deservedly high, and is in itself a great asset of which we should be most jealous. What it is desired to convey is that between the two extremes of want of adaptability and a too great readiness to adopt questionable methods in business, there is a happy medium which, without injury to reputation or the following of unsound lines, spares no pains to fall in with local conditions and present its wares in the most attractive manner.

"There is very little doubt that amongst the chief causes of Germany's commercial success are thoroughness and great attention to detail. It will therefore be necessary for the British supplier who wishes to extend his activities to spare no pains in this direction.

"A glance at the figures of the value of goods imported into Egypt in the years immediately preceding the war, is reassuring so far as British trade is concerned. Taking the figures of imports in 1913, which is chosen as being the last complete year in which the returns were not affected by the war, it appears that out of a total value of £E27,865,000 no less than £E8,496,000 represented Great Britain's share (viz., 30.5 per cent. of the whole), which, added to £E1,985,000 from British Possessions, gives a grand total for the Empire of £E10,481,000, as compared with £E3,549,000 from Germany and Austria. Great Britain and her Colonies, therefore, sent to Egypt merchandise valued at three times as much as that supplied by the Central Powers, a very satisfactory state of affairs from the British point of view.

"On examining, however, the tendency of these figures for the thirty years ending in 1913, a rather disquieting feature is apparent. Great Britain's share of Egypt's imports in 1884—1885 was 37.8 per cent. of the whole, and Germany's was only one-half per cent. and even less in the two subsequent years. But while Great Britain's figure has fallen to 30.5 per cent. in 1913, Germany's has risen to nearly 6 per cent.

"The following table shows how steady has been the decrease in the one case and the augmentation in the other. The percentages given are the averages for each period of five years :—

	Great Britain. Per Cent.	Germany. Per Cent.
1884-1888	37·84	0·44
1884-1893	35·04	1·46
1894-1898	33·1	2·74
1899-1903	36·82	3·66
1904-1908	32·84	4·94
1909-1913	30·8	5·46

"Great Britain's total has decreased by 7 per cent., while Germany's has increased by 5 per cent., being thirteen times as much as it was at the beginning of the period under review.

"If the British supplier is to adjust this retrograde movement, and extend his hold on the Egyptian market, it will be necessary to ascertain what are the principal articles imported by the Central Powers, and to what extent they can be replaced by goods of British manufacture. This is a highly technical matter, and can only be dealt with satisfactorily by each trade concerned, but it will probably be of assistance to those interested if the details of such imports are furnished with their respective total annual values. This should enable any given trade to see what scope there is for its activities and indicate in what direction its enquiries might profitably be set on foot.

"Nearly a quarter of the total amount of imports from Germany and Austria is made up of various textile goods, ready-made clothing, millinery, etc. During 1913 the value of ready-made clothing and millinery was no less than £E323,000. Practically the whole of the shawls imported came from the same countries—the actual figures being 911,894 shawls of various makes and qualities, valued at £E76,000, as against only 33,244 valued at £E2,700 from Great Britain and the Colonies. Of woollen fabrics the total was 764,881 metres, value £E157,800, and cotton fabrics from the same source of supply were worth £E134,600.

"Next in importance to the foregoing are machinery, hardware, metals, etc., the total value of which imports from Germany and Austria in 1913 was £E664,959, as compared with £E1,488,054 received from Great Britain and her Colonies. Germany and Austria were doing a very important business with Egypt in all goods of this class, and there ought certainly to be possibilities of expansion for the British supplier dealing in such articles. Germany accounted for nearly the whole of the locomotives and road machines, as well as for more than half of the railway and tramway carriages, etc.; while practically all the household utensil and enamel-ware trade was in the hands of Austria, £E39,000 out of a total of £E40,900. Of the locks imported, more than half came from Germany and Austria, Great Britain figuring under this heading for only £E28,500 out of a total of £E110,900. The Central Powers also imported twice as much wrought copper and bronze as did Great Britain and the Colonies.

"In a market like Egypt, where a very large percentage of the consumers are ignorant people easily taken in by the inferior article at a low price, the task of competing with such goods, if unaided by tariff arrangements, may prove to be attended with considerable difficulties. It remains to be seen whether the British trader in Egypt will prove equal to the task. That it is worthy of his serious consideration would appear to be sufficiently well established."

THE SITUATION IN JAFFA.

The Hungarian Commercial Museum has received a report from Jaffa, according to which the industrial and commercial position remains unaltered, in spite of the opening of the direct railway connection, Berlin—Budapest—Sofia—Constantinople. No consignments of goods have arrived. Firms intending to do business in those regions are recommended to prepare the way by sending out catalogues and other trade literature. A good market for agricultural machinery is anticipated in Palestine and other parts of the near Orient.

DRESDEN COMMERCIAL CONFERENCE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 24.

The Sofia Chamber of Commerce has been invited to send delegates and to invite delegates from among Bulgarian commercial circles to participate at the commercial conference to be held at Dresden in June. The conference will occupy itself with questions relating to trade and commerce between the Central Powers and Turkey and Bulgaria.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF MOROCCO.

H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier has furnished, under date February 16, the following information regarding the recommendations emanating from the joint meetings at Casablanca in October last of the "Comités des Etudes Economiques" with respect to the economic development of Morocco and, particularly, with regard to railway construction :—

For some time past there have existed in the principal towns of the French zone groups of local merchants and others forming the above-mentioned "comités," for the purpose of studying questions of commercial, industrial, agricultural or economic interest and placing their views before the Protectorate Authorities. Advantage was taken of the holding of the Casablanca Exhibition to centralize these various committees and afford them official recognition. All the members of the various committees were invited to attend a general meeting in the Exhibition buildings on October 24 and succeeding days, and, in the opinion of H.M. Agent, the facts that these meetings were opened and closed by the Resident-General, were presided over by the Secretary-General of the Protectorate, were attended by the heads of various Government Departments, and their proceedings reported in the Official Bulletin, lend a certain importance to the views expressed by the various committees.

One of the first questions studied was that of the railway lines to be laid in the French zone, with the subsidiary question of ports. The first point which strikes one in the report on this subject, remarks H.M. Agent, is the desire to concentrate the whole trade of the country at Casablanca, which is to be the one big port from which all railways and roads are to radiate. With this object it is considered desirable to eliminate, if possible, the rival ports of Tangier and Laraiche, and, therefore, it is hoped that the Tangier-Fez railway will never be more than a project.

The committees urge the construction of the following lines in addition to the already existing Kenitra-Mequinez-Fez line : (1) Casablanca to Fez viâ Camp Boulhaut, Merzag and Mequinez; (2) Casablanca to Marrakesh viâ Bershid and Setat; (3) Kenitra to Rabat, round by the Marmora forest; (4) Rabat to Casablanca, viâ Korifla, Camp Boulhaut and Ouled Zian; and (5) Casablanca to Mogador by inland route with branches at Mazagan and Saffi. The result of this scheme of railways would be to sacrifice the existing southern ports to Casablanca.

It is not at all certain, adds H.M. Agent, that the Protectorate authorities will share the views of the committees, though it is undoubtedly their intention to make Casablanca the principal port of the zone.

An extract (in French) from the Cherifian *Bulletin Officiel* relative to the report made to the committees on the proposed railway development in the French zone may be consulted by United Kingdom firms at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The *Egyptian Gazette* understands that M. Melnchrim has bought all the assets of Messrs. Fritz Andrès and Co., the Alexandria cotton firm. He has no partners, and is the sole manager of the business, which has been formed with a capital of £250.000. The new firm began operations nominally on June 1.

We understand that the Wood-Milne Tyre Company are successfully working the Egyptian market, and their agent in Cairo reports that in the recent daring raid by armed motor-cars on the Senussi, several cars were shod with their tyres.

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Engineering Notes.

New Small Vulcanisers.

The process of vulcanising for a repair of tyres consists, as is known, of applying raw rubber, mixed in correct proportions with other ingredients—more especially sulphur—to the tyre, and subjecting it to suitable heat and pressure. There are several vulcanisers which can be conveniently carried on a car, but most of them (if not all) require skilful handling to make a proper job; consequently, the cost of vulcanising is an item over which car owners are often dissatisfied. The fact, therefore, that there are now small vulcanisers which can be used by the car owner himself successfully is very important in these days of enforced economy and scarcity of skilful mechanics. We refer to two such devices, brought out recently, which apparently give entire satisfaction. These new vulcanisers are simple, very efficient, and of a moderate price. They work on the steam principle, and are quite automatic, so that after the cut or other damage to the tyre is properly prepared, it is only necessary to light the lamp of the vulcaniser and leave it to do its work, as there can be no overheating or burning of the repair. The fuel used for the lamp is either methylated spirit or petrol. They are equally suitable for cover and tube repairs, and the vulcanising surfaces are suitably shaped for each class of repair. The complete outfit is supplied in a box, and the user has only to provide a small quantity of fuel for the lamp to be able to start on repairs right away. The two vulcanisers differ slightly in appearance, but they are equal in simplicity, efficiency, and results of work.

A New Reinforced Tube.

At the present time, when motorists are anxious to reduce their running expenses as much as possible, anything that tends to lessen them is, of course, welcomed; and as tyres and tubes form a big item in the cost of the upkeep of a car, it will be interesting to owners to hear of a new tube that has recently been placed on the market, which, it is claimed, does much to minimise tyre and tube renewals and repairs. The new tube is of the reinforced kind, but is constructed on lines differing entirely from any others, the process being patented. It is of tapered thickness, becoming gradually thicker from the top downwards, until at the base it is twice as thick as at the top. On the outer side of the tube, starting just where the rubber begins to thicken, a three-ply canvas covering is taken, which is continued all over the tube on to the opposite wall at a corresponding point. A noteworthy feature of this tube is that each successive ply starts a little short of its predecessor, the longest being the outside layer. This gradation of the plies corresponds to the thickening of the rubber, leaving no abrupt end to the canvas layer, as would be the case if each ply ended flush. There is then a large portion of the tube that is uncovered, viz., the bottom, which is adjacent to the rim, this being left for expansion to fill the cover where it lies between the beads next to the rim. The tapering of the canvas in one direction and the rubber in the other eliminates any abrupt point at which expansion commences or terminates. Owing to its protected exterior next to the cover the new tube helps to support the cover, and any weak spots in this are bridged over by its resistance. Friction does not affect the tube in the least, as it is finished with a smooth anti-frictional outer covering. A repaired cover generally, after a time, gives way to the bulging effect set up by the expansion of the inflated tube inside, but this tube never affects it in this way. If the tube gets damaged it can be vulcanised, and though its initial cost is a trifle more than the ordinary tube, its merits outweigh this, owing to the increased mileage it can extract from the cover.

An Electric Bath Chair.

One by one the old and homely means of conveyance are being driven away from the road, and replaced by what modern science and technics in their unceasing efforts bring forth to save time, to eliminate manual labour, etc. Yet, in spite of the incomparable advantages that modern conveyances offer, the "old things" are pleasantly remembered. The Sedan chair, which many still living have used in the "good old days," can be seen now only in museums. The comfortable horse 'bus has been deported and is now creaking over the uneven dusty roads of distant semi-civilised towns abroad until collapse of wood and metal brings a needed end. And now the time of the bath-chair has come. The oldest, slowest, and most quiet conveyance is to be "electrified"! A patent has been applied for for an electrically-propelled bath-chair or similar light vehicle, having one or more front driving and steering wheels, in which the motor is arranged with its axis vertical in a casing bolted to a frame secured to the chair, a hollow frame carrying the axle and wheels being arranged to rotate in the frame. The front end of the frame of the chair is secured by clips to the end of arms projecting from each side of the frame. A bolt further secures the chair frame to a lug on the frame and to the lower end of a yoke, the upper end of which is bolted to the top of the frame. The motor drives the axle through a flexible and slightly telescopic shaft, while worm gearing and a toothed clutch is operated by a finger grip. Electric or mechanical reversing gear may be provided. The accumulators are arranged under the seat.

An Automatic Balancing Aeroplane.

An important advance in aeronautics has, evidently, been accomplished in Australia. According to recent information, an automatic balancing aeroplane has been designed by Mr. G. Austin, of Melbourne, who, for years, has been engaged in the study of aeronautics, and particularly in the perfection of this machine. That the invention is practically successful may be inferred from the fact that a company has already been floated to proceed at once with the construction of the new aeroplane in England. It is said that this machine will lift greater weights than present designed aeroplanes, and, consequently, will carry greater range of guns. Having a suspended car, it gives a steady platform, ensuring accurate sighting. An air-brake in the planes provides for safety in landing. This class of machine is, it is claimed, "an ideal one to destroy gun factories, arsenals, bridges, and the like, and, therefore, is the instrument to end this dreadful war in the quickest possible time." A working model is being exhibited in the company's offices, at Melbourne, which apparently convinces observers as to the practicability of the new machine and the merits claimed for it.

A Gigantic Triplane.

While the construction of the above-mentioned Australian machine is urged, another machine, a giant triplane, is now building in another part of the New World, namely, in America, for a flight across the Atlantic Ocean. This gigantic flying machine is, according to recent reports, of larger proportions than anything hitherto attempted, mounting motors capable of developing 1,800 horse-power. The present understanding is that the flight is contemplated for the early part of the coming summer; the pilot for the trip has not yet been decided on. The course, too, is still undecided, although it will probably be laid from St. John's, N.F. Details concerning both the aircraft being built and the contemplated journey are being withheld from the public, and comments, therefore, on the undertaking, at least, at present, cannot be made.

Nothing Like Water.

The report of the Committee appointed by the Home Secretary to test the value of dry powder extinguishers as compared with water and other "first aid" appliances for dealing with fires caused by bombs, states that the experiments made proved water to be much the most effective extinguishing agent. Though water, like the other agents employed, could not be said to have any material effect on the combustion of the bomb itself, its application greatly limited, and in some cases totally prevented, the spread of the fire: whereas, after the application of dry powder, the fire continued to burn, although some temporary check was noted. As to the method of application, the experiments also showed that a given volume of water applied as a jet from an extincteur, was decidedly more effective than if applied from buckets, but the Committee insists that extincteurs of reliable make should be used. The conclusion arrived at is that a plentiful supply of water is by far the best extinguishing agent, and that the use of dry powder extinguishers is to be deprecated as giving a misleading sense of security and as being practically useless in the case of fires caused by bombs.

Jamming the Wireless.

It is well known that in encounters at sea and at other times when the approach of British warships is not desirable, the Germans "jam" the wireless telegraph, thus preventing messages being effectively passed between our ships. It is said that a similar attempt was made by them during the battle of Jutland last week, but with, apparently, little or no success. Referring to the question of "jamming," Mr. Marconi, in an interview recently, said that too much importance should not be attached to it, for it is not so serious as one would imagine. It is, in fact, he said, very difficult to prevent a message getting through. What happens is that the German operators attempt to produce confusion. It is like a lot of people all speaking at once, or like the type in a printed page getting mixed up so that the matter is unintelligible. A great deal depends on the skill of the operators, and those in the British Navy are splendid. He also stated that many improvements have been made in wireless telephony for use in the war, and that the war has by no means hindered the development of the science. He anticipates great strides in the commercial use of wireless when the war is over. With regard to submarines, Mr. Marconi said that these can still only establish wireless communication when on the surface of the water "I don't say," he added, "that they will never be able to do it when submerged, but it has not yet been found possible to send messages through the water to any considerable depth."

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, June 8.

Currants.

Owing to an increasing demand, and an apparent revival of trade, prices have advanced again from 1s. to 2s. 6d. since last week; whilst stocks are rapidly diminishing. The same activity and advance of prices is reported from Liverpool.

Sultanas.

There has been a fair demand, mostly for Indian fruit, and prices for same, as well as for other growths, are well maintained.

Figs and Dates.

Both are quiet, but prices are firm.

Seeds.

Linseed is quiet. London-Calcutta, spot, being quoted at 69s., also afloat, and June-July at 69s., and July-August 69s. 3d. Bombay ordinary, afloat, 73s., June-July 73s. 6d. Rapeseed is dull, brown Cawnpore June-July quoted 64s. 6d., and Toria ditto 65s. 6d. Cotton seed is quiet, London-Egyptian June-July £14 5s. and Sakelarides, loading, £13 15s. per ton.

Oils.

Linseed oil is easier this week, spot pipes £34 10s., barrels ditto £35 10s., landed terms. Rape oil remains dull, ordinary brown naked, spot, £49, English refined barrels £51 to £52. Cotton oil is quiet. Crude, spot, in pipes £44, refined pale pipes £49, and barrels sweet £54. to £55, as to makes.

Oil Cakes.

Cotton Cakes.—Egyptian are in very moderate supply, with prices fairly well maintained. Linseed cakes are very dull, owing to almost a total absence of demand.

TREES IN EGYPT.

Mr. Somers Clarke, writing in the *Egyptian Gazette* from Upper Egypt, on May 16, states that the Kom Ombo Company is "sending round its agents and buying up all the wood that can be got as fuel for the great pumping-engines. As these engines take, under ordinary circumstances, 6,000 tons of coal a year, it can well be imagined what a destruction must be caused by a substitution of wood for this mass of coal. The paternal Government must come in here. There can be no question that unless immediate action be taken the southern part of Upper Egypt will be seriously if not completely denuded of trees. Already some districts of small extent are arriving at this condition, so there is no time for delay—prompt action is the only hope."

A strict inquiry is to be held by the Roumanian Government into the smuggling of 150,000 head of cattle into Austria and Germany.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

There is a small fall in the price of wheat, owing to the new harvest. Export is still prohibited.

The olive crop, important as it is for the island, has suffered severely from the recent heat wave in some districts. Vine prospects are so far promising. The Government will probably import no more sulphur for sale to villagers as it has done for many years past. The price of wines of the last vintage continues to be good, village producers realising up to 50s. the "load" (about 35 gallons), and even more, for sound red wines.

Operations against locusts continue. As far as can be ascertained the Syrian swarms of last autumn and winter did not deposit eggs. Altogether the year's prospects for agriculturists are quite satisfactory.

By proclamation of the High Commissioner, dated May 13, the export of vetches, butter, cheese, eggs, and poultry is absolutely prohibited.

The yield of carobs, as far as can be judged, should be very good, both in quantity and quality; but the coming months are critical, for an excess of heat, as the crop ripens, dries the pods, and sometimes spoils the quality. The price of the beans of last year's stock remains at 20s. the (Aleppo) kantar (of 180 okes). A considerable quantity is still locked up, owing to lack of steamers.

Prominent Industries of India

The Announcements below are published to acquaint our readers with the opportunity India affords the keen purchaser.

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— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

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Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

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THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
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Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

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Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

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CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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COMPANY MEETING.

LAND AND MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt was held last Friday at the Cannon Street Hotel, Sir Walter F. Mieville presiding. The Chairman said, *inter alia*:—I will speak first of the question of dividends. During the past six months a few shareholders—about half a-dozen in all—have addressed the board on this subject. By way of reply I will take this opportunity of making a plain, straightforward statement of the board's policy. When war was let loose your directors decided to exercise foresight, and took immediate steps to ensure the continuance of the stability of our company's credit. Our first care was to assure sufficient cash to meet necessary payments—working expenses, debenture interest, and the annual drawings of the 4½ per cent. and 5 per cent. debenture bonds. I may here state that from November, 1914, to March 31, 1916, we have paid £20,893 in interest and have redeemed at par £26,400 of our debentures, and since March 31 last we have paid further considerable sums. Our next care was to prevent any undue increase in the item "foreclosed mortgage properties"; for, on the one part, this company does not wish to become the possessors of large estates entailing expenses and responsibilities, and, on the other hand, it desires to refrain from harsh treatment of old and solvent clients. Given a sufficiency of water, good weather conditions, and immunity from worms, we may confidently anticipate for the coming season a bumper crop of between 7,000,000 and 8,000,000 cantars, instead of 4,300,000 cantars last year, and there is no apparent reason why high prices should not again rule, provided always the quality and staple are up to standard. Of course, the coal question is a difficulty, as the price of coal in Egypt today is over six times as high as it was before the war; yet even this drawback can be greatly minimized if the efforts of the Egyptian Government to supply a sufficiency of water are successful. Our company have felt constrained, therefore, to show consideration to their agricultural debtors, especially as many of our clients had sold their cotton crop last year before the high prices were reached, the merchant, rather than the cultivator, benefiting thereby. To the further suggestion that your directors should propose to you the payment of a dividend by employing a portion of our reserves, I would reply that to deplete reserves, on which we can, and do, raise money to meet current liabilities, would weaken our position and increase the difficulty of financing the company. To sum up, your directors' policy has been, and, with your sanction, will continue to be, to refrain from proposing dividends until earned profits shall have been encashed. The amount of the 4 per cent. debenture stock, which we have powers to issue, stands to-day at £106,000 odd, but we must perforce wait some time before even contemplating such an issue. The profit for the year is shown at £4,896, after making provision for possible losses. Our loans on mortgage have been reduced by £12,826, and our foreclosed mortgage properties have increased by £7,747.

COMPANY REPORT.

Suez Canal Company.

The annual general meeting of the Suez Canal Company was held on Monday afternoon in Paris, reports the *Daily Telegraph* Paris correspondent, with M. Jonnart in the chair. Among others present were Sir Henry Austin Lee and Earl Granville. M. Jonnart in his address spoke of the closest co-operation between the company and the naval and military authorities of the Allies, and the company had received testimonials from the highest quarters. Two attacks were planned on the Canal, the first of which was a complete failure, while the enemy never even attempted to put the second in execution. The chairman spoke with gratification of the successful issue of 100,000 new 5 per cent. shares at 450fr., which were taken up in two or three days, in spite of present circumstances. Finally he announced that steps were being taken to increase the transit rates by another 50c. per ton, making a total increase from April 1 last of 1fr. All the resolutions on the agenda were carried unanimously.

***The report of the Suez Canal Company for 1915 contains many items of special interest. The net tonnage passing through the waterway was 15,266,200, as compared with 19,409,500 in 1914. This is a decrease of 4,143,300 tons, but is practically all accounted for by the disappearance of German, Austrian and Turkish vessels, whose tonnage in 1913, the last normal year, amounted to 4,239,800. There was, of course, a good deal of commercial traffic displaced last year, but much of it was made up for by the voyages of warships, which represented 3,379,600 tons, as compared with only 301,100 tons in 1913. The British proportion of the total tonnage using the canal is greater than ever. In 1913 the ratio was 60 per cent. and in 1914 it was 66 per cent.; now it is no less than 76 per cent. The leading lines of the British commercial contingent were as follows:—

	Voyages.	Tonnage.
Peninsular and Oriental and British India	390	1,955,000
Ellerman Lines	248	1,142,000
Holt and Co.	215	1,103,000

The P. and O. tonnage itself was only 1,101,000, but the British India Line, representing 854,000 tons, is, as last year, included in its total, and without this comparatively recent acquisition its figures would have been exceeded both by the Ellerman Lines, which would then have ranked first on the list, and by Holt and Company. The figures given, says the *Financial Times*, exhibit a decline as compared with 1914, but it is substantially less than the general decrease. Next to ourselves, the nation which figures most prominently in the use of the Canal is Holland, the tonnage of whose ships was 1,334,500, or 8 per cent. of the total. This, as compared with 1914, is an increase in the proportion, though a decline in the amount of tonnage. The latter was then 1,389,400, giving a ratio of 7 per cent.

NEW BANKS IN BELGRADE.

Writing on May 24, our Bucharest Correspondent states that according to Berlin papers, three new banks have been opened in Belgrade. They are:—

The Austro-Hungarian Bank,
Union Bank,
Industrial Czech Bank.

There are now seven Austro-Hungarian banks in Belgrade.

ROUMANIAN NATIONAL LOAN.

A Great Financial Success.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 16.

The Roumanian National Loan has had a success surpassing the most extravagant expectations. The Finance Minister, availing himself of his right, closed the subscription on May 13, six full days before the date of closure originally indicated. The total amount subscribed attains the sum of 400 million francs. The amount asked for—150 millions—has thus been covered nearly three times over in a period of eight days. Of this amount the general public has subscribed more than 220 millions.

The following list gives the subscriptions registered by the more important banks:—

	Millions.
Banque Nationa'e	67
Marmorosch, Blank and Comp.	55
Banca Romaneasca	45
Banque de Crédit	45
Banque Générale	18
The Bank of Roumania	18
Banque Agricole	15
Banque d'Escompte	10
Maison Chrisoveloni	10
Banque Commerciale	8
Banque L. Berkovicz	5

That the Bank of Roumania, the oldest bank in the country, should occupy a relatively modest position on the list is explained by the fact that it possesses no provincial branch offices, and in consequence has not had the opportunity of collecting the savings of the humbler elements of the community scattered about the country, who have contributed in a colossal degree to making the loan such a striking success, and who have given it a character so eminently *national*.

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

According to our Bucharest Correspondent (May 24), the situation of the national Bank of Bulgaria on April 30 was:—Gold, 62,982,000 lewa; silver, 19,375,000 lewa; bills on foreign countries, 286,518,000 lewa.

Money in circulation on the same date:—Paper, 339,316,000 lewa; and specie, 140,838,000 lewa.

The bank has opened branches at Prishtina, Prizrend, and Kavadartzi (?) The amount of business done is stated to be unimportant.

Further paper currency is to be issued by the bank, namely two-lewa notes to the value of 15,000,000 lewa. Small silver coins to the amount of 10,000,000 lewa are likewise to be issued.

BANQUE EGYPTIENNE DE COMMERCE.

A shareholder in the Banque Egyptienne de Commerce, better known by its former name of Sednaoui, Zariffa, Nahas and Co., Limited, recently brought an action against the directors in the Cairo Mixed Court, asking the Court to hold them financially responsible for their mismanagement. The Cairo Court dismissed the case.

The Court of Appeal at Alexandria has reversed the decision of the lower Court, and decided in favour of the shareholder. An expert was appointed by the Court to inquire into the management.—*Egyptian Gazette.*

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

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Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère Dimitsana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos, Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante

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CYPRUS FINANCES.

A supplement to the *Cyprus Gazette* of May 19 contains the following Bills:—

Surplus Balance Appropriation Law, 1916.

There shall be issued and applied during the period of twelve months ending March 31, 1917, to the services enumerated hereunder an additional sum not exceeding the sum of £22,100 for defraying the services herein declared. The said amount shall be appropriated as follows:—

	£
Medical—	
Malarial campaign	3,000
Agriculture—	
Purchase of breeding stock	300
Forest—	
Construction of forest roads	500
Special tree planting	2,500
New saw benches and engines	1,800
Railway—	
Railway improvements	800
Additional rolling stock	1,000
Public works—	
Water supplies and culverts	1,500
Motor roads	2,500
Miscellaneous—	
Museum, buildings and fittings of	200
Relief of distressed Cypriots abroad	8,000
	£22,100

Supplementary Appropriation Law, 1916.

There shall be issued and applied to the service of the twelve months ended March 31, 1916, an additional sum not exceeding the sum of £4,776 8s. for defraying the charges of the Government of Cyprus for such period. The said amount shall be appropriated as follows:—

	£	s.	cp.
Vote 2—Pensions	300	14	4
,, 3—His Excellency the High Commissioner	5	15	0
,, 9—Customs Department	252	7	7
,, 14—Prisons Department	405	14	0
,, 20—Forest Department	2,680	17	1
,, 26—Public Works Extraordinary	197	17	6
,, 28—Miscellaneous Services	933	2	0
	£4,776	8	0

CYPRUS GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1916.

Receipts.

	£	s.	cp
Balance in hand April 1, 1915	5,211	17	3
Deposits	3,954	13	0
	£9,166	10	3

Payments.

	£	s.	cp
Deposits withdrawn	3,410	18	4
Balance in hand on March 31, 1916	5,755	11	8
	£9,166	10	3

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON MARCH 31, 1916.

Assets.

	£	s.	cp
Balance in hand of Government	1,755	11	8
Investments:—			
Cost price of £4,068 12s. 10d. Transvaal 3 p.c. Stock	4,000	0	0
	£5,755	11	8

Liabilities.

	£	s.	cp
Due to depositors	5,755	11	8
	£5,755	11	8

DEPRECIATION OF THE LEWA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, May 24.

The Bulgarian Government has another worry to add to its already large collection. It is useless for them to declare on all sides that Serbia no longer exists: the value of Serbian bank notes rises continually, even in the interior of Bulgaria, whilst Bulgarian paper continues to fall.

In order to combat this the Ministry of Finance has given orders to all the banking institutions to throw all the Serbian paper they possess on the market in the way of payment of employees, etc. In this way they hope to produce an artificial depreciation in the value of Serbian money. But this, so far, has not had the desired result. The tendency is maintained, and Serbian paper money is in great demand, whereas the public continues to get rid of as much Bulgarian paper as possible.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

ANGLO OTTOMAN TOBACCO.—Dividends have been declared of 6 per cent., less tax, on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference and participating shares, and of 10 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares, both payable July 1, for the year ended March 31.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the twenty days ended May 10 amounted to £E4,815, or an increase of £E1,078 over the corresponding period of last year.

EUROPEAN OILFIELDS.—Week ended May 28, 106,300 poods.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED.—Week ended May 27, 409 tons. Well No. 68 Moreni reached oilsand; expert to test this week. No. 32 cleaning, improving.

ENEMY FIRMS IN EGYPT.

We read in the *Official Journal*:—

The original licences granted to the firms mentioned below have been cancelled and replaced by a licence, under the same number, for the purposes of liquidation only, with the addition of a sixth clause, the terms of which were published in the *Journal Officiel* of February 14, 1916.

The firms in question are:—

Mayer and Co.
Salamander Shoe and Clothing.
Stein's Oriental Stores, Limited.
Victor Tiring and Frères.

The existing powers of the Controller of the above businesses (Mr. R. E. Moore) have been extended so as to enable him to ensure the strict observance of the terms of their new licence, and to take such measures as may be necessary for the speedy liquidation of the businesses in liquidation.

***Clause 6, to which reference is made above (see NEAR EAST, March 10, p. 527), states:—

"(6) The operations of the firm under this licence shall be carried out under the supervision of a controller appointed under the authority of the General Officer Commanding in Chief, and paid by the firm, the said Controller having power to take all such measures as may be necessary to ensure the speedy liquidation of the business."

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Côtes du 20 Mai, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt	£	11 5/16	to —
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	87	,, —
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11 1/8	,, —
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5	,, —
priv.	L.E.	2 3/32	,, —
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	124	,, —
Bons de Panama	Frs.	95	,, —
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs.	49½	,, 50
Privilégiée	Frs.	87	,, —
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	73	,, —
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2¼	,, —
Comptoir Financier and Commercial d'Egypte	£	1 1/32	,, —
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1/8	,, —
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	1/16	,, 1/8
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	3 29/32	,, —
Bonded Warehouse	L.E.	4 1/8	,, 5
Unifiée	L.E.	78¾	,, —
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4 1/8	,, 4 7/16
Fondateur	£	20	,, —
Pressage et dépôts	£	27 1/2	,, 27¾
Nungovich Hotels	£	1 1/16	,, —
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	3 3/32	,, 3 1/8
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3 7/8	,, —
Ord.	£	17/6	,, 17/9
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3 7/8	,, —
Egypt. Delta Light Railway	£	4 1/8	,, 5
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£	105	,, —
Jouissance	£	152	,, —
Egyptian Markets		22/9	,, —
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	160	,, —
Div.	Frs.	96	,, —
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	98	,, 100
Egyptian Salt and Soda		16/9	,, —
Crédit Foncier d'Egypte	Frs.	572	,, —
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	306	,, —
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	247	,, —
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	251	,, 252
Delta Land	£	3/8	,, —
Port Said Salt		32/-	,, —
Cotton Ginners	£	1/4	,, —
New Egyptian	£	5/9	,, 6/-
United Land	P.T.	4¼	,, —
Levant S.S. Co.		25/3	,, 25/6
Fondateur		90/-	,, 95/-

Marché nul.

LONDON EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	—	80
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	77½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	67
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	65xd
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	56
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	54
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	50
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	42½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	53½
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	49
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	66
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	75½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	76½
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	68½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65¼	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47 7/8
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	4½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6 3/8
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69xd
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10 1/8xd
Bank of Abyssinia	¾	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	2
Bank of Roumania	8¼	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3¾	—	3 1/2xd
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	12½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	—
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 3/16	—	1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¾	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2¼
Do. Do. Def.	⅜	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¾	—	6
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/6
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	⅜
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅜
,, ,, Founders	¾	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	72½
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	6/9
Sidi Salem Co.	⅜	—	⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9d
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/8	—	24/3
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/8	—	18/6
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	27/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3 1/16
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	1½

OIL.	Price on May 31.	June 6.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	6/9	6/3
Anglo-Persian	20/-	20/-
European Oilfields	3/9	3/9
Roumanian	13/-	13/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	May 31.	June 6.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	440	442
Canal de Suez	4525	4500
Credit Foncier Egyptien	625	620
Turkish Unified 4%	60 40	61
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.30	87.20
Serbian, 1895	60 70	—

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 267.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Allied Governments are bent upon buying, at a wholly unnecessary price, their experience in the Near East. They are by this time well versed in matters Bulgarian, and could probably be relied upon for a fairly accurate estimate of King Ferdinand's character, which in its main features has been an open book for a couple of decades to every one with the least knowledge of Balkan history. A similar process of orientation in regard to Greece and its present rulers has now been undertaken in the respective Foreign Offices; but unfortunately the situation in the Near East refuses to hibernate until the Governments have made themselves proficient. The result is the application of a policy of fits and starts, of blowing alternately hot and cold. Thus last November action had to be taken against Greek shipping; but the mild embargo was almost immediately removed. At an early opportunity King Constantine denounced the Allies as behaving no better towards Greece than Germany had towards Belgium. This particular outburst is overlooked, and British and French generals pay friendly visits to the Palace at Athens. A little later great stress is laid on the transportation of the Serbian Army over the Greek railways. The Greek Government refuses, the Allies press the matter, but finally give way. Only when the Bulgarian Army crosses the Greek frontier and occupies, unopposed, Greek forts and towns do the Allied Governments realize that Greece's official attitude is proving consistently unfriendly. The discovery has stirred them to reintroduce a pacific blockade of the Greek coasts.

On June 8 the British Government announced that the attitude of the Greek Government in connection with the situation arising out of the surrender of Greek territory to Bulgarian troops had made it necessary for the Allies to take certain precautionary measures. "Certain precautions" were to be taken with regard to Greek shipping in British ports, and the question of restrictive measures affecting Greek ports was said to be under consideration. As a matter of fact, the embargo on Greek shipping, amounting to a blockade, had been put into force in Greek waters two days previously. General Sarrail's interpretation of the Allies' intentions is said to have been given in a communication to the Greek Inspector of the port of Salonika, stating that the French Government had decided to suspend all Greek navigation. Certainly this version corresponded more closely with the facts of the case than the vague wording of the statement issued by the British Foreign Office. The course actually adopted by the Allied Fleets was to prevent shipping to or from foreign ports leaving or entering Greek waters, while permitting the Greek coasting trade to continue everywhere except along the coast of Eastern Macedonia.

This slight pressure sufficed to endow the Greek Government with an intelligent anticipation of the Allies' wishes. The very next day, on the Government's own initiative, as the Premier was careful to inform the Chamber, a partial demobilization of the army was proclaimed. This measure, it is true, anticipated by a few days any formal representations on the part of the Allies to the Greek Government. When those representations were made, the latter would have been able to adduce the demobilization as proof that Greece entertained no aggressive designs, and no doubt much play will have been made with an attitude of injured innocence. If the Allies are content to let the matter rest at this point, they will have removed whatever danger there may have been of the Greek army being used against them; but they can hardly expect to find the Greek Government abandoning its policy of passive resistance.

Quicquid delirant reges plectuntur Achivi. According to the ordinary canons of international intercourse the Allies are in a difficult position. But in view of the fact that the Greek people are the sufferers from any blockade, and that the great majority of the nation is opposed to the Government's policy, it is unfortunate that the only measures adopted by the Allies are calculated to injure those of the Greeks who are friendly to them. The wording of the statement issued by the British Foreign Office, and more outspoken messages which have evaded the Greek censor, leave no room for doubt that the Allied Governments entertained the possibility of Greece making common cause with the Central Powers against the Franco-British troops. If there was the least justification for such a suspicion, the Court party at Athens must have taken a very definite step along the road to madness, and the Allies themselves can hardly escape blame for mismanaging once more a Near Eastern situation. Only a policy of extreme vacillation on the part of the Entente Powers would have encouraged the Greek Government to play with fire in this way. We prefer to think that the suspicion is merely the result of the Allies' Balkan lessons being still only half learned. With the mastery of the Mediterranean in their hands, the Allies are in a position to dictate any terms they like to Greece. If they have

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allowed King Constantine to forget or to ignore this point, the fault is wholly theirs.

Some explanation, however, of the Bulgarian advance into Greece is required. It is possible to imagine the Greek Government being privy to the step without committing itself to subsequent co-operation with the invaders. With King Constantine and his present Ministers neutrality has become an obsession. To what extent fear of Germany or pique against the Allies accounts for this obsession it is not necessary to inquire; we are dealing with small minds and cannot hope to plumb all the motives that inspire a definite course of action. But there was no reason to expect that the Greek Government, if left to itself, would do otherwise than acquiesce in Bulgarian advances into Greek territory. If the Allies had wished to spare themselves anxiety on this score, they were in a position to command the good behaviour of the Greek Government at a much earlier date. The policy adopted has been to postpone extreme measures as long as possible in the hope that King Constantine would learn wisdom. If he did not, it was obvious that the Allied troops could not advance into Bulgaria and leave the Greek army mobilized behind them with a pro-German Government in power and the Commander-in-Chief and his Chief of Staff personally antagonistic to the Allies. By resorting to a blockade in order to secure the demobilization of the Greek Army the Allied Powers have given the Greek Ministry an argument to use in influencing public opinion, and for the first time we hear of anti-Venizelist demonstrations.

The Greek Government finds a drastic censorship necessary to save its face both at home and abroad. Without it there might be some difficulty in justifying the expense of having kept the army so long on a war footing, if it was not intended to defend the country against either the Bulgarians or the Allies. Having ordered a demobilization, "on its own initiative" at this stage, the Skouloudis-Gounaris Cabinet lays itself open to the charge of using the army to serve its own political ends. One of the reasons which prompted the Liberal Party to remain aloof from the last elections was that mobilization deprived them of a large number of their supporters—a statement that was by no means refuted when arrangements were made to enable the army to vote, in such a way that only supporters of the Government secured the necessary leave. With regard, therefore, to the trend of public opinion in Greece we are more or less in the dark. But with the army demobilized and the risk of a *coup de main* effected at the instance of German intrigue removed, the Allies will doubtless adopt the attitude that they have no call to interfere with the domestic affairs of Greece, so long as these do not threaten to affect the welfare of the Franco-British forces in Greece.

The Bulgarian advance into Greek Macedonia has resulted in an accession of liveliness in that theatre, which it will be hoped in many quarters is to prove the preliminary stage of an Allied advance. French aviators are paying considerable attention to the enemy, and with their almost unchallenged supremacy in the air must prove as useful as an additional division when the time to go forward arrives. With the Serbian Army recuperated and re-equipped, and claiming to be sent "to the front," General Sarrail must feel his whole force straining at the leash—an attitude which is likely to become intensified as the Russians make good their initial successes in the north. The achievements of General Brusiloff's forces in the week June 5 to 11 eclipse all records in this war, even those of von Mackensen in the same regions and Hindenburg at an earlier stage in the north. It is clear that the advance cannot be maintained indefinitely at the same pace, and we shall do well not to build extravagant expectations upon it. But just as the Russians were able to strike at an earlier moment in consequence of the defeat of the German fleet at Horn Reef, so we may look for results from the Russian advance in other theatres. There can be little doubt that the Italians will obtain some relief; on the other hand, the naval reverse and the Austrian débâcle may force the Germans to hammer all the harder at Verdun and Ypres. In the Near East, particularly in Roumania, the fortunes of the Russians will be followed, if possible, more keenly than in the Allied countries, for it is in this quarter that the more immediate consequences may be anticipated.

It is not quite apparent why an air of mystery should have been superimposed upon the course of events in Southern Persia. A fortnight ago it was pointed out in these columns that British forces were engaged there on work that ought to have been undertaken long ago; but there has been no official statement to the effect that the British Government has charged itself with the duty of restoring order in the south as the Russians have done in the north. Now, however, comes a telegram from Teheran to announce that General Sir Percy Sykes and the British column under his command entered Kerman on June 12, and were cordially received by the officials and public. It is three months since Sir Percy Sykes, with the rank of brigadier-general, landed at Bunder Abbas to organise a military police for Southern Persia. At the same time steps were taken to raise levies on the Baluchistan border to co-operate with General Sykes' force. So expeditiously has this work been done, and so eagerly have the Persians accepted the all too tardy measures taken by the British Government, that law and order may now be regarded as having been restored in the chief towns of Southern Persia. The majority of the tribesmen will be quick to dissociate themselves from Germany's discredited agents; the remainder will probably require very definite chastisement before they abandon a means of livelihood which has by this time become second nature to them.

The School of Oriental Studies has now received its Royal Charter of incorporation, and the governing body has been constituted under the chairmanship of Sir John Hewett, formerly Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces. In a short time the necessary additions and alterations now being made to the building of the London Institution in Finsbury Circus will be completed, and the school, it is hoped, will be duly inaugurated in its permanent home. A few months before the outbreak of the war, when an appeal was made for public subscriptions, it was announced that the school could not be opened unless it were assured of an income of some £7,000 over and above the sums promised by the Home Government, the Government of India, and the London County Council. Whether the necessary endowment fund has been raised since that date is not stated. The war has probably interfered with the plans of the promoters; but it has in no way diminished the need for the school. Rather has it emphasized the anomaly of the absence of such an institution in the capital of an Empire with paramount interests in the East. No doubt British commerce stands to benefit primarily by the School for Oriental Studies, but the war has shown how every man of the right type conversant with the languages, customs, and traditions of Oriental peoples has it in his power to become an Imperial asset.

As far as is known, the Turks have made no further advances in Armenia or near Rowandiz, but they claim to have retaken Kasr-i-Shirin after driving back the Russians from the frontier. Too much importance need not be attached to the swaying to and fro of the battle-line in the Middle East. Both belligerents must be in need of reinforcements, and until there is some indication as to which of the two will receive them first, we may discount Turkish claims and Russia's silence alike. One point, however, emerges from the course of events in the Middle East, that the numerical strength of the forces that Turkey has been able to put into the field, with Germany supplying arms and equipment, has been underestimated by the Allies. The British Mesopotamian Expedition is still meeting with determined resistance. Three weeks ago General Gorringe had captured the Dujailar fort, the key to Kut, but there is no news as yet that the town itself has fallen, or that the enemy has been ejected from the Es Sinn position.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 1.

The Bomb Outrage Trial.

The trial of the two men, Shems-ed-Din and Helbawi, implicated in the attempt on the Sultan's life last July, was concluded on Saturday last, after having lasted seventeen days. The closing speech of Sir William Brunyate, the counsel for the prosecution, was a most brilliant exposition of the evidence against the accused, whilst both the defending counsel, Messrs. Foster and Perrott, acquitted themselves most admirably of their admittedly difficult task. Helbawi, it may be mentioned, did not go into the box, and the opinion at the close of the trial on Saturday was that he stood a very good chance of getting off. However, on Monday morning the Court was reopened and evidence of character of the accused was asked for by the President. It is now announced that both have been found guilty of all the charges, and that General Murray has approved of the sentence of hanging passed on them by the Military Court.

From conversations I have had with enlightened and educated Egyptians I find that the ability with which the President, Major-General Watson, conducted the proceedings, and the impartiality and regard for fairness which have characterised this trial, have made a profound impression. It has been another triumph for British justice, for, as one Egyptian put it to me—and his view is not an isolated one—if such is the treatment accorded to accused persons under the regime of Martial Law, which usually is less bound by rules of procedure and evidence than the ordinary criminal law courts, then the inhabitants of this country, foreign as well as local, need have no anxiety as to their fate if and when a purely British judicial organisation replaces the present jurisdictions.

The Judicial Adviser.

It is with very sincere regret that everyone has heard of Sir Malcolm McIlwraith's decision to retire from the position of Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, which he has filled with such distinction ever since he succeeded Sir John Scott on May 12, 1898. The years following that date have been, perhaps, amongst the most eventful in the history of the British administration of Egypt, and have certainly been the most fruitful in judicial reforms and in legislation. Sir Malcolm McIlwraith has administered the Ministry of Justice with signal ability, and his wide knowledge of international law has stood him and the country in good stead. His retirement is all the more to be regretted, since his experience and ability would have proved invaluable in the reorganisation of the judicial machinery of the country, which, as the result of the declaration of a British Protectorate over Egypt, must take place after the restoration of peace. Sir Malcolm McIlwraith will proceed to England at the end of June on three and a-half months' leave, on the conclusion of which his retirement will take effect. It is understood that he will be succeeded by Sir William Brunyate, Legal Adviser to the Residency and to the Ministry of Public Works, who has replaced him several times whilst on leave, and whose excellent work, both before and since the outbreak of war, make him *l'homme tout indiqué* for the post.

Judge Bond.

On Saturday last Judge Bond, who is about to retire from the Vice-Presidency of the Native Court of Appeal after thirty years' service on the bench, presided for the last time over the Court of Cassation, and the Parquet and Native Bar took the opportunity of giving expression, through the persons of Simeika Bey and Ahmed Bey Lutfi, to their deep regret at his forthcoming departure and to the respect and affection in which they hold him. Judge Bond's retirement is in the nature of an irreparable loss both to Egypt and to the Anglo-Egyptian administration. He has deservedly acquired amongst all the elements of the community an unrivalled reputation for fairness, firmness, and legal knowledge. If the Native Courts to-day are free from all the abuses which were a by-word of the administration of justice in this country when the Occupation took place, and if the judicial officials attached to and practising in them have a high conception of their duties and perform them so conscientiously and impartially, it is solely owing to the strong personality of the retiring Vice-President of the Court of Appeal, whose influence for good has been very widespread, and whom it will be exceedingly difficult to replace.

An Arabic Academy.

A proposal has been set on foot to form an Arabic Academy. It was mooted at a recent dinner given in honour of Dr. Faris Nimr and Dr. Yacoub Sarruf, on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the foundation of their scientific and literary review, *Al Muktataf*. The proposal has found support in Rushdi Pasha, the Prime Minister; Adly Yaghen Pasha, the Minister of Education; Ahmed Zaki Pasha, the well-known Oriental scholar; Lutfi Bey El Sayed, the curator of the Sultania Library, and the above-mentioned two gentlemen. Its object is to improve the Arabic language, and bring it up to date. That there is need for this cannot for one moment be disputed; for while Arabic is for most purposes a flowery language, rich in synonyms, it is at present quite inadequate for the expression of the modern terms which the progress of science and the intellectual development of the world have created. Should anything come of this proposal, and serious efforts be made so to modernise the Arabic tongue that means of expressing modern scientific and other terms can be found in it, then a great benefit will be conferred on the Arabic-speaking races, and especially on the Egyptian nation, for they will then be able to keep abreast of the times, which is hardly the case to-day.

A scheme for creating an Arabic Academy was started some few years ago, but it relapsed into oblivion mainly because its promoters lacked the necessary educational and intellectual qualifications. The fact that such men as Drs. Nimr and Sarruf are lending their support to the proposal leads one to foresee that it will receive serious attention, and will be given every chance of success. These two gentlemen, who have been settled in Cairo ever since they emigrated from Syria in 1884, have for years been the leaders of Egyptian journalism, and indeed of Egyptian thought. Dr. Nimr, who is the editor of *Al Mokattam*, has obtained a foremost place as a stylist amongst writers of Arabic prose, whilst his partner, Dr. Sarruf, holds a no less prominent position amongst Oriental scientists, *Al Muktataf*, which is primarily conducted by him, being unique of its kind in the East. They have throughout been the most sincere and helpful supporters of the British regime, but at the same time they have never scrupled to criticize any line of action of which they did not approve. *Al Mokattam* has acquired even amongst Moslems a reputation for accuracy, independence of opinion, and moderation which is quite remarkable, and Mr. Foster, counsel for Helbawi, was perfectly correct when, in the course of the recent bomb outrage trial, he stated that *Al Mokattam* was the leading and most widely read Arabic newspaper in the East.

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PORT SAID NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, May 25.

War Conditions at Port Said.

Some of the minor thrills and rigours of war have been experienced during the past few weeks in Port Said. The bombing raids by hostile aeroplanes have resulted in the strictest measures being imposed for the general safety, and the port is now practically without lights. Windows facing the sea have to be carefully shuttered at nightfall; street lights are dimmed almost to vanishing point, and certain lighthouses have ceased working.

The last raid, which took place on the early morning of the 21st, was considerably more serious than its two predecessors, and caused a certain amount of anxiety, happening as it did at night-time. The raiders must have been flying very high, as, although the moon was nearly full, nothing could be seen of them by the populace, except an occasional flash, which the official *communiqué* states was from searchlights. Their course could, however, be marked by the shell-bursts of our anti-aircraft guns, while the continual humming of motors, explosion of bombs, and booming of guns combined to create in the small hours of the morning a realistic atmosphere of war conditions. Little damage was caused, and that mostly in the Arab town. Two civilians were killed—one Greek and one native—and a number of Greek civilians were wounded.

On the previous raids, which took place in the daylight, the planes were easly discernible; and it was a fascinating sight to watch them scurrying across the sky, followed by puffs of smoke from shell-bursts as the gunners were getting nearer the mark.

These exhibitions of "frightfulness" have resulted, as could only be expected, in keeping away the usual summer visitors from up-country, who are now forbidden to come here for the sea-bathing and cool breezes, as a great many did last year. Port Said and the Canal generally is strictly regarded as a war zone, which can be entered and left only by special permit. The regulations when leaving the country are also more rigorous, a lengthy notice having to be given if a permit is required, and the authorities are still inflexible on the subject of ladies entering the country.

Empire Day Celebrations.

Under the auspices of the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League of Britons Over-Seas a musical concert was held on Empire Day at the El-Dorado Hall in aid of the British Red Cross Society, when an excellent and varied programme was given, the talent being chiefly naval and military.

A children's fête was held in the afternoon at the Casino Hotel, also in support of the society's funds.

EMPIRE DAY IN ALEXANDRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Alexandria, May 30.

Empire Day celebration in Alexandria took the shape of an entertainment at the Alhambra Theatre, under the patronage of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and the High Commissioner, his Excellency Sir Henry McMahon, who was present throughout the proceedings.

The theatre, which has been extensively requisitioned for patriotic purposes of late, was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and well filled with representatives of both Services and of the British community. The programme comprised a concert, patriotic tableaux, a cinematograph performance, and a speech by H.M.'s Consul-General in Alexandria.

While it would be invidious to attempt a detailed criticism of the admirable entertainment provided, the vocal contributions of Signor Azzopardi and of Mrs. Moss, an established favourite with Alexandrian audiences, deserve special mention. An old friend in a new guise was Major South's version of "Old King Cole," which was keenly appreciated, and secured an equally mirth-provoking encore; while Sergeant-Major Morfitt's rich trained baritone voice and fine presence made "A Sergeant-Major of the Line" more popular than ever.

The tableaux, representing epochs in the history of England and of the Empire, were one and all a triumph of artistic conception and execution. Those of "King Henry VIII. Dismissing Cardinal Wolsey" and the "Accession of Queen Victoria" were, perhaps, the most noteworthy, although this was very much a matter for individual appreciation.

Mr. Cameron, the Consul-General, in a short but effective speech, epitomised the object of Empire Day, making special reference to Lord and Lady Meath and to the late Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, whose great efforts on behalf of the Empire have been signally justified, particularly in these days.

The programme was most tastefully designed, and will be treasured by those present who collect such souvenirs.

SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, May 25.

Dar Fur.

On May 23 the troops of the Sudan Government entered El Fasher. The bald announcement was made at Khartoum on the 25th, and further details will doubtless arrive later. The salient fact, however, is that the long and difficult line of communications is now complete and held at the further end. The entry into El Fasher could only be made after a successful repulse of the Fur troops, and the surrender of the body of the people to the Sudan Government is certain. The capture of El Fasher means the extension of the gum forests by a very considerable area, the reopening of the most profitable cattle market in the Sudan, and, it is to be hoped, the beginning of considerable commercial relations with the French in Wadai, who will find this their easiest outlet. It means the security of the southern end of the Arbain road down which the Sennoussi was said to hope to march, and it is a satisfactory reply to the German lies of the advance of a horde of Fur fanatics towards the Nile.

A Spectacular Sandstorm.

On May 22 Khartoum enjoyed one of the spectacular sandstorms that bear comparison with a "London particular." At 4.30 p.m. the whole northern horizon was seen to be banking up with clouds upon clouds of dust. As the storm approached the extraordinary mass covered the whole sky from east to west like a wall. But the whole surface was continually changing as spirals of sand shot up and clouds rolled over and were enveloped in others. Every shade of colour between black and brown to dark red alternated within the moving mass, and the remote wings stood grey against the sky. Then suddenly the storm leaped the river, the wind making a sharp hissing noise as the waves and sand met, and in a minute the whole of Khartoum was plunged in Cimmerian darkness. The unfortunate wayfarer could not see a few yards in front of him, eyes, ears, nostrils, and mouth were full of sand, and the wind blew furiously. Such a state could last but a few minutes, and gradually the darkness lightened, familiar objects returned to sight, and in an hour the tail of the storm, with its blessed rain, arrived. A short shower laid the dust, and then followed peace.

CRICKET IN CAIRO.

(From Our Cairo Correspondent.)

Quite a large crowd gathered on the prettily situated cricket ground of the Gezira Sporting Club on Saturday, May 27, to watch the second day's play of the eagerly anticipated match between "Egypt and Australia." Amongst those present were H.E. the High Commissioner and Lady McMahon, the G.O.C.-in-Chief, and Generals Altham, Godley, Watson, and Clayton, etc. An Australian band played during the afternoon.

The "Egypt" team, which was captained by Mr. E. H. Goschen, included several county players—viz., D. W. Carr and E. W. Dillon (Kent), C. D. McIver (Essex), Hon. M. Herbert (Somerset), and R. V. Buxton (Middlesex). Messrs. R. E. More (Middlesex) and M. Falcon (Norfolk) were unable at the last moment to play.

The "Australia" team, which was one of the best ever seen in Cairo, included the following well-known inter-State players:—Messrs. Sterling, Moyes, Pellew, and Steele (South Australia), and Barbour, Matthews, and Long (New South Wales).

The result of the match was a decisive victory by four wickets and 143 runs for the Australians, who bowled and fielded brilliantly.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, May 31.

The State of Constantinople.

After being cut off from communication with Constantinople for about six weeks, we have suddenly received an accumulation of mails here. At the same time the opening of the Greek and Bulgarian frontiers to passenger traffic has enabled a few travellers to come from Constantinople, and the Greek courier is now allowed to cross Bulgarian territory.

There seems to be no material change in the situation at Constantinople. In some respects life there appears somewhat easier, and it is quite evident that supplies of foodstuffs, to a limited extent, perhaps, are reaching the city from Roumania. The cost of living has become very heavy, but those who can afford it are evidently able to obtain their daily requirements. Pera presents its usual gay appearance; cinemas, theatres, cafés, and other places of amusement are well patronised; but those accustomed to a busy life describe the situation as extremely monotonous. The poor must, however, be undergoing great hardships. In fact, hundreds must be dying from starvation or from the use of improper food, not only in Asia Minor, but also in Constantinople.

Asia Minor: A Gloomy Outlook.

According to information from various sources, the grain crops in Asia Minor will this year probably be considerably below the average. In some places much damage has been done by locusts, and a specialist has been brought from Germany to take measures to eradicate this evil.

It is said that the Turkish populations in all those towns occupied and threatened by the Russians are all making their way westward in terror of their "traditional enemy." Their immigration into Western Anatolia is likely to prove a serious embarrassment to the authorities, who will be confronted by the problem of feeding additional populations at a time when stocks of corn are insufficient for normal requirements. One effect of this emigration of Turks from Eastern to Western Asia Minor will be to increase the hardships of the Christian populations in the western vilayets, more especially the Armenians, who will doubtless be turned adrift to make way for the Mussulmans, and the Christian will have greater difficulty in obtaining his loaf of bread.

Coal, apparently, still finds its way into Constantinople, and much lignite is being used on the railways and for industrial purposes. An improved service of steamers on the Bosphorus for the summer months is announced, which would indicate that sufficient coal is available.

Huns at Smyrna.

Rahmi continues to rule Smyrna, but Perteb is no longer Military Commander, having been replaced by a German; and it is said that a fairly large number of Austrian or German troops are now stationed in or about Smyrna. Allied aeroplanes make frequent flights over the town and drop printed leaflets giving the latest news to counteract the lies of the Huns. These visits cause a little diversion, and there is a great scramble for the leaflets, many of which are secured by the people in spite of the efforts of the police to seize them.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, May 27.

Work of the Legislative Council.

The High Commissioner presided at the last meetings of the Council on May 23. The votes passed included those making provision for distressed Cypriots abroad. Strong representations were made by Mr. Economides, of Nicosia, and by Eyoub Bey, Councillor from Papho, on behalf of Cypriot refugees in the island, and of Turks who, being in Cyprus at the time of the annexation of the island, remained in it as prisoners of war. It was suggested that work should be provided for some of them. Petitions for relief from some of the villages which suffered so heavily by the destruction of cereals and other produce from recent hailstorms were laid before the Council. The consideration of some draft laws was postponed. On May 25 a few short bills were passed, and the High Commissioner then prorogued the Council *sine die*.

Employment for Cypriots at Salonika.

The military authorities at Salonika have made inquiries regarding young Cypriots who can read and write Greek, and can speak Turkish well, who would be disposed to serve as interpreters with the British Forces. The pay offered is said to be £9 a month, with expenses paid to Salonika. A considerable number of candidates have offered themselves.

Drink and Crime.

The annals of serious crime, as regards murder and homicide, still present their dismal features with painful regularity. The frequent executions which have taken place have had but little effect. On May 23, *e.g.*, two Turks, named Saadi Kadir and Hussein Tourmouzes, of Nicosia, while under the influence of drink quarrelled and drew their knives, inflicting various wounds on each other, from which one died during the night, while the other was taken to hospital. The police also arrested another Turk, named Hassan, who appears to have intervened with the object of separating the men.

THE DISTRESS IN SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 25.

The movement among Syrians abroad in regard to the recent revelation of the very serious situation of their countrymen at home is extending in scope daily. Although the initiative lies naturally with the Syrians, yet the co-operation of Egyptians, Copts, and Moslems alike is invited, and the committees that are being formed at different centres in Egypt are to include representative members of both. The end is purely humanitarian, and the fact that Moslems also are among the sufferers and that the proposed relief is to be afforded without any distinction of sect or creed justifies a call being made on the Egyptians. All the spiritual heads, including those of the Copts and Moslems, are not only patronizing the movement, but taking active part therein, and the Sultan of Egypt has lent cordial encouragement to the promoters of the movement. Indeed, the Syrians have, according to their capacity and means, contributed to the various humanitarian works that the war has called forth, and it is proposed to make appeals in the different Allied and neutral countries. The generous disposition evinced in this connection by persons in high authority encourages the belief that such appeals will meet with a ready response. It is true that each of the Allied nations has many calls on its charity in connection with national needs, yet the measure of their resources is such that even a small part of their charitable funds might help largely in alleviating the conditions of the Syrians, and the Holy Land has ever had a special claim on the attention of Christendom.

The Syrians in America, judging by a telegram received from a representative body in New York, seem to be fully alive to their responsibilities at this critical juncture in their country's history. Their own resources are sufficient to enable substantial funds to be raised, and they have, moreover, in the wealth of the Americans, increased to a plethoric degree by this war, a vast field to work upon. The fact that the U.S. Government is being asked to undertake the task of intervening with the Ottoman Government for the admission of a shipment, or shipments, of foodstuffs, which it is proposed to send to Syria, and the distribution thereof by a commission appointed by them, is calculated to increase the national interest in the movement. Besides, the United States have moral and economic interests in Syria, which they cannot afford to neglect and leave exposed to such risks as the present conditions are calculated to cause.

Furthermore, as the clergy (and more particularly the Maronite clergy) have suffered no less than the population, it is proposed to make an appeal to his Holiness the Pope, who, by the exercise of his own great authority, together with that of the Emperor of Austria as the protector of the Catholic Christians of the East and an ally of Turkey, may be able to put a stop to the present campaign of persecution and extermination by famine. The Maronite and Greek Orthodox Bishops in Beyrout—both men of exceptional ability and high moral influence—have been first ordered to out-of-the-way convents in the Lebanon, and finally expelled to the interior. The Maronite Patriarch, once a great power in the land, after being deprived of his clerical suite and seeing the leading heads of his Church expelled, was subjected to the humiliation of quitting his permanent residence to go to Aley, where the court-martial sits. Owing to the infirmity of old age, he could accomplish the journey only in two days; and now not only has he been shorn of all influence, but has also been reduced to such a terrorized condition that he sought complete isolation in his summer residence near the immemorial cedars.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, May 23.

What Next?

M. Simeon Radeff, the Bulgarian Minister in Bucharest, is still absent in Sofia, ostensibly for the purpose of arranging the terms of an economic convention between Roumania and Bulgaria similar to that existing between Roumania and Germany. That Germany can, in exchange for Roumanian corn, export many indispensable articles, articles which Roumania cannot obtain elsewhere, is evident. It is no less clear that Roumania could prove extremely useful to Bulgaria. But it is difficult to see what Bulgaria can offer in return, for the Germans seem to have made a clean sweep of everything exportable.

According to a leading journal, which is generally well informed with regard to diplomatic matters, M. Radeff has been definitely recalled by his Government, and is said to be retiring from the diplomatic service. No statement is made regarding the nature of his future occupation, though this would appear to be a subject not devoid of interest—if indeed it is true that he was a *komitaji* in an earlier stage of his career.

Among his possible successors are mentioned M. Sarafoff, formerly Consul at Constantinople, and M. Atanassoff, the son-in-law of M. Radoslavoff, at present First Secretary of the Bulgarian Legation in Berlin.

Royal Charities.

Her Majesty Queen Marie and the Princesses Elizabeth and Marie are at present in Moldavia for the purpose of distributing to the poor a portion of the gift of one and a-quarter million francs recently made by the King. They return to Bucharest for the 10th of May, and will then continue their good work in the north of Moldavia and other parts of the country.

The Plain of Blaj.

May 3 (Roumanian style) was the sixty-eighth anniversary of the memorable day of the year 1848, when the Roumanians of Transylvania gathered together on the plain of Blaj to proclaim their rights to liberty and independence. The date was celebrated in Bucharest by a requiem service for the souls of these martyrs of the revolution, and of their successors who have shed their blood so freely, not for their own cause, but for that of their oppressors of yore. Meetings were held in different places to commemorate those who laid the foundation-stone of Roumanian national policy in Transylvania. At Jassy the students of both universities united for a similar purpose, visiting in solemn procession the historical monuments of the Moldavian capital.

By the treaty of Carlowitz, Hungary, which included the province of Transylvania, was attached to the Crown of Austria. But in 1848 the Magyars, who were devoured by the ambition of constituting themselves into an independent kingdom, resolved to match themselves against Austria. In the event of success there could be, however, no hope of the new kingdom maintaining itself unless it embraced the foreign nationalities within its boundaries, and of these the Roumanians represented the most powerful element. Collaboration on their part was excluded, and quiet submission improbable. The Hungarians must set themselves the task of gaining complete mastery over the Roumanians before venturing on further enterprises. Hence they gave themselves a Constitution, and Transylvania was allowed sixty-nine seats in the Parliament of Budapest, with the proviso, however, that her representatives should be exclusively of Magyar and Saxon nationality, in spite of the Roumanians forming the overwhelming bulk of the population. At the same time one of the articles of the Constitution made any person amenable to a heavy fine who was found guilty of any action or conduct directed against the principle of Hungarian unity, in the words of Dr. Jean Cantacuzène: "A singularly elastic formula authorising every abuse of power."

The immediate result was an armed uprising. Forty thousand Roumanians assembled at Blaj, at a spot known to this day as the Plain of Liberty, and each man took a separate oath to uphold the Roumanian laws and cultivate the Roumanian tongue, to comply with the dictates of liberty, equality and fraternity, to suffer none to interfere with his rights, while himself respecting the liberty and nationality of his fellow-dwellers on Transylvanian soil. The movement spread, but the poor peasants were badly organised and miserably armed, and they became the victims of a fearful massacre. Forty thousand lost their lives, including two hundred priests, and three hundred of their villages were razed to the ground.

The revolt, however, had perilously hampered the Hungarians, who, in their turn, were involved in a revolution. Russia, fearing lest it should spread to Poland, came to the aid of Austria, and the Hungarian movement was quashed.

It is interesting to note that the Crimean War delivered the Roumanian principalities from Russian "protection," and restored to Moldavia a fragment of Bessarabia; while Russia, by her support of Austria in 1849, had indirectly delivered Transylvania from the Hungarian yoke.

But the Roumanians' respite was destined to be of comparatively short duration. Austria's unfortunate war with Prussia resulted in the defeat of Sadowa in 1867, Austro-Hungarian Dualism was established, Transylvania was abandoned to the Crown of Hungary, and a vigorous campaign of persecution and denationalisation was instituted against the Roumanian elements—a system, which, in spite of dogged resistance and feeble results, continues to this day, and goes by the name of "Magyarization."

"KOSSOVO DAY"—JUNE 28.

An influential committee has been formed for the purpose of organising a demonstration in honour of Serbia on June 28, the anniversary of Kossovo. The object is one which is sure to commend itself to the people of this country, who have been profoundly moved by the gallantry and the unmerited misfortunes of Serbia and the Serbs. A manifesto has been issued by the committee showing how those desirous of helping can do so, and from this we extract the following passages:—

"We ask the people of Great Britain to join in manifesting their sympathy with these bravest of patriots in their long agony of untold indignities, famine and death, in upholding their glorious traditions of democracy and freedom.

"The battle of Kossovo in 1389 was indeed a crucial defeat of the Serbian champions of Christian Europe by Islam; and the day has been kept ever since in remembrance of this historic calamity. But with indomitable courage it has been observed as a festival in the joyful anticipation of the freedom which is to come again.

"Serbia is once more under the heel of a conqueror. Serbs are in our midst. We are sure the British public will enthusiastically join with them in celebrating this day, June 28 (June 15 old style), not as strangers in a strange land, but as heroes among friends in the welcome of a home. We appeal for help in carrying out the following proposed methods of bringing the meaning of Kossovo Day before our people:—(1) Services to celebrate the day in the form either of a memorial service for the Serbian and British troops, doctors, and nurses who have fallen in the war, or of intercession for our brave Ally, on June 28 or on the Sunday following. The Archbishop of Canterbury is in cordial sympathy with the commemoration of the day, and is taking part in the memorial service at St. Paul's. (2) Lectures in primary and secondary schools and in the private and public schools. The object is to give the coming generation a sympathetic understanding of Serbia. (3) Lectures on the same day (or in anticipation) in drawing-rooms, at garden fêtes, or in public halls. Lantern slides can be supplied. Pamphlets specially written for the purpose can also be sent free for the help of speakers. Many of our doctors and nurses who were in Serbia are willing to speak. The Lord Mayor is entertaining the Serbian children in this country at the Mansion House. (4) Lectures on the Serbian and Russian Orthodox religion. (5) Distribution and sale of literature. (6) Help in securing the insertion of articles and in the local Press notices concerning Kossovo Day, which can be supplied by the committee. (7) Pictures for cinemas.

"The object of the commemoration of the day is not primarily to raise money, but to draw together more closely the two nations. But it is hoped, nevertheless, that there will be liberal gifts as a mark of our national sympathy. All that is raised, after expenses are deducted, will be given, one-fourth to the Scottish Women's Hospital in Serbia and three-fourths to the Serbian Relief Fund (Children's Branch).

"Let all who value what Serbia has done for us and for humanity give all help possible. The aim of the movement is to interpret to the people of Great Britain the place that Serbia has in civilisation, in the arts and religion; the part she has taken in history, and will certainly take in the future, of Eastern Europe; and, lastly, the place she must take in the hearts of those who love her simplicity and know her greatness."

The manifesto is signed by Dr. Elsie Inglis, chairman, and the Rev. H. J. Fynes-Clinton and Mr. R. W. Seton-Watson, D.Litt., joint hon. secretaries of the committee. The offices are at 50, Parliament Street, Whitehall; the telephone number is 6896 Victoria, and the telegraphic address "Kossovo, London."

The New York *Evening Sun* is unkind enough to suggest that "Considering what the Crown Prince has done to the Germans at Verdun, the Turks should receive with apprehension the news that one of the Kaiser's sons will join their forces shortly."

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 17.

The work of the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission reminds one of Penelope's weaving. It goes on, but shows no signs of nearing completion. The only thing yet proved by it is the barefaced *chantage* carried on by "Tsar" Ferdinand and M. Radoslavoff.

The Economic Situation.

The sittings of the Municipal Council of Sofia, which have just begun, have been pretty well taken up with the question of the cost of living. Members of all parties discussed the topic, deploring the state to which the capital has been brought by the Government's negligence, and their speeches seem to have had some effect. The Government has promised to do its best, and requisitioning on an extensive scale has been ordered, so that the city may have supplies of meat and provisions. Thus, menaced in Sofia, the Government does not hesitate to pillage the rural population, which is less capable of combined action in its own defence, in order to pacify the population of the capital.

The economic situation becomes daily more precarious, and numerous deaths from starvation are reported. The military authorities are granting as little leave as possible to soldiers, because the latter frequently refuse to return to their military duties when they see the pitiable state their families are in. Of course, the Government does its best to allay the unrest by spreading reports that the war will be over before the time of harvest, etc., etc.

Negotiations with Roumania.

For a long time negotiations have been carried on between Roumania and Bulgaria for an arrangement by which goods destined for the former country and now lying at Salonika would be forwarded through Bulgaria, the latter receiving in return facilities for obtaining goods required in Roumania and in the passage of wagons of merchandise coming from Austria and Germany. Pourparlers are said to be still in progress between M. Radoslavoff and the Roumanian representative at Sofia; but it looks as if the conclusion of any agreement were impossible, so persistently do the Bulgarians indulge in their proverbial trickery and chicanery.

A Necessary Precaution.

Queen Eleonore has taken the initiative in regard to the construction of a disinfecting establishment near Sofia station. All soldiers, whether sick or wounded, will have to undergo disinfection there. The idea is a laudable one, for the state of filth in which the Bulgarian soldiers return has been a subject of amazement to and comment amongst most neutrals visiting the country.

A Very New Map.

Persons arriving from Bulgaria report that that country is full of maps which show what is to be (perhaps!) Great Bulgaria. These interesting productions are delivered free to the military, and are pasted up on many walls in Sofia. The map shows the frontiers of a Bulgaria stretching from Valona to the Black Sea, and from Diama to the Ægean. The new empire is to include all Macedonia—Greek as well as Serbian—all the Roumanian Dobruja, and the towns of Salonika, Seres, Kavalla, and Drama. It seems almost a pity that such an ingenious production should be confined to Bulgaria. It might be studied with profit in Athens, to say nothing of Albania.

May 24.

M. Radoslavoff's Activities.

The Central Committee of the Agricultural party has called a special meeting of the Parliamentary members of the party for June 4 to discuss the attitude to be taken up by the party in regard to the Déclausier affair and the sale of wheat to Great Britain. It is well known that a certain number of Agricultural members are implicated in the Déclausier affair; and, as it is quite possible that it may come before the courts, the meeting is to consider whether M. Radoslavoff, the leader of the party on the Committee of Public Supply, will do well to continue to hold that position, or whether he had better resign.

M. Radoslavoff has been very much engaged of late with M. Rizoff, Bulgarian Minister at Berlin, and M. Kosseff, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is thought that fresh negotiations of importance between Bulgaria and Germany are afoot.

Proposed New Stamps.

The Ministry of Finance is considering the question of a new issue of postage stamps, as a souvenir of the present war. As square, rectangular, circular, oval, and triangular forms have already been used, and as it is proposed to make these stamps symbolical of the war, and especially of Bulgaria's share therein, it is suggested that they should be cruciform. Comment is needless.

The Bulgarian Soldiery.

A traveller lately returned from Bulgaria reports that the *moral* of the Bulgarian army could hardly be worse. Absolutely nobody there wishes for the prolongation of the war, and an active agitation is carried on against the pro-German Government of M. Radoslavoff. The Government is accused of allowing the export of foodstuffs to Germany and Turkey, especially of meat, thus causing excessive prices in Bulgaria itself. These things, together with the delay in payment of war allowances to the families of men mobilized, are exasperating the troops. Desertions continue to be numerous, and shootings seem to have no deterrent effect. Finally, the Bulgarian soldiers, while poorly clad, ill-fed, and constantly hard worked, see their German "brothers-in-arms" well equipped and well nourished; and have on occasion to put up with a good many jeers and gibes from the Huns. The result is that a spirit of mutiny seems to be abroad.

LONDON SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

The School of Oriental Studies has now been incorporated by Royal Charter. It will be located at the London Institution, Finsbury Circus, the necessary alterations and additions to which are reported to be nearly completed. The following is a list of members of the governing body, as set out in the charter:

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of London (Sir Alfred Pearce Gould, K.C.V.O., M.S.), ex-officio.

The Principal of the University of London (office vacant), ex-officio.

The Director of the school, when appointed, ex-officio.

Sir John Prescott Hewitt, G.C.S.I., C.I.E. (chairman), and Mr. Philip Joseph Hartog, M.A., appointed by the Crown.

Professor Arthur Berriedale Keith, D.C.L., D.Litt., of the University of Edinburgh.

Professor Edward James Rapson, M.A., of the University of Cambridge, and Mr. David George Hogarth, F.B.A., keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, appointed by the Crown with special regard to the representation on the governing body of universities other than the University of London in the United Kingdom.

Mr. John Anthony Cecil Tilley, C.B., M.A., appointed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

The officer for the time being in charge of the Indian subsection of the Military Operations Directorate War Office, appointed by the Secretary of State for War.

Sir Charles James Lyall, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., appointed by the Secretary of State for India.

Dr. Thomas Gregory Foster, Provost of University College, London.

Dr. Ronald Montagu Burrows, Principal of King's College, London, and the Hon. William Pember Reeves, Director of the London School of Economics, appointed by the Senate of the University of London.

Sir Marcus Samuel, Bart., appointed by the Corporation of the City of London.

Mr. Harry Evan Auguste Cotton and Mr. Henry Cubitt Gooch, appointed by the London County Council.

The Right Hon. Lord Reay, K.T., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., appointed by the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society.

Professor Thomas William Rhys Davids, LL.D., D.Sc., of the University of Manchester, appointed by the British Academy.

Sir Albert Kaye Rollit, LL.D., D.C.L., appointed by the London Chamber of Commerce.

The school will have its home at the London Institution, Finsbury Circus. It will be remembered that by a special Act of Parliament the London Institution was transferred to the Office of Works for the purpose of the school, and that the Government has allotted a sum not exceeding £25,000 for the purpose of altering the buildings and providing new accommodation. The additions and alterations, which were delayed, first, owing to the building strike and then owing to the war, are now nearly completed.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

With the biting winds of June howling a cheerless accompaniment to the patter of incessant rain upon my window, it is small comfort to think of the sun in Egypt. And yet time and again I find myself doing so. My mind, equally with my body, is, I suppose, heartily sick of this unnatural spell of winter in mid-June, and is seeking warmth in imagination. And yet were I in Egypt to-day, I should probably be thinking with warm affection of the chilly winds which sometimes come to us during an English summer, and would give the world, an I possessed it, for a bath of good English rain. Somewhere long ago I picked up a verse which has clung in my memory ever since, and is insistent now:—

I maintain that, as a rule, man's a fool.
When it's hot he wants it cool,
When it's cool he wants it hot,
Ne'er content with what he's got,
He's always wanting what it's not,
So I maintain, as a rule, man's a fool.

I hasten to add that this in no way applies to myself. I like the winter well enough in its place. But its place is not in June.

***

I see that arrangements are being made for the reception and boarding of a large number of Serbian boys in English families, where they will meet with boys of their own age. This is an excellent move, for more reasons than one. In the first place it is good to know that these lads, exiles from their own country, will be well housed and properly treated; and if, as I believe to be the case, the cost is to be a national charge, every ratepayer will feel that he is taking his part in acknowledging the heroism of our gallant Balkan allies. Again, it is well that Serbia, which seems destined to become the predominant power in the Balkans, should be brought into intimate connection with her Western comrades, and that her men of a future generation should be given the freest and most extended knowledge of a governing system which cannot fail to be of value when they themselves are called upon to govern. The strong natural simplicity of character which has enabled the Serbian people to mock disaster is too deeply rooted in their souls to suffer under the influences of our more material standards; it is indeed possible that our visitors will give more than they will take in this regard. If this proves to be the case, our hospitality will be more than repaid. It is impossible—with the horrible results of Prussian materialism before our eyes—to deny that, with the passing of simplicity and faith, a nation loses grip of her own soul, and to any claim to the nobility and chivalry of former days.

***

Why, I wonder, does the *Journal Officiel*, which is the Egyptian equivalent, so to say, of our own *London Gazette*, still appear with a French title? And why is so much of the matter published in French? There may be, and no doubt are, very sound reasons for this, but I cannot myself divine them. Now that Egypt has become a British Protectorate it seems to me that we might have an *Official Journal* printed entirely in English, or else in English and Arabic.

***

The particular copy of the *Journal* which I consulted (it was the issue of May 25) contained a quite fascinating list of goods lying in the Alexandria Customs House waiting to be claimed. There were many empty barrels, boxes, and cases, which probably are not greatly desired by anybody. But there were also cases of brandy and of wine, a barrel of biscuits, a case of condensed milk, and another of coffee and milk, many cases of soap, a sack of peas, another of seeds, and many other items that seem to suggest that Egypt, unlike Germany, is not suffering from any shortage of food. Eighteen cases of copies of the Koran appear to be hopelessly stranded, since the consignee is unknown; a bottle of eau de cologne, a box of cigarette papers, and a box of soap are in even worse plight, since they have no distinguishing marks whatever. The other goods listed include: Cartridge cases, ironmongery, "motor parts," "rubber rings," cotton, paints, plums, furniture, a box of calendars (1915), old clothes, and a great many other things. What strikes me as the strangest part of the business is that several of these cases appear to be marked so clearly that I should have thought there could hardly have been any doubt as to their destination. Two are for two lieutenants, whose names are given, one for the matron of a certain "British General Hospital"—number stated—and two for a "United States Consul."

***

I have on more than one occasion referred to the ancient usages of war which, after the lapse of centuries, have found regeneration in the course of the present Titanic struggle. The latest revival of ancient custom comes from the field where Russia is driving the surprised and broken enemy before her. Pits, we are told, had been dug, and in these spikes had been prepared to receive the advancing foe. The same device was used at Bannockburn, in our own country. But it does not appear to have been at all effective to stay the Russian advance on this occasion. In Africa similar methods have prevailed among savages from time immemorial for the purposes of trapping elephants and other heavy animals. It is curious to turn from the reading of an account of one battle in which asphyxiating gas, liquid fire, and other products of modern science have played their deadly part, to a battle where we recognise the first device of the human hunter. In the Kharga Oasis the use of hidden spikes was one of the principal, if not the only, means of defence adopted by the inhabitants against the raids of Desert Arabs. The village of Kharga itself was practically all sub-terrestrial. The people burrowed beneath the earth and made their homes—the "streets" had many turnings and bristled on all sides with sharply-pointed spikes set breast-high in the walls. Then when hostile Arabs appeared the local braves would only make the merest show of fight at first, but would lead them on until, in mad pursuit at the last, they dashed against the hidden defences of the underground village and were slaughtered at convenience.

***

Travelling on the Underground Railway recently I chanced to get into conversation with the man sitting next to me; he proved to be a pawnbroker, and a most interesting conversationalist into the bargain. I should not have presumed to talk his own "shop" to him, but he dived into the subject of his own accord, *apropos* of a trade paragraph in the evening paper. From him I learned the following interesting facts concerning the economical position of England, present and future. Business—his business—was hit very hard by the war. No one—his business, I may remark, was in a working-class suburb—brought things to pawn because they had plenty of money without, and no one redeemed their pledges because they preferred new things and bought them. I asked him how he proposed to go on if things continued in this manner. "Oh, that is all right," he assured me; "the people who used to pawn now come to buy jewellery, so it all balances very nicely. And directly the war is over they'll bring back the jewellery to pawn," he added, "so we'll do all right in the end." This conversation reminded me of the Egyptians and of their manner of investing their wealth in solid gold bracelets and anklets for their wives. It pleases the women, and after all there is a solid stock of gold in the house to draw upon in case of emergency. But the Egyptians are wiser than the people of our own country. The former at least know the value of the weight of gold they buy, while the latter pay large sums for tawdry ornaments of minute value, as my friend the pawnbroker will doubtless explain when his time comes. The pity of it!

***

I notice that one of the religious papers has been calling attention to the fact that the principles of Moslem belief are introduced into the teaching of the Gordon College at Khartoum. The question of religion is always a difficult one when a Christian country is called upon to administer one of a different faith, but it must be admitted that the British have been remarkably successful in this regard. The teaching of Christianity in Khartoum is not, as the paper referred to admits, forbidden, but it is an offence under the law to proselytise among children without the consent of their parents and guardians. Subject to this consent, any child may be trained in a Christian school and receive full instruction in the Christian faith. Among the pagan tribes of the South missionaries are given an entirely free hand in this respect. Now, while it is natural enough that the limitations of Christian teaching and the support given by the Government to Islam in the schools should be the subject of complaint to a paper published solely on religious grounds, it is certain that those complaints would not, upon full investigation, receive the encouragement of a single important Church dignitary of any creed in England. Methods of proselytising such as this paper would seem to suggest would inevitably lead to trouble and a resort to arms, eventualities against which every Christian is anxious to guard. The safest, and indeed the only rational, way of dealing with these people who are entrusted to our guidance is to allow them the fullest knowledge and benefit of their particular faith, while, by example and the exercise of a rigid standard of justice, we lay our own open to their inspection and regard. In passing, I may mention that the books used in the Gordon College and preparatory schools of the Sudan were not prepared by order of the "Anglo-Egyptian" Government, but by the Sudan Government, which is an absolutely different thing.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

EARLY CIVILIZATIONS: EAST AND WEST.*

Professor Elliot Smith's book is an elaboration of his John Rylands lecture, and, small as it is in compass, it contains much valuable information and many most suggestive points, even theories.

Professor Elliot Smith indicates, first of all, the complexity of Mediterranean history, and the extreme difficulty of deciphering therein the story of Egyptian influence. We may add here that, strange as it may seem, there is as yet no written history of the Mediterranean, old and new! The subject might and should make a notable volume, or even a series. But his main thesis is that "the essential elements of the ancient civilizations of India, Further Asia, the Malay Archipelago, Oceania, and America" arose from maritime and commercial intercourse about 800-600 B.C., and gradually spread "from the Eastern Mediterranean to America." He gives an interesting list of items in such civilization, ranging from sun worship and megalithic monuments to the Swastika and Couvade. The distributors, however, of these various items were, according to him, Phœnicians; absorbing themselves everything that appealed to them, they diffused what they had learnt on the different littorals which they visited. Art, building, worship, tribal customs, sport, industrial methods, all were swept into the Tyrian net, to be redistributed—at a price, no doubt!—throughout the ancient world. However, the Phœnicians were not, so to speak, the sole agents, but rather the supervisors of the propaganda: recruiting, as they did, their merchant service from skilled sailors of whatever nation, they left the specialized branches—the items, in fact, of civilization—to the care of these latter. The professor gives countless instances, all of which are worth study, and in the main it is hardly possible to reject his careful data.

In one point, however, we cannot wholly accept his conclusions. We can agree that his cultural wave affected all countries and actually remodelled—and was remodelled by—India, the Malay Archipelago, and certain other parts of the world, even a part of Pre-Columbian America. But we cannot accept his dates for the more ancient monuments of Yucatan, the more so when we consider the illustrations he gives in confirmation of these (Figs. 5, 6, and 7). The Palenque Sanctuary is so elaborate as to suggest centuries of development, and the only support we can assume for Professor Elliot Smith is to imagine that South America began her instruction and developed it from, and not before, the arrival of his Phœnician mariners, who must, moreover, have brought with them several expert draughtsmen and architects. But surely much of South American art dates from far further back than the eighth century B.C.!

We are inclined to suggest that the key to the early connection of East and West is to be found in the earliest Minoan and Island civilizations, even as early as the twelfth Egyptian dynasty, a period of paramount effort both in art and in oversea enterprise. Professor Elliot Smith forgets apparently, when speaking of Queen Hatasu, her terraced temple, and her expedition to Punt, that she copied not only the temple, but also the expedition—in truly royal plagiarism—from Menthuhotep. We are disposed, moreover, to believe in the independent development of races on much the same lines, with certain interacting influences, and not in the sudden slavish obedience of one nation to another. The solar myth is an instance of the way in which certain thinkers insist on subordinating the initiative of primitive humanity, and scientists should beware of falling into the traps that have caught so many of their lesser confrères. The attributed age of early Peruvian pottery should be a sufficient warning in the present case against the idea of a wholly uncivilized and hopelessly receptive American seaboard.

To sum up, we are inclined to regard the professor's "cultural wave" as a renaissance rather than a commencement. but, in any case, we recommend this little book most strongly to all who take an interest in early civilizations and their interaction.

R. F.

MORE "NIGHTS."

"Stamboul Nights," by H. G. Dwight, published by Doubleday, Page and Co., is a collection of short stories dealing with Constantinople and its environs, most of which have appeared in monthly magazines in America. Mr. Dwight tells the tales in that rather whimsical style which he has made distinctly his own, and, like all his other writings, they are treated with much care and polish. The stories are sometimes woven around events which have actually taken place, as, for instance, "The House of the Giraffe," which tells the story, thinly veiled, of the notorious Fehim Pasha, who, on the outbreak of the revolution in Turkey in 1908, was banished to Brusa, where he was eventually torn to pieces by the mob. In "The Leopard of the Sea" we have a story of the adventures of the old Turkish gunboat "Palenk-i-Bahrie," and "The Golden Javelin" is connected with the discovery at Sidon of the Alexander Sarcophagus. The best story is, perhaps, "The Pasha's Garden," a somewhat grim tale of a Pasha married to a European wife, and how he dealt with a personage, to the reader unseen and unknown, whom he suspected of trifling with his wife's affections.

The book should make a special appeal to those who are familiar with the people and scenes so vividly described by Mr. Dwight; indeed, in some cases the author carries his local colour and topical allusions so far as to render them sometimes almost unintelligible to those to whom the East is still a closed book. This is, perhaps, because Mr. Dwight is so steeped in the atmosphere of Constantinople that he may forget that he is not telling his stories only to his friends who so fully understand and sympathise with him. Who but one who knows Turkish sufficiently well to know the trick of repeating a word, only changing the first letter to "m," would understand why the Pasha's servant talks about "wives, mives"? But the stories, anyhow, make delightful reading, and we wish Mr. Dwight every success with this his latest volume.

* "The Influence of Ancient Egyptian Civilization in the East and in America." G. Elliot Smith, M.A., F.R.S. (Longmans. 1s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Blackwood will publish very shortly "From the Gulf to Ararat: An Expedition through Mesopotamia and Kurdistan." The author, Mr. G. E. Hubbard, was secretary to the British section of the Turco-Persian Frontier Delimitation Commission, and was unfortunately wounded in an attack on the Commission, as our readers may remember. His book covers ground of great interest, and as he had facilities for collecting information denied to most European travellers, it is likely to be in considerable demand.

Another book to be issued very shortly by the same firm is "Across Asia Minor on Foot." by W. J. Childs. It will be illustrated, and its price 10s. 6d. net.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Histoire des Roumains de Transylvanie et de Hongrie. By N. Iorga, Professor at Bucharest University. Two vols. (Bucharest: Joseph Göbl's Successors, 20, Rue Paris. 5 frs. the vol.)

The National Music of Poland: Its Character and Sources. By Marguerite Walaux; with an Introduction by Emil Mlynarski. (George Allen and Unwin, Limited, for the Polish Information Committee. 6d. net.)

Poland Ravaged and Bereaved! By Countess Julia Ledochowska; with a Preface by Henryk Sienkiewicz. (The St. Catherine Press, for the Polish Information Committee. 6d. net.)

TO OUR READERS.

THE NEAR EAST is published on Friday, and copies are obtainable at any London bookstall early in the morning, and in the Provinces in the afternoon, of that day. To prevent disappointment, readers would assist us very much if they would place a standing order with their newsagent or railway bookstall for the supply of the paper every week. Any newsagent or railway bookstall clerk can, however, obtain copies at a few hours' notice if they have temporarily run out of stock; or we will post THE NEAR EAST for delivery on Friday morning, to any address, on the following terms, post free:—

12 MONTHS, £1; 6 MONTHS, 11s.; 3 MONTHS, 6s.

Abroad THE NEAR EAST is obtainable at any of the following agencies:—

PARIS. Librairie Hachette, 79, Boulevard Saint-Germain; Librairie Galignani, 224, Rue de Rivoli, and at Railway Bookstalls.

CAIRO. Cairo Express Agency, near Shepheard's Hotel; The British Library, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil; and at Railway Bookstalls.

ALEXANDRIA. Librairie Schuler, Rue Cherif Pasha; Nacamulli and Company, 12, Rue Sesostris; Librairie Calebotta, Rue Cherif Pasha; Librairie Cauro, Rue Cherif Pasha; J. Eugenides and Co., 12, Rue Cherif Pasha; Main Station Bookstall.

PORT SAID. Charles Evans, and on board vessels in the harbour.

KHARTOUM. Sudan Stationery and Bookstore.

CYPRUS. Cababe and Wilson, Nicosia.

SALONIKA. Librairie Française, Rue Sabri Pasha, and Vafiades and Co.

ATHENS. Librairie Th. Vafiades.

BUCHAREST. No. 1, Strada Academiei, and Socec and Company, Calea Victoria.

CALCUTTA. 1, Royal Exchange Place.

NEW YORK. Office of "The New Armenia," Flat Iron Building.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. June	1916. June.		1334. Shaban.	5676. Sivan.
16	3	Friday	14	15
17	4	Saturday.....	15	16
18	5	Sunday	16	17
19	6	Monday	17	18
20	7	Tuesday	18	19
21	8	Wednesday	19	20
22	9	Thursday	20	21

Under date of June 8, Reuter's Bordeaux correspondent reports:—On the occasion of King George's birthday King Nicholas of Montenegro sent his Majesty the following message:—"I beg your Majesty, on the occasion of your birthday, to accept my most sincere wishes for the welfare of yourself, your people, and your arms on sea and land. Praise be to Heaven for having granted your glorious Fleet a victory over our common foe."

King George replied as follows:—"I warmly thank your Majesty for your very kind congratulations, and beg you to accept my best wishes for your happiness. Your words have much touched me. I am happy to say that my Fleet still holds the mastery of the sea, and has forced the enemy to seek refuge in his ports."

A Reuter's message from Bucharest states that King Ferdinand of Roumania has returned to Bucharest from his trip on the Danube.

Lady Maxwell left London for Ireland on Wednesday.

We understand that Sir Frank Benson and Lady Benson are shortly taking over duties at one of the hospitals at Salonika at which Serbians are treated.

Mrs. Parker, sister of Lord Kitchener, has been the recipient of innumerable letters and telegrams of sympathy in her personal loss. The King sent her the following telegram:—

"Buckingham Palace, S.W.

"While the whole nation mourns the death of a great soldier, I have personally lost in Lord Kitchener an old and valued friend, upon whose devotion I ever relied with utmost confidence. To you and the members of your family I desire to express my heartfelt sympathy in the loss which has befallen you under such sudden and tragic circumstances.

"GEORGE, R.I."

Queen Alexandra sent by hand a personal letter of deep sympathy.

Sir Arthur Nicolson will take the title of Lord Cardock.

In connection with the successful operations in Darfur and the occupation of El Fasher, the Governor-General of the Sudan, Sir Reginald Wingate, received telegrams of congratulations from H.M. the King, H.H. the Sultan of Egypt, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Earl Kitchener, Sir Henry McMahon, and General Sir Archibald Murray.

On Monday, at Westfield, Farndon, Newark, the wife of Mr. H. J. Higgs, of the Egyptian Irrigation Service, and Special Reserve of Officers, R.E., gave birth to a daughter.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain Ralf Sumner Gibson, R.M.L.I. (attached Egyptian Army), second son of the Right Rev. the Bishop of Gloucester, and Anne Christina, second daughter of the Rev. E. R. Bernard, of High Hall, Dorset, Chancellor of Sarum and Chaplain in Ordinary. The marriage will take place very quietly towards the end of June.

The British Red Cross Society has received information from the Ottoman Red Crescent Society that Lieutenant Lord Elcho, who was officially reported missing early in May, is a prisoner at Damascus. Lord Elcho, who is the eldest son of the Earl of Wemyss, was in the same regiment as Lord Quenington, who died of wounds received, and was reported missing after the engagement at Katia.

As reported in another column, a very strong committee has been formed in London for the purpose of organizing a demonstration in honour of Serbia on "Kossovo Day" (June 28). Dr. Elsie Inglis is chairman, and the members of the committee are:—The Lady Cowdray, Lady Grogan, Lady Paget, the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield, Dr. Dickinson Berry, Mrs. Kinnell, Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, Mrs. Carrington Wilde, Mr. James Berry, F.R.C.S., and the Rev. Percy Dearmer, D.D. The hon. treasurer is Mr. F. C. Lindo, and the joint hon. secretaries are Mr. R. W. Seton-Watson, D.Litt., and the Rev. H. J. Fynes-Clinton.

A Bucharest telegram reports that the Roumanian Academy has elected M. Pulieni, a well-known scientist, as its president.

Admiral Sir Frederic Inglefield, K.C.B., who has been placed on the retired list at his own request, served in Egypt in 1882, receiving the Medal and Star, and at Suakin, 1884-85.

Admiral Sir Arthur M. Farquhar, another Admiral who has been placed on the retired list at his own request, commanded H.M.S. Renown when she conveyed the Duke and Duchess of Connaught to Egypt for the opening of the Assuan Dam.

On June 7 a banquet was given in Bucharest in honour of M. Take Jonesco and other leading Roumanians who surrendered their Austrian decorations. Over five hundred guests attended, including many ex-Ministers, members of the Chamber, and distinguished officers.

Vice-Admiral E. C. T. Troubridge, who has just been promoted to that rank (from Rear-Admiral), was recently in charge of a naval brigade in Serbia, where he and his men did most valuable work, and won the heartiest admiration of our brave Allies.

Sir Percy Molesworth Sykes, K.C.I.E., C.M.G., whose entry into Kerman at the head of a force of Military Police has given rise to so much satisfaction, is undoubtedly "the right man in the right place." Formerly an officer in the 2nd Dragoon Guards, he has been employed on diplomatic work in Persia for many years, and his knowledge of the country and his real sympathy with its people fit him admirably to deal with what is admittedly a somewhat difficult problem. In 1899-1901 he served in the South African War, and was afterwards transferred to the Indian Army. His diplomatic work in Persia has included service as Consul for Kerman and Persian Baluchistan, as British Assistant Commissioner on the Perso-Baluch frontier, the establishment of a Consulate at Seistan, and as Consul-General at Meshed and at Kashgar. He was made a K.C.I.E. in June of last year. He is the author of a fine "History of Persia" and of other works of value on the country.

The Earl of Cromer, feeling that he has throughout his life derived the utmost benefit and instruction from Greek writers, and being strongly of opinion that in the national interest it is most desirable that the teaching of the Greek language and study of Greek literature should continue to form part of the educational system of this country, has offered to the British Academy the sum of £1,000 to be held in trust by them for the purpose of establishing an endowment, the annual interest of which should be applied as a prize for the encouragement of Greek study, and specifically for the best essay on any subject connected with the language, history, art, literature, or philosophy of Ancient Greece, the Academy having the function of deciding as to the nature of the subject. The Council of the Academy have accepted Lord Cromer's gift.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

A Bucharest telegram to the *Frankfurter Zeitung* says that the Greek Minister, M. P. Psycha, has been recalled "owing to his anti-Royal policy," and that he will be replaced by M. Rangabe, from Copenhagen.

Under date of May 27, our Cyprus Correspondent reports:—The new Vice-Consul for France, M. Margarot, has arrived in the island and taken up his duties.

Major Sir F. C. R. Price, Bt., Glamorgan Yeomanry, has been attached to the Egyptian Army, as a Special Service Officer, with the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and has been attached to the Camel Corps for duty.

Lieutenant J. Donald, Royal Army Medical Corps, has been attached to the Egyptian Army, as a Special Service Officer, with the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and has been attached to the Medical Corps for duty.

El Kaimakam J. A. Pollock Bey, Officer Commanding 11th Sudanese, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

A Berlin telegram reports that the former Turkish Minister at Athens, Mukhtar Bey, who was lately Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Turkish Minister at The Hague.

Mr. Day, formerly secretary of the New Egyptian Company, has been appointed London manager.

OBITUARY.

Lieutenant Eustace N. G. Maton, R.N., who lost his life in the sinking of H.M.S. Tipperary, had seen service on the East Indian Station from July, 1910, to September, 1912, during which period he served as sub-lieutenant in H.M.S. Proserpine. He was awarded the Naval General Service Medal with the Persian Gulf clasp. Promoted lieutenant in April, 1912, he served in the Lord Nelson, and entered his Majesty's Navigation School at Portsmouth, in February, 1913, passing out in June, 1913, when he was appointed to the Collingwood. In September, 1913, he was appointed first and navigating lieutenant in the Scourge, and was serving in her in the Mediterranean when the war broke out. In September, 1914, he was present at the bombardment of Akaba in the Red Sea.

The death of Lieutenant-Colonel Charles James Robarts, late of the Indian Army, occurred last Friday at The Moorings, Fleet, at the age of sixty-six years. Colonel Robarts saw active service in the Afghan War of 1879-80, being awarded the medal, and in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882. He was in the action of Kassassin and the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, and received the medal with clasp and the bronze star.

The death is announced from Cairo of Mr. Patrick Plunkett, whose residence in Egypt dates back to the time when, as sergeant-major, he was selected to assist in the reform of the Egyptian Army under Sir Evelyn Wood. He held the Khedive's Star, and several medals for service in the country, and was confidential clerk to Lord Kitchener before the latter left for South Africa.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

INNES.—On May 26, at Suez, Egypt, the wife of Walter Innes, of twins, boy and girl.

MARRIAGES.

LOVEDAY—TARNOSCHI.—On June 10, at St. Saviour's, St. George's Square, S.W., by the Rev. Francis K. Aglionby, D.D., Alexander Loveday, fifth son of the late J. E. T. Loveday, of Williamscote, near Banbury, to Nathalia Irena Tarnoschi, eldest daughter of Colonel and Mme. Tarnoschi, of Jassy.

FOX-STRANGWAYS—MAZARAKI.—On April 8, at Port Said, Walter Angelo Fox-Strangways, Levant Consular Service, son of M. W. Fox-Strangways, C.S.I., and Mrs. Fox-Strangways, of Ardmore Cottage, Parkstone, Dorset, to Laure Georgine Emilie, daughter of E. G. Mazaraki, treasurer Suez Canal Co.

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LORD KITCHENER.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ST. PAUL'S.

The King and Queen were present at the memorial service for Lord Kitchener, which took place at St. Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday. Queen Alexandra, accompanied by Princess Victoria, were also present. The Grand Duke Michael and two Staff officers represented H.I.M. the Emperor of Russia; the Queen of Norway was represented by Colonel Sir Henry Knollys; Sir Sidney Greville represented the Prince of Wales; and Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Malcolm Murray represented the Duke of Connaught.

Amongst the members of the Diplomatic Body present were: the French, Russian, and Japanese Ambassadors, the Serbian and Portuguese Ministers, and the Ministers of Greece, Persia, and Roumania. The Sirdar and the Egyptian Army were specially represented.

Special seats were reserved for Commander Kitchener, R.N., and Captain H. H. Kitchener, R.F.C., nephews, and for Mrs. Parker and Miss Kitchener, sisters of the late Field-Marshal, and for other relatives and personal friends.

The members of the Board of Admiralty and the Army Council were present, and Field-Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood, Lord Grenfell, Lord Nicholson, and Viscount French. In the seats reserved for Cabinet and ex-Cabinet Ministers were the Prime Minister and Mrs. Asquith, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd George, Mr. Balfour, Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Lord Buckmaster (Lord Chancellor), the Earl of Rosebery, Mr. Walter Long, Earl Curzon, Mr. Herbert Samuel, Viscount Haldane, Mr. Harcourt, Mr. McKinnon Wood, the Earl of Selborne, Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Masterman, Mr. Winston Churchill, Viscount Morley, and the Speaker and Mrs. Lowther. The Duke of Devonshire was also present.

WORLD-WIDE TRIBUTES.

A memorial service was held at Salonika attended by General Milne and his Staff, the Duc de Mouchy, representing General Sarrail, General Boyovitch, the Serbian Commander, General Moschopoulos, Commander of the 3rd Greek Army Corps, and Mr. Wratislaw, British Consul-General.

The British Minister and the staff of the Legation at Athens attended a service which was held at the local English Church in memory of Lord Kitchener.

A telegram from British Headquarters received through Reuter's Agency states that General Sir Douglas Haig has issued a special Order of the Day containing the following telegram:—From General Marchand to General Sir Douglas Haig: "I desire to express to you with sincere respect my regret at the news of the cruel blow that has fallen upon our valiant comrades of the British Army in the death of Field-Marshal Lord Kitchener of Khartoum. I personally feel deeply the bitterness of the loss which is sustained by Great Britain and France in alliance."

The following telegram was received by the War Office from the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Egypt:—

"CAIRO, June 13.—A memorial service for Lord Kitchener was held at 6 p.m. to-day in the Kasr-el-Nil Barracks, Cairo, and attended by the High Commissioner, Prince Fuad, representing the Sultan, the Diplomatic and Consular representatives of all Allied and neutral Powers, the Egyptian Ministry, the ecclesiastical heads of the Christian, Jewish, and Mussulman faiths, representatives of the official and non-official British and Allied and neutral communities, 400 Egyptian notabilities, British and Egyptian troops, the representative of the Sirdar, and myself and staff and representatives of the force in the field. I have been greatly impressed with the eager desire of all branches of the whole community of Egypt to take part in this ceremony and the affection and respect with which Lord Kitchener's memory is cherished."

M. Vidovitch, President of the Serbian Council of Ministers, sent the following message:—

"Profondément ému par la nouvelle de la mort tragique du Lord Kitchener, je m'associe avec tous mes collègues du cabinet à la grande douleur qui frappe la noble nation anglaise en la personne de son grand soldat et homme d'état, et je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien agréer nos condoléances les plus sincères. VIDOVITCH."

The following are some of the messages which have been received from the Near East. The General Officer Commanding in Egypt telegraphed in the following words:—

"The troops under my command have learned of the death of Lord Kitchener with the deepest regret, a feeling that we know is shared by the country for which he had done so much, and where he laboured so untiringly. All ranks of the armies recently created under his auspices share the feeling of confidence that inspires us all in the certainty of the eventual victory which his great work as Secretary of State for War has brought within measurable distance of accomplishment."

Other Egyptian tributes included the following:—

"The Egyptian students of the University of Bordeaux, profoundly moved by the glorious death of Lord Kitchener, the revered friend of the Egyptian people, associate themselves in the most heartfelt way with the sorrow which has befallen the noble Allied nations.—For the Egyptian students of Bordeaux, ELIE MUSCAT."

The General Commanding the Expeditionary Forces in Mesopotamia telegraphs from Busreh:—

"The officers and men of the Expeditionary Force in Mesopotamia desire to express their deep feeling of grief and regret at the loss which the whole Empire has sustained in the death of Field-Marshal Earl Kitchener. The following telegram has been received by me from the senior naval officer in Mesopotamia:—'We, the officers and men of the Royal Navy associated with your Army, desire to offer our profound sympathy and deep regret at the loss sustained by the Empire in the death of Field-Marshal Lord Kitchener.'"

FUNERAL OF COLONEL FITZGERALD.

The funeral of Colonel Fitzgerald, Military Private Secretary to Lord Kitchener, took place with full military honours at Eastbourne on Saturday last. Alone among the members of the Staff which accompanied the late Secretary of State for War on his fateful voyage to be given up by the sea, the body of Lord Kitchener's closest friend rested for a brief period in St. Matthew's Church, Westminster, where a short service was held in the presence of a few relatives and personal friends and of representatives from the War Office.

A bearer party from the Scots Guards carried the coffin from the church to Victoria Station, where it was placed in a reserved saloon for Eastbourne, together with a number of wreaths sent by friends of the late officer. Lord Esher, General Sir John and Lady Maxwell, Colonel and Mrs. Ricketts, Lord French, Mrs. Parker (Lord Kitchener's sister), Captain and Mrs. Meredith of Thurso, Lord Derby, the Duchess of Portland, Lady Drummond, Colonel Wigram, and the regiment to which Colonel Fitzgerald had belonged were amongst those who sent wreaths.

Large crowds had assembled to pay a last tribute of honour to the memory of Colonel Fitzgerald and his illustrious chief at Eastbourne, where the body was borne to All Saints' Church, which stands only a few yards from the late Colonel's residence of twenty years. At this church the Bishop of Chichester officiated at the first part of the burial service, and subsequently a vast procession, headed by Brigadier-General Colomb, marched with its bands through densely crowded streets to Ocklynge cemetery, where the body was laid to rest beside that of his father, Colonel Sir Charles Fitzgerald.

The King was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Clive Wigram; the Army Council by Captain Earl Percy; the Imperial General Staff by Lieutenant-Colonel Buckley; Lord French by Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. Watt; Sir Douglas Haig by Major Parker, and General Sir John Maxwell by Prince Alexander of Battenberg. The Duke of Devonshire represented the First Lord of the Admiralty, and Lord Derby was also present. Lieutenant-General Sir E. Locke Elliot represented Sir John Nixon, while the French, Russian and Italian Governments and Armies were also represented.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.—The Annual General Meeting will be held (for business purposes only) at the office of the Society, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W., on Thursday, June 22, at four p.m. There will be no special Address.

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PEACE IN THE SUDAN.

Gordon once described the Sudan as "one of those countries which are to some degree civilised, and which, if properly governed, are quiet and orderly." The occasional minor border troubles and internal uprisings, such as the recent abortive outbreak of the Sultan of Darfur, merely serve to accentuate and throw into bolder relief the general peacefulness of the vast territory—measuring nearly a million square miles in area—known as the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. While the greater part of Europe is convulsed in war, the most destructive and the most horrible, the Sudan has remained almost throughout its entire length in the enjoyment of a political peace and material prosperity unexampled during its long and varied experience of alien rule. This remarkable transformation in its affairs has come about without *réclame*, without noise, almost without remark, the result of sixteen years of sound and honest administration. As Lord Rosebery has reminded us, "The British Empire is the greatest secular agency for good known in the world," and what has been effected in the course of sixteen years in the Sudan provides further evidence of the contention. The simple facts related in the official telegrams received from the Sudan afford but little insight into the actual conditions prevailing in that country of limitless desert, difficult mountain passes, torrential rivers, and vast distances. They tell in the coldest language of the heroic actions of the skilful British officers who administer the country or of those who occasionally carry out the necessary punitive operations, or of the splendid services rendered by the Egyptian troops under their command. But that a victory so complete and practically bloodless should have been gained over the turbulent Sultan of Darfur, and that comparative quiescence should already have come to his long-troublesome territory, are assuredly the most telling proofs of the control secured by the Sudan Administration over the enormous tract of country entrusted to its care. Now that the worst has happened, it may be safely assumed that the whole of Darfur will at no distant date be brought under the same excellent form of government as the rest of the Sudan, and that its people, given the same privileges and benefits as the rest of the population, will settle down contentedly under the new régime.

It is difficult for those who know but little of the Sudan and of its form of administration to comprehend the onerous and often discouraging nature of the task imposed upon the officials. Lord Cromer, while filling the position of British Agent and Consul-General in Egypt, observed at the conclusion of one of his official reports, that "in order really to appreciate the zeal and intelligence which the various officials in the Sudan are bringing to bear upon their work it would be necessary not merely to read their reports, but to visit the remote and inhospitable localities in which their work is conducted." The mental strain which is entailed upon them, occasionally very severe, might be referred to with equal justice. Sometimes a hundred miles or more will separate their headquarters from the nearest white man's habitation, and months may elapse before a friend's face is seen; the nearest telegraph is likewise possibly many miles distant, while mails are but rarely received. A single officer placed in charge of a district, extending over an area of some six thousand miles, may have no more than twenty or thirty native troops to assist him in maintaining order among a population of, perhaps, fifteen or twenty thousand, composed of various distinct tribes, several of which may be at enmity with one another, and among whom petty larceny is a very common form of crime, demanding continual watchfulness. Murders are rarer, but still not infrequent; the authority of the British official alone stands between the criminals and their victims. Occasionally, as already stated, a punitive expedition must perforce be entered upon in order to vindicate the authority of Government which has been defied, and in connection with such an undertaking the discretion of the officer in charge is put to a severe test. Headquarters would scarcely be pleased were any armed interference to be entered upon lightly; nevertheless, action, if taken at all, probably calls for urgency; an officer may entertain doubts concerning the subsequent approval of his superior, but prompt and vigorous measures may well mean the instant repression of a tribal disturbance which, if left undealt with even for a few hours, may develop into trouble calling for wide measures of repression. Herein lies the opportunity of the responsible official to show his powers of discrimination, and it speaks eloquently for the generally dependable character of the officials employed that so few among them have been found lacking in this essential.

Recollecting the fact that the majority of the troublesome tribes in their native fastnesses possess almost complete security from aggression upon the part of the authorities, and armed, as they mostly are, with European weapons—relics of the plunder seized from other tribes, or supplied, in spite of official watchfulness, by German agents—it is surprising that there should have been so little evidence of resistance to the demands of Government, and so great a respect shown to its silent and almost unobtrusive authority. But for the constant preparedness of the Administration and the dexterous manner in which its far-away officials deal with the natives under their charge, much more might have been heard of disturbances which arose in recent years in several of the Provinces. Thanks to the vigilance of the local authorities and the prompt measures taken to guard against surprises, however, none of these local commotions was allowed to interfere with the generally calm and uninterrupted progress of the Sudan. Towards a peaceful and prosperous future for the country nothing has contributed more effectively than the provincial administration entrusted, for the most part, to comparatively young men, civil and military. The great secret of their success in handling an always difficult and sometimes a grave situation may be found in the confidence reposed in them by the Chief Executive in Khartoum, once convinced that such confidence is deserved. As our greatest Pro-Consul, Lord Cromer, once declared—"All that is wanted for our Sudan officials is to give them a little friendly guidance on matters of principle, and then mainly leave them alone. They will, of course, occasionally make mistakes, in which case their superiors have to get out of the difficulty as well as they can, and should always, if it is at all possible to do so, afford them strong support in public. But such mistakes, even when they occur, are of slight importance compared with the advantage gained by leaving them free agents, and not deadening their sense of responsibility by constant interference and orders on matters of detail." No one better understands the value of adopting this very sound and sensible policy than the Governor-General of the Sudan; of all the chief administrators of our far-distant possessions probably no one among them more thoroughly imbues the junior officials with greater confidence in him and in themselves; for, as La Rochefoucauld declared—"*la confiance que l'on a en soi fait naître la plus grande partie de celle que l'on a aux autres.*"

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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LORD KITCHENER AND PALESTINE.

By ESTELLE BLYTH.

The tragedy of June 5 is still too close to us for any true value to be set upon the supreme figure that is its centre. Stunned as we are, we can only realise as yet the magnitude of our loss. It will be years before we can adequately sum up the achievements, the genius, the patience, the self-control of the great statesman and soldier who served England for forty-five years. Lord Kitchener had slipped beyond our ken before most of us knew that he had even left England; but the grand completeness of his work and character is now his own sure guarantee to his fellow-countrymen that he would never have quitted England for an hour had he not left all so perfectly ordered that another hand could take up where he left off, and carry on. There will be soreness of heart for us all in the remembrance of recent despicable attacks upon him by a section of party Press and party opinion, to whose base minds the only test of worth or achievement is just the one dirty test of money; we are all ashamed that *English* men, under whatever influences, could so degrade themselves. And we shall offer a tribute of reverent sympathy to our King in a loss that strikes him with double force as Sovereign and as man.

But the blow has an added significance to all who have ties of any sort with the Near East. Few men knew so much about the Debateable Lands classed under that heading; he knew them intimately, with all their fascinating complexities of race, religion, and politics, long before he was called upon to assume any rule over them. There was in him a strong vein of imaginative force; it comes out in all his writings, illumining the clear-cut, often terse, sentences in which he expressed himself. Here are a few examples, taken absolutely at random from the "Quarterly Statements" of the Palestine Exploration Fund. "The country is now very lovely, carpeted with flowers and green with the growing crops" (March, 1877). Have we not seen the beauty of the land in spring? "The hills on the eastern side (of the Lake of Galilee) have an almost level outline, scarcely broken by any valley of importance, and decidedly monotonous in appearance; still, the bright sunshine throws a rosy haze over the country, and the contrast with the bright blue water is very beautiful. The best views of the lake are from a distance on the many heights from which it is visible; as thus seen in the evening it is particularly lovely. Deep blue shadows seem to increase the size of the hills, and there is always a rosy flush in the sky and on snow-clad Hermon." "The village (of Banias) is completely surrounded and shut in by trees of all sorts, and looks remarkably green and lovely with the castle of Subeibeh towering above it. On approaching the village the rushing water (Nahr Banias) is seen falling over cascades, tearing through thickets, and almost hidden by creepers. . . . A bridge crosses the stream before the town. . . . Little streams seem to be running in every direction, cooling the air and making this one of the loveliest spots in Palestine." This was Kitchener, and the land he wrote of Palestine—a land in which a later traveller—never to be forgiven—saw only what was lifeless, despairing, and desolate. Here, too, is a sympathetic little bit about the people, which might have been written yesterday. "The people complain of being short-handed, owing to the large numbers that have been taken away for military service. The second ban and some of the third ban of redifs have been called out, and the people fear lest the Muharfez, or Landwehr, may be required. Old men and women have to take their places in the fields, and when the harvest time comes it will be very difficult to gather in the crops."

Those who loosely termed Lord Kitchener a man of iron, a sphinx, dry, harsh, a man of action only, overlooked this quality, but no great man is without it; we call it variously imagination, sympathy, romance, insight, poetry; perhaps Vision expresses it most nearly; it is a supreme asset in dealing with the East. To this quality in Lord Kitchener the East appealed very greatly; he understood the atmosphere and the temperament of the East as only Englishmen can, and not all of them; despite his clear-cut notions, his uncompromising sincerity, his contempt and impatience of anything sham or unstable, he had a wonderfully sympathetic understanding of the perplexing subtleties of the Eastern mind, and thus could judge exactly on the actual merits of a case. Europeans will often mistake the somewhat vague and expansive style of Eastern thought and speech for untruthfulness; a little imagination would help them to a clearer understanding. Lord Kitchener's known interest in the Holy Land inspired in many of us the hope that when Peace brought about the final adjustment of things he would consider Jerusalem not merely as a political unit of the Near East. There are so few now who care for her and believe in her future who have the ability to help her to its realisation.

It was in November, 1874, that Lieut. Kitchener, R.E., first saw the Holy Land. He came out to assist Lieut. Conder in the survey of Western Palestine under the auspices of the Palestine Exploration Fund. One who saw him shortly before he sailed describes him as one of the most soldierly-looking men he ever saw—tall and straight and very spare. The Survey had been in progress since 1871, Lieut. Kitchener succeeding Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake, who had died suddenly. The work went on steadily till the following July, when the little camp of English explorers was suddenly attacked by fanatics at Safed. Kitchener saved Lieut. Conder's life by intercepting a blow—as he saved him on another occasion from being drowned at Ascalon. Severe steps were taken on the energetic representations of the two officers, both of whom were hurt in the affray, and the ringleaders were imprisoned and a fine of £150 exacted from the town that had thus rudely violated every tradition of Eastern hospitality and honour. The Survey was completed in 1877, Lieut. Conder remaining in England to supervise the work then going through press, while Lieut. Kitchener returned to Palestine and finished the survey of Galilee. The results of nearly six years of arduous and devoted work were published by the Palestine Exploration Fund in the seven large volumes of "The Memoir of the Western Survey of Palestine," which, with one other book (also published by that society) include the only publications on which Lord Kitchener's name appears as an author. There are, of course, various reports by him, all admirably lucid and direct, in the "Quarterly Statements" of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and these, with some papers published in "Blackwood," are, I believe, the only literary remains of one who was a real Bible student. In 1882 Lord Kitchener surveyed Cyprus for the British Government, and in 1883 he joined Professor Hull in a Survey of Wady Arabah, which stretches for some 112 miles from the south end of the Dead Sea to the head of the Gulf of Akabah. The party passed through the Sinai Peninsula, and when the Survey of Akabah was completed Lord Kitchener returned to Egypt across the desert. The minute and accurate work accomplished in these great surveys was of incalculable value, and may be claimed as the basis of all later knowledge and research. It is not too much to say that Lord Kitchener's interest in, and grasp of, Near Eastern questions date from that November day in 1874 when, as a young lieutenant of Engineers, he landed in Palestine. He studied not only the land but the people; it may be that to his soldierly ideas of obedience and duty and discipline, the simplicity of the Moslem doctrine of resignation, and the Eastern patriarchal system generally, were very sympathetic. In later life, as he passed from one trust to another of growing importance, he never once struck a false note in his dealings with Easterns. He never forgot Palestine either. Only a very few years ago, in a letter written from Cairo to the Bishop at Jerusalem,* he said how much he "wished he could renew his acquaintance with the Holy Land," and that perhaps the opportunity would come some day. Of course, as long as he was British Agent in Egypt it was impossible, on account of the political construction that would have been put upon his visit. It is extraordinary how deep an impression those early years of work have left in Palestine; young as he was then, the people knew him to be great, and never forgot him; and his appointment to Egypt, so long afterwards, aroused in the Holy Land those bright hopes of British rule for Palestine that have been so often and so sadly disappointed. As one Moslem said, "Lord Kitchener knows this country: now he is in Egypt he has only to say, 'I am going to have Jerusalem, too,' and he can take it."

"But what would your Sultan say?"

"*He* not care!" was the contemptuous answer, accompanied by that indescribable little movement of the fingers that means "baksheesh." I quote again from Lord Kitchener's own report ("Quarterly Statement," April, 1878), written at Jerusalem. He had inadvertently entered a mosque at Amwâs with his shoes on, and had measured it. "On coming out I found a throng of people, who said it was a most sacred place, being the tomb of Sheik Obeid. I apologised for going in with my shoes on. The people were extremely civil and obliging, and though I had a Turkish soldier with me they expressed their longing that England would take the country and give them the benefits of a just government. Nothing I could say would induce them to believe that England had no intention of doing anything of the sort." The same memory of his greatness lingers in Cyprus, too. The house in which he stayed in Nicosia was carefully pointed out to me in 1910, with the information that the owner, a Greek, was so much impressed by the personality of the visitor that he always declared he would

* Bishop Blyth.

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be a great man some day, and faithfully kept Lord Kitchener's room as far as possible as it was when he had used it.

Our great dead has not been given back to us, to bury out of our sight. We are denied the sad privilege of offering that last tribute of reverence and mourning. But his imperishable memory is a heritage for all ages to the Empire he served and helped to weld in one; and, for the rest, his body, lying under the sea, is no less in England's keeping—

"Nothing is here for tears, nothing to wail
Or knock the breast; no weakness, no contempt,
Dispraise, or blame; nothing but well and fair,
And what may quiet us in a death so noble."

(*Samson Agonistes.*)

[The quotation from the "Quarterly Statements" of the Palestine Exploration Fund are by kind permission of the Society.]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

FRIENDS OF ARMENIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—A very interesting letter, dated Van, Turkey in Asia, April 21, has just been received by us from Mr. Gracey, lately one of our colleagues in Turkey, and now attached, with Dr. Macallum, late of Marash, to the American Committee assisting in the repatriation of the Armenian refugees to the conquered districts of Turkey. He tells us that the kind-hearted Russian Governor in Van is assisting him and his colleagues to the best of his ability. The General-in-Command, however, desires them—for military reasons—to buy the necessary oxen, seed, grain, etc., in Persia, and Dr. Wilson, chairman of the Committee, and a colleague are now in Khoi on this errand. About 100 men are employed on relief work in Van, of which the need is very imperative, and the cleaning of the city will give employment to yet a large number, thus solving a part of the great problem by making a portion at least of the people self-supporting. With reference to the condition of the city, I cannot do better than quote Mr. Gracey's own words: "I plan to leave here for the villages to-morrow to distribute the first 120 oxen and some barley seed. Dr. Macallum will remain here to look after the supplies, while I go the round of the villages on horseback. We are hoping to begin some time next week to clean up this city for its thirty thousand inhabitants. Over 800 houses and 500 small shops have been burned down or else the woodwork gutted out. The place is in an extremely filthy condition, and may become a hotbed of disease to our emaciated people.

"This, and trying to rehouse our people in some small way, will require tremendous effort and capital. You, I know, dear friends, will come to our help in this way in the present as you have always done in the past. We plan to start chicken farms and teach the people how to look after them—also pigs. And with starting up the workmen, all grades of people will be helped."

I like the way Mr. Gracey speaks of "our people." He, in common with all who have assisted them, has a protective, parental regard for them, and longs for their well-being. And so it will be seen that yet another enemy to the peace of these poor Armenians is threatened, but this time—God be thanked—it can be overcome by determined will and organisation, and these our two friends possess in abundance. A third factor is also imperative—money, whereby the sordid, unhygienic present conditions may be turned into healthy and cleanly ones.

There is complete security from Turks and Kurds in these districts, and we may hope that in the not far distant future, with the help that sympathy and unselfishness and devotion will bring, this much-tried people may see their homes restored and smiling fields and gardens giving of their abundance, to atone, in some small degree, for the sorrows and bereavement and sufferings of the past. There could be no better way of using money, and the smallest amount will find its goal and contribute to the general good. We plead, therefore, once again with the generous public which has always responded to our calls so graciously to come to our help in this good work. Remittances in aid of our fund should be addressed to E. Wright Brooks, Esq., Hon. Treasurer, Friends of Armenia, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W. Cheques and postal orders should be crossed "London County and Westminster Bank."—I am, etc.,

(Mrs.) MARY HICKSON,
Hon. Sec., "Friends of Armenia."

47, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., June 9, 1916.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

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PRIMITIVE SURGERY.

A remarkable story of surgery, primitive in method but successful in result, was told by Lady Ramsay at the meeting for the repatriation of the Armenian people that we briefly reported in our last issue. Lady Ramsay said a Greek lady living not far from Konia suffered from a morbid growth on the back of her neck. She could not hold her head up, became ill, and was in great distress. Some friends advised her to go to Smyrna, where there were excellent European hospitals with first-class surgeons. This would be expensive, but she was a woman of means, and undertook the journey. Arrived in Smyrna, she went to the English, Greek, and other surgeons; but they all declined to perform the operation, as the risk to life would be too great. She was then advised to go to Constantinople, and did so, but with the same result. Then the friend who accompanied her on her journeys said: "Don't give up in despair. I know an Armenian woman who would do the thing for you." Accordingly they went to this Armenian woman. She was not a doctor; she had no profession of any kind, but she examined the growth, and offered to remove it—and at once. Then she went out to the rubbish heap and picked up a fragment of glass. Wiping this on her skirt, she returned, set to work and cut the polypus out of the Greek's lady's neck. She found that the roots were creeping up into the head and down towards the spine, that there were in fact two growths, and that the condition of affairs was worse than she had supposed. But she was successful in the operation, and in a few days the patient returned to her home near Konia, where Lady Ramsay saw her two or three years afterwards in perfect health.

COMFORTS FOR MESOPOTAMIA FORCE.

With reference to the announcement that the Director-General of Voluntary Organizations has taken over the supply of comforts for the British troops in Mesopotamia, it is notified by the War Office that—

(1) All letters and parcels under 11 lbs. in weight should be sent by post and addressed with the usual details as to rank, regiment, etc., to

Indian Expeditionary Force "D,"
Care of India Office, London, S.W.

(2) Parcels exceeding 11 lbs. but not exceeding 56 lbs. in weight may be forwarded, carriage paid, to Devonport, addressed:

Name, rank, and regiment of addressee,
Indian Expeditionary Force "D,"
Care of Military Forwarding Officer,
Devonport.

(3) Comforts for general distribution to British troops in Mesopotamia should be forwarded under directions which can be obtained on application to the Director-General of Voluntary Organizations, Scotland House, New Scotland Yard, London, S.W.

COMFORTS FOR INDIAN TROOPS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

(4) Letters and parcels under 11 lb. in weight should be forwarded as indicated in Section 1.

(5) Parcels exceeding 11 lbs. but not exceeding 80 lbs. in weight, and subject to the following limits of size:—For cases: length 28 ins., width 16 ins., depth 14 ins.; for bales: total content, 6½ cubic ft.; for Indian units may be forwarded, carriage paid, addressed:

Name, rank, and regiment of addressee,
Indian Expeditionary Force "D,"
care of the Superintendent,
India Store Depôt,
Belvedere Road, Lambeth, S.E.

(6) Consignments, other than gifts of comforts or clothing (*e.g.*, those of a commercial character), should be sent, carriage paid, to:—

care of the Embarkation Officer,
Bombay.

(7) Consignments, except those containing goods of a dutiable nature, intended for the general use of the Indian troops of the Indian Expeditionary Forces, whether of clothing or of comforts, such as sweets, condensed milk, etc., should show on the label the name and address of the sender, and should be sent to:

care of Indian Soldiers' Fund,
11, Somerset Street, W.

The Indian Soldiers' Fund has a room at the India Store Depôt in which gifts of dutiable goods can be received in bond and from which such gifts can be issued to the front or to approved hospital institutions, free of duty.

(8) It must be clearly understood that parcels under categories 2, 5, and 7 can only be forwarded when vessels are available, and that no responsibility can be accepted by either the War Office, the India Office, or the Indian Soldiers' Fund for delays or irregularity of despatch.

The governing bodies of Cheshunt and Westminster Colleges, Cambridge, have temporarily placed their buildings at the disposal of the Serbian Relief Fund Committee for the reception of a further contingent of Serbian boys chosen by the Serbian Government to pursue their studies in Great Britain in consequence of the enemy occupation of Serbia. About 150 of these young Serbians have already arrived.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Alexandretta—and Cyprus.

"The Gulf of Alexandretta" is the title of an important article which "W. J. C." contributes to the June *Blackwood*. The writer has much to say regarding the historical associations of the region, and he quotes some delightfully quaint bits from the records of early travellers; but one feels that what he is most interested in—and very rightly so at the present time—is the future of the Gulf. Who, after this war, will own it and develop it? He does not answer the question. But he is very glad to remember that Great Britain still holds Cyprus; and anyone who reads his article with care is unlikely to support any sentimental agitation for the cession of that island to Greece—or any other nation. Here is his first reference to the island:—

Maybe you have traversed the country all round the Gulf; followed the Baghdad railway for many hundred miles; watched its progress; have been the guest of those engaged in building it; and in one way and another realised the inward purpose of it all. If so, you look from Beilan Pass with the greater interest. For here, before you, in one wide comprehensive view to be grasped by eye and mind, and appealing to the imagination, is the heart of the whole scheme. And knowing this you turn instinctively towards the south-west, and scan the horizon of the Mediterranean closely, hoping to see the dim island of Cyprus which covers the entrance to the Gulf, and was occupied by your country in a flash of unconscious prescience many years ago. Cyprus cannot be seen from this point, because a great brown and green spur of Ahmar Dagh intervenes; but you know it is there, and are glad. Of some such nature as this must have been the thoughts of any English traveller who looked from the seaward slope of Amanus a year or so before the war.

Later, having shown the ease with which a good snug harbour could be constructed in the Gulf, and how the Germans had been at work on the scheme for more than a year before the war broke out, and how they had linked up the town with their great so-called Baghdad Railway, he proceeds:—

Now, on the face of things, all this development of Alexandretta seems very natural and admirable, and highly satisfactory for the Ottoman Empire. It is all these things and much more. It is also an intelligent preparation for the fulfilment of the great scheme of a Germanised Turkey-in-Asia. To understand the enormous importance of Alexandretta, or to speak more accurately, of the Gulf, you must look ten or twenty years ahead and consider Turkey-in-Asia as a whole. Assume it to be fairly well supplied with railways; various ports to have been made, and joined by railway lines with the districts which they naturally serve. So doing you find that about two-thirds of Asia Minor proper is served by ten ports—Trebizond, Samsoun, Constantinople, Ismid, Mudania, Chanak, Aivali, Smyrna, Adalia, and perhaps Selefke. Mersina may be left out of this count. . . But for the great territory of south-eastern Anatolia, Northern Syria, and Mesopotamia to the Persian Gulf, there are, owing to the configuration of land and water, only two conceivable outlets. One of these is on the Persian Gulf, the other is on the Gulf of Alexandretta.

Making every allowance for developments in Mesopotamia, "there remains about 100,000 square miles of country, much of it the richest in the Turkish Empire, for which a port on the Gulf of Alexandretta will be the outlet, and have no rival." Again—

You see something of the importance of the Alexandretta Gulf port on the map; but you do not see nearly all of it so. You need to be familiar with the country in order to understand the future of this north-eastern end of the Mediterranean. You need to have seen the agricultural possibilities of the Cilician Plain; of the Central parts of Anatolia; to have travelled in Northern Syria and seen wheat going to the horizon like prairie grass. You also need to realise what mineral riches are awaiting scientific mining and means of conveyance. There are copper deposits near Kharput and Diarbekr equal to any in the world. In the mountains of Albistan peasants bring lumps of lead ore and lumps of magnetic iron and tell you what masses these samples have come from. From a mineralogist's point of view, it is an almost unknown country.

The writer considers that "if at the present time the Gulf of Alexandretta is the most vital spot in the Turkish Empire outside the capital, not less but more so will it be a vital point in any conceivable new order of things which shall follow the war." Its importance will increase with every year, and in view of the developments likely to take place between the Ægean and the Persian Gulf it is difficult to overestimate its future.

Call Alexandretta of the future one of the greatest, perhaps the greatest, seaport on the Mediterranean, and you still will not have estimated its full possibilities. You may in any case be glad that Cyprus continues a British possession.

Armenians and the Army.

The *Manchester Guardian* (June 8) in a leading article on the forthcoming instructions of the Army Council whereby "friendly aliens" are to be allowed to enlist in the British Army, concludes with the following reference to the position of Armenians:—

There is no mention in the Army Council's new arrangements of the case of a rather different class of "friendly" aliens—the Armenians in this country. Technically, being Turkish subjects, they are enemy aliens. But they have the very keenest interest in the campaign against Turkey and the triumph of the Allied cause. Many of them would certainly rejoice to show that interest in the most obvious and practical way, and we trust that the new regulations will also make possible some arrangement whereby they may in suitable cases be allowed to enter the British Army.

The Allies and Peace.

In a leading article dealing with the restrictive measures forced upon the Allies by the uncertain attitude of the Greek Government, the *Times* (June 9) points out that in the words of the Foreign Office *communiqué*, it is "the attitude of the Greek Government in connection with the situation arising out of the surrender of Greek territory to Bulgarian troops" which has compelled the Allies to adopt precautions. The article continues:—

They are willing, as they have been willing all along, to maintain friendly relations with Greece. They are the guarantors of her independence. They wish now, as Lord Aberdeen wrote in 1843, "to see her independent and under the auspices of a sound and well-regulated constitutional system of government." But they cannot shut their eyes to the apparent trend of the policy which the present Ministry and General Dusmanis, the Chief of the Staff, have been pursuing. It is not a constitutional policy, in the judgment of the Greek statesman who framed the present Greek Constitution, and it is plainly fraught with possibilities of very serious import to the Allies. . . . King Constantine may be perfectly sincere in his professions of amity for us. But King Ferdinand of Bulgaria made professions too. We trusted them too long, and we know the result. We cannot run the risk of having King Constantine suddenly overborne at some critical moment by his pro-German *entourage*. We do not demand that Greece shall be with us. But we do demand, and we have every right to demand, that she shall not maintain an attitude which would enable her at any moment to side with our enemies.

The *Daily Telegraph* (June 10) devotes a long leading article to the subject, and details the many reasons by right of which the Allies may expect that Greece's neutrality should be in fact as in words, benevolent towards the countries to which she owes so much. It proceeds:—

We are quite aware, of course, that Greece finds herself in a very difficult position, and we know the reasons why King Constantine pleads the necessity of remaining neutral. But the neutrality must not be interpreted so as to cover a wanton outrage like the recent Bulgarian invasion. . . . . Greece may be able to put up with this insult from her hereditary foe at Sofia, but there is no reason why Great Britain and France should allow their lines to be imperilled by any such flank movement. In short, the time has come when Greece must definitely declare her sympathies. We do not wish to force her neutrality, but at the very least it must be a real neutrality, and not a veiled surrender to the Teutonic enemy. . . General Sarrail, no doubt, has received full instructions as to the steps which must now be taken to protect his forces and define our relations with M. Skouloudis and his Administration.

The *Scotsman* (June 9) says that "treachery is, with good reason, suspected, and the culprits pointed to are high military and civil authorities of Greece, who are charged with the duty of defending the honour and the interests of the kingdom." Continuing, the article points to the warning menace of the Russian armies to those who put their faith in Germanic invincibility:—

The Greek Government have shown that, impervious to milder arguments, they are prone to respond to that of force. The word had only to be spoken to open the gates of Fort Ruppel to the Bulgars. King Constantine and his Councillors have paid homage to their conception of military force—to their belief in the ultimate triumph of the Germanic Powers—if not in what they have openly said, in what they have secretly worked for. The reminder that the Entente Powers have the means of bringing both naval and military force to bear at still closer range, while it may have a disturbing effect on the Royal Fête day celebrations to-morrow, should have a salutary influence on Greek policy.

While sea power is being pressed visibly on the attention of those who have been able hitherto to dictate the attitude of Greece, the Athens politicians and militarists must have had their faith in German invincibility shaken also by events that are happening on land. They have not travelled so far away from Hellenic traditions as to forget that Russia is among the world-forces that count heavily and directly in Balkan affairs.

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The Salonika Forces.

In regard to the strained relations existing between Greece and the Allies, the *Observer* (June 11) considers that the demobilization of the greater part of the Greek army will have to be "watched and its completion verified before any sufficiently satisfactory change in the state of affairs can be said to have occurred." The *Observer* continues:—

For the rest the time is at hand when the very great force now assembled under General Sarrail at Salonika will have to justify its existence in one way or another. Unanswerable reasons have compelled a pause pending full concentration by the addition of the reconstituted Serb forces. This war has reached a point where no large part of the Allies' armies can remain without full influence on the struggle in proportion to its numbers and equipment. Every atom of available weight must be made to tell in the scales. This is elementary doctrine, and we are bound to conclude that the obvious inferences will be drawn.

In a leading article the *Liverpool Courier* also concludes by urging a Balkan offensive from Salonika.

The Russian Advance.

The great Russian offensive which, developing with almost incredible speed, is now raging close to the Roumanian frontier is the subject of a leading article in the *Morning Post* (June 13), from which we take the following quotation:—

As our military correspondent points out, our Russian Allies have chosen exactly the right moment for their blow, which may well mark the turning point of the war. For one of the significant facts in this great advance is the admittedly overpowering efficacy of the Russian artillery—which shows that our Allies are amply re-equipped with the *matériel* of war; and another fact is that the armies which have so irresistibly broken through the long-prepared Austrian positions are new formations—proving that the man-power of Russia is not only inexhaustible in quantity but undiminished in quality. It is much too early yet to see the effects on the Western and Southern fronts of this new factor in the balance of forces, but those effects can hardly fail to be profound, and Russia, who has rendered already such incalculable service to her Allies, has rendered none more timely or splendid. She is indeed wonderful.

The *Daily Telegraph* says that—

The victory at Volhynia will have consequences of great magnitude all down the line between the Pripet and the Roumanian boundary. . . . Apparently the enemy are surprised to find the Russians so well supplied with artillery, for all accounts lay stress on the exceptionally severe nature of the bombardments which preceded the infantry attacks. They seem to have thought it impossible for Russia in so short a time to make up the deficiencies which cost her so dear last year, and they may already be regretting the assumption on which they withdrew so many divisions from the Eastern front.

The Military Correspondent of the *Times* (June 9), after dealing with the far-reaching consequences which may possibly attend the Russian onslaught, points out that there are now at Salonika very considerable Allied forces, and concludes:—

The expedition to Salonika was a political and not a military operation. It has not as yet secured political results commensurate with the amount of military energy expended upon it, but now that we are so strong in the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Russians are once more on the move, the time has fully come for drastic measures which will compel our enemies and false friends in this region to mend their manners. History will be very severe upon the Allies if the absence from the decisive theatre of this large army at Salonika converts what might have been a *bonne bataille* in the West into what Napoleon described as a *bataille ordinaire*.

Greece's One Hope.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* (June 9) publishes an article under the head of "Unhappy Greece," written in Athens by M. Ch. Protopappas in the last week of May. The writer shows how opportunity was deliberately cast aside by the Greek Monarch, and continues:—

Greece to-day is the Greece of twenty years ago; penniless, without credit, and distrusted by all other nations. This is the direct result of German propaganda upon Court circles and upon a clique of superior officers who, having pursued their military studies in Germany, are influenced by their old German comrades and are persuaded that the Central Powers will win the war.

On the other hand, the people are intensely pro-Entente in their sentiments, and dislike the Germans as heartily as any other nation does. Civilians of all classes are Venizelists to the core, and many soldiers have recently been arrested for shouting "Long live Venizelos" when the ex-Premier appeared at any public function. In spite of the King's great popularity, on a recent occasion when they both appeared in the same procession, the shouts for Venizelos were louder and more prolonged than those for the King, and as the latter passed by many voices from the back of the crowd lining the route cried: "With Venizelos to Constantinople."

The Greek people, with all its good will towards the Entente and its desire to see its troops marching victoriously side by side with the Allies, is actually suffering greatly by the obstinacy of the King.

The writer defines the Government as being composed of aged members who have developed a spirit of "mulish obstinacy" and younger members who are "viciously cantankerous." He concludes:—

The country under its present rulers is drifting rapidly towards ruin when it might have been marching gloriously to victory.

Only one thing can save Greece, as she was saved before in 1909, and that is the return to power of the one man capable of dragging her out of the pit—Eleftherios Venizelos—the only Greek in whom the Allied Powers place full confidence. And there are signs of a coming storm; of a reaction of the people in favour of their idol. The Liberal party, that is the Venizelist party, is beginning a vigorous campaign both by the holding of public meetings and through the medium of the Press, against the present order of things. The Government party hires bravoes to break up the meetings, and the police and gendarmerie mishandle innocent spectators for no cause except that they attend the meetings; but public sentiment is manifesting itself in no uncertain manner for all that.

There can be little doubt that within a short time Venizelos must be recalled to power, and it then remains to be seen whether he will be able to restore Greece to her former status amongst the claimants in the distribution of Turkey's former possessions when the war is over.

Articles to Note.

"Amid the Isles of Greece," by a "Bristol Officer," in the *Western Daily Press* (June 9).

"Typhus Fever in Serbia," lecture delivered by R. O. Moon, M.D., etc., in the *Lancet* (June 10).

"Tirnova," in the *Christian Service Monitor*, Boston, Mass. (May 20).

"On the Turco-Egyptian Front," by "Nimrod," in *Chambers's Journal* (June).

TURKS PERSECUTE INDIAN MOSLEMS.

The following story of an Indian Moslem pilgrim, Zakir Husain, who recently escaped from Kerbellah, whither he went on pilgrimage with his mother and sister in the summer of 1914, is published by the Bombay Government:—

"Zakir Husain states that after the outbreak of war all routes homewards were blocked, and the many Indian pilgrims at Kerbellah were subjected to the utmost discomfort and cruelty. The Turkish authorities issued orders that the goods and women of Indians were the legal property of those who plundered them. Their houses were searched, their goods taken, and dozens of Indians were arrested and deported to the Aleppo side, while their families and children were left in Kerbellah.

"Throughout these fourteen months," he continued, "we never got meals more than once a day. We could not get any work, and consequently we had to beg from door to door in order to get a few scraps of bread to eat, and the state of the women and children was worse even than that of the men. For a man to be an Indian was considered a sufficient reason by Turks to torture and imprison him. We protested that we were Moslems, but they never paid heed. They themselves are not Moslems, and do not act according to the precepts of Islam. According to what I heard, the Indians in Nejef, Kazimain, and Baghdad have also been treated in the same cruel way as we were. Hundreds have been deported and their houses pillaged."

SLAVONIC STUDIES.

The last meeting for the present session of the newly-formed School of Slavonic Studies at King's College, London, was held on Wednesday, when a lecture on Panslavism was given by Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson, Lecturer in East European History at the College. Mr. J. St. Loe Strachey presided over a good attendance. During the course of his lecture, which sketched a good deal of the history of the Slav races, Dr. Seton-Watson said that the ties which bind the various branches of the Slav race together are far closer, far more subtle, and far more irresistible than those between the branches of the Teutonic and Latin races. Unless the war brought concord between Russia and Poland there would be no solution of the Panslav problem. What was at stake in the war was the emancipation of the Slav world. Russia was on the side of the future just as surely as Germany, with all her energy and organisation, was on the side of the past. The School of Slavonic Studies meant to be in the vanguard of the Entente with Russia. Britain meant to be the friend of Russia and of the whole of the Slavonic world, and we must help the Slav to victory as an essential factor in the new Europe. Dr. R. M. Burrows, Principal of the College, announced that the school would be continued next session.

The Cairo correspondent of the Allahabad *Pioneer* reports that four railway engines intended for use on the Baghdad railway were secured on one of the prizes made in the Mediterranean, and that they are now doing service in hauling trains full of British troops and munitions on the Egyptian railways.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,

London, E.C.

In a message from Bucharest, dated June 3, and published last Friday in the *Times*, the latter's correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula stated that "the need of cereals is felt locally owing to the great amount sent to Germany, and the Prefect of Vlashca has found it necessary to sequester the wheat purchased by the British bureau in order to meet the requirements of the population of the department." Yesterday, M. Mishu, the Roumanian Minister in London, in the course of a letter to the editor of the *Times*, denied the accuracy of the statement, and said: "At the request of my Government I am writing to say that this news is without any foundation, and to give it a formal *démenti*. The Roumanian Government also desires me to add that the quantity of wheat held in reserve is considerably in excess of the internal consumption."

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I am indeed pleased to see that the Roumanian Government has seen fit to issue the above denial, the more so considering that the impression has certainly prevailed in British non-official circles in Roumania that all was not well with our grain deal. As a matter of fact, prior to the publication yesterday of M. Mishu's letter, I had written some "Notes," based on the information contained in the *Times*' statement and on a letter which I had received from Braila. I urged the Roumanian Government, in her own as well as the Allies' interests, to make a reassuring statement. The news which had reached me, and to which I referred more particularly, was to the effect that, in view of the shortage of wheat in the country, the Roumanian Government had not been able to fulfil her part of the bargain whereby she sold us firm 80,000 wagons of wheat, and had insisted that the balance still owing should be made good out of the new crop as yet unharvested. Such a procedure, I pointed out, would destroy the very object of our purchase of the wheat, and not for a moment could it be countenanced by the British Bureau in Bucharest.

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That object, it will be remembered, was to acquire all stocks of wheat in Roumania available for export so as to prevent it going to the enemy; therefore, any concession made by our Bureau whereby we agreed to wait for delivery of the wheat, in whole or in part, until the new crop should be harvested, would of a necessity defeat that object, and was, consequently, unthinkable. The only alternative supposition was that the Roumanian Government had broken faith with us as regards her part of the bargain, and had left us no choice but to accede to the modified terms imposed on us in the eleventh hour.

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But, knowing Roumania and the Roumanians, and acquainted as I am with their real interests in this gigantic struggle now raging across the face of Europe, I could not conceive of any such high-handed action. Therefore, I refused to believe these continual rumours of the fiasco of our wheat deal, most likely spread about in Roumania by Boche agency, and urged that in our mutual interests some statement should be issued to the effect that the deal is being satisfactorily carried out, and that the Roumanian Government is neither requisitioning the wheat sold to us, nor withholding part of it until the standing crop has been harvested.

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Further particulars concerning Roumania's exports of flour, etc., will be found in our Bucharest Correspondent's letter published on page 162. The resolutions adopted by the Commission of Exports are practical, and I hope that they will be carried *au pied de la lettre*. Regarding the new crop, private news which reaches me is unfortunately not favourable, heavy rains having damaged the growing corn in many districts. This is not likly to affect home supplies for next winter, but it will reduce Roumania's exports to other countries.

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The German *Illustrierte Zeitung*, the notorious illustrated paper that in pre-war days was always noted for selling its soul to the highest bidder, has, it seems, produced a supplement of 100 pages, on art paper, devoted to Turkey—or rather, to German interests in Turkey, which is not quite the same thing. Eighty pages of gaudy advertisements accompany thirty pages of text, and prominent contributors to the former are the Deutsche Bank, Deutsche Orient Bank, and Hamburg and Bremen shipping companies. The alleged object of the publication, which has been brought out under the auspices of the "German-Turkish (with an emphasis on German) Union," is to strengthen the commercial ties between Germany and Turkey; but, judging by the wonderful dishes to be presented to the Turks, the latter are to be buyers rather than sellers. The advertisements are bi-lingual, in Turkish and German, and have been designed with the usual Teuton cleverness in showy bad taste. But, in spite of all this propaganda braggadacio, I doubt very much whether this eminently German production will circulate to any appreciable extent in Turkey.

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Yesterday the Bank of Roumania changed its place of abode—in other words, the London offices were transferred from their old quarters in Great Winchester Street to No. 27, Throgmorton Street, E.C. The new offices, as compared with the old, are palatial, quite near the Stock Exchange, and in the busiest part of the busiest City in the world. The change in address is a great step onward, and I predict that in future no Roumanian financial transactions in London, such as loans, etc., will go through other banking establishments. The Bank of Roumania, sound in its policy and as keenly favourable to the welfare of Roumania as it is to our growing interests in that country, deserves to be recognised as the financial intermediary between the two people, and I have no doubt that under the able management of Mr. Locke in London the bank will continue to prosper.

I have been unable to obtain any reliable information from Constantinople for some time past. Nevertheless, I am not inclined to believe all the statements which appear to the effect that the city is being starved. Most of those rumours, doubtless, are of Boche origin, and not worth much. However, a correspondent from Athens gives me some news regarding freights in Turkish waters which may be of interest to my readers. He says:—"In spite of present high freights I think the following constitutes a record, considering the shortness of the voyage. About two or three months ago (my correspondent wrote on May 31) one of the few remaining Ottoman steamers sailing from Constantinople loaded a cargo of about 1,200/1,300 tons at Panderma for the capital, consisting of flour, olives, oil, cheese, beans, etc. The rate of freight paid was one and a-half piastres per oke, equal to £12 a ton; the steamer grossed £15,000 pounds, and the journey occupied about six hours, the distance being fifty miles."

***

News from Bulgaria to hand viâ Bucharest continues to show the enemy's activities in the temporarily occupied districts of Serbia. I previously mentioned that the Central Government had asked for reports from the Macedonian district as regards mineral deposits. Some of these have now come in. The Prefect of Komanovo reports that in his district there exist many rich deposits of silver and lead. A similar report comes from Cratovo, where are also to be found mineral water sources comparable to those of Giesshübler and Vichy. In Nish the Bulgarian authorities are trying to farm out the mineral water sources of the place, but no one can be found foolish enough to acquire a concession the duration of which is extremely problematical. Furthermore, I learn that the Bulgarian Government has decided to put a tax on herds in Serbia, an imposition that has not been heard of in the country for many years. This, says my correspondent, will especially affect the Roumanian Vlachs, the only people who take to goat and sheep breeding on a large scale. From all of which it would appear that the Bulgarian Government is endeavouring to make as much money, or hard cash, out of its temporary holding as is humanly possible, regardless of the day of reckoning.

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In connection with the article reproduced elsewhere on Macedonian railways and roads, our Bucharest Correspondent gives the following particulars concerning new constructions in Serbia. It appears that the Bulgars have constructed a strategic railway from Monastir to Prilep, and are concluding one from Uskub to Doiran, passing through Strumnitza. The military roads of Petrich-Meleniko and Nevrokop are nearly completed.

COMMENTATOR.

WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS
Readers are Requested
kindly to mention
"The Near East."

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Drugs from Egypt and the Sudan.

The present scarcity and high price of the alkaloid atropine, due to the cessation of supplies from the Continent owing to the war, have caused considerable interest to be taken in drugs capable of serving as a source of this alkaloid. Atropine does not, as a rule, occur in plants as such, but can be readily prepared from its isomeride, hyoscyamine, the best source of which is Egyptian henbane, *Hyoscyamus muticus*, Linn., a plant which grows wild in Egypt and the Sudan and eastwards to India. Examination of specimens of the Egyptian plant at the Imperial Institute have shown that the leaves may contain as much as 1.2 per cent. of hyoscyamine. Amongst other possible sources of hyoscyamine reference may be made to the various species of *Datura*, of which ordinary Stramonium or thorn apple *D. Stramonium*, is perhaps the best known. The latter contains less alkaloid than *Hyoscyamus muticus*, and probably could not compete with the latter for the manufacture of alkaloid so long as *H. muticus* was obtainable in adequate quantity.

Specimens of *H. muticus* from the Sudan and of *Datura Stramonium* from Egypt and the Sudan have been examined recently at the Imperial Institute, and the results are given in the current issue of the *Bulletin* (Vol. XIV., No. 1).

Hyoscyamus Muticus from the Sudan.

The sample of *H. muticus* which is the subject of this report was forwarded for examination to the Imperial Institute in May, 1915. It consisted of the mixed leaves and stems in a dry and broken condition.

The examination of a representative portion of the whole sample showed that the material as received contained 0.67 per cent. of total alkaloid, equivalent to a yield of 0.77 per cent. of total alkaloid from the dry material. The purified alkaloid was obtained almost entirely in the crystalline condition characteristic of hyoscyamine, and further examination confirmed its identity with that alkaloid.

These results indicate that this sample of *H. muticus* from the Sudan contained as large a percentage of total alkaloid as samples of the stem and leaves of this plant received at the Imperial Institute from Egypt.

If abundant supplies of *H. muticus* can be obtained in the Sudan, of similar quality to this sample, there is no doubt that consignments could be disposed of to alkaloid manufacturers in the United Kingdom. The value of consignments of the plant will vary from time to time in accordance with the demand for manufacturing purposes, but it is understood that a price of £15 per ton, f.o.b. Egyptian port, was paid for supplies of the dried plant in 1915.

Datura Stramonium from Egypt.

A sample of *D. Stramonium* was received at the Imperial Institute from Egypt in October, 1914. It consisted principally of dry, broken stems with attached fruits containing a quantity of seed. A small proportion of leaves was present, but owing to the dryness of the material these had become reduced to powder.

A representative portion of the entire sample was selected for chemical examination and furnished the following results:—

	Per cent.
Moisture (on drying at 100° C.)	9.4
Total alkaloid:	
(1) On material as received	0.125
(2) On dry material	0.138

The total alkaloid was easily obtained in a crystalline condition, and subsequent examination showed that it consisted principally, if not entirely, of hyoscyamine.

The percentage of alkaloid present in this sample is much less than in a specimen of *D. Stramonium* from Egypt examined at the Imperial Institute in 1900, which was found to contain 0.35 per cent. of total alkaloid in the seeds and 0.3 per cent. in the mixed stems, leaves, and fruit-cases, and is considerably below that recorded for Stramonium leaves, stems, and seeds from other countries.

A further sample of the dried leaves of *D. Stramonium* from Egypt was received at the Imperial Institute in July, 1915. It consisted of leaves measuring from about 6 by 3½ in. to about 9½ by 7 in. The colour varied from light green to brownish-green, but most of the leaves were of a sage-green colour. The leaves were in good condition on the whole, but some of them had been attacked by insects and a few showed signs of mould.

The leaves were submitted to chemical examination, and were found to contain 0.28 per cent. of total alkaloid in the material as received, equivalent to a yield of 0.32 per cent. from the dry material. The alkaloid was identified as principally hyoscyamine, and this result agrees with that obtained for specimens of *D. Stramonium* leaves from other sources. The amount of alkaloid present in this Egyptian sample is, however, below the average.

The leaves were submitted to manufacturing druggists in London, who stated that they were in excellent condition, so much so that it was doubtful whether leaves of equal quality could be produced on a commercial scale.

Datura Stramonium from the Sudan.

Specimens of (1) the mixed stems, leaves, and capsules of *D. Stramonium* and (2) the seeds of the plant were received from the Sudan for examination at the Imperial Institute in May, 1915.

(1) Stems, leaves, and capsules. — The material was in a dry and broken condition, the leaves being largely reduced to powder. A few seeds were also present.

A representative portion of the whole sample was submitted to chemical examination, and was found to contain 0.12 per cent. of total alkaloid, equivalent to a yield of 0.13 per cent. from the dry material. On purification the alkaloid was nearly all obtained in a crystalline condition, and was identified as hyoscyamine. The predominant alkaloid is therefore hyoscyamine, and in this respect the results agree with those obtained for specimens of *D. Stramonium* plants from other sources. The amount of alkaloid present in this sample is, however, considerably below the average.

(2) Seeds.—This sample consisted of small, greyish-black, flattened, wrinkled seeds. The seeds, as received, were found to contain 0.09 per cent of total alkaloid, equivalent to a yield of 0.096 per cent. from the dry seeds. Examination showed that in this case also the predominant alkaloid was hyoscyamine, as is usually the case in *D. Stramonium* seeds. The percentage of alkaloid present is, however, very low in comparison with that furnished by seed from other countries.

The results show that the samples of *D. Stramonium* from the Sudan contained too low a percentage of alkaloid to be of any interest to alkaloid manufacturers. It is difficult to account for the low yield of alkaloid from the Sudan Stramonium products, and further samples have been asked for in order to ascertain whether this is characteristic of Sudan Stramonium. Special recommendations were made with reference to the collection and packing of the samples.

Commercial Value of D. Stramonium.

The leaves and seed of *D. Stramonium*, separated from the other parts of the plant, were formerly included in the British Pharmacopœia, and were used for making official pharmaceutical preparations. In the new Pharmacopœia, however, *D. Stramonium* has been replaced by *D. fastuosa* var. *alba* and *D. Metel*, so that Stramonium leaves and seeds will no longer be required in the United Kingdom for official purposes.

There is, however, a special market for the leaves of *D. Stramonium*, which are used for the manufacture of asthma remedies, and it would probably be possible to sell consignments of good quality for this purpose. The leaves should be carefully collected and dried, and should be packed so as to prevent their becoming broken during transit.

A firm of manufacturing druggists, to whom the samples of leaves from Egypt were submitted, stated that the price of Stramonium leaves in London was rather high at the date of valuation (December, 1915), French supplies selling at 67s. per cwt,. and Italian at 57s. 6d., against a price in normal times of 30s. to 40s. per cwt. The firm added that Stramonium leaves might possibly be used as a substitute for belladonna leaves if the present scarcity of the latter drug continues.

The value of the *D. Stramonium* plant as a source of hyoscyamine, or of atropine, which can be readily prepared from hyoscyamine, will of course depend on the percentage of total alkaloid present. In the first sample from Egypt, and in that from the Sudan dealt with above, the amount of alkaloid is very low, and the value of such material for alkaloid manufacture would consequently be small. Even the highest yield of alkaloid recorded for *D. Stramonium* is, however, very much less than the amount usually present in *Hyoscyamus muticus*, and it would probably be difficult to sell supplies of the former in competition with the latter except at an extremely low price. Enquiries among manufacturing druggists have confirmed this conclusion, and there seems no doubt that, so long as adequate supplies of *H. muticus* are available, they will prefer to use this plant rather than *Datura Stramonium* for the manufacture of atropine.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 26.

When the members of the Commission of Export met last week, M. Greceano proposed a series of measures with a view to preventing the fraudulent exportation of flour into Turkey. His proposals seem to have found favour. According to one of the resolutions voted by the Assembly, no matter relative to the question of exports may in future be dealt with by any authority other than the Commission of Exports.

Another resolution prohibits millers from exporting flour other than that produced from wheat purchased at export prices and of the quality set aside for exportation. In other words, they are only allowed to export flour produced from a stock of wheat which is no longer available, the last lot of wheat having been sold to the British Bureau. This last resolution is most satisfactory from the British point of view, for it tends to render all the more effective the agreement recently signed between M. Chrisoveloni and the millowners.

The temptation to export flour into Turkey must be great in some instances, for the wagon of flour commands a very high price in Constantinople, the figures mentioned varying between 25 and 45 thousand francs. It is said that the population of this city normally consumes 120 wagons of grain per day, and it is now, according to information volunteered by a German, receiving 40 wagons of grain (not wheat) a day from the amount which the Germans export from Roumania in accordance with the terms of the last contract.

It may here be stated that the Roumanian Conservative Party, in conjunction with the party represented by Mr. Take Jonesco, is agitating with a view to preventing the toleration of any measures tending to allow the Turkish Empire to receive supplies from Roumania, the state of famine which exists in Constantinople being eminently favourable to the interests of the Entente.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paints, mainly for the scavenging and watering service. Bulaq. Date, July 15.

The Physical Service Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of weighing machines, balances and weights required for Government during 1916-17. Date, July 15.

The Army Finance Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 4,000 tins of petroleum at the Citadel Stores, Cairo, and 300 tins to be handed over to the Stores Officer, Egyptian Army, at Alexandria; also 1,600 gallons of petroleum in bulk at Cairo. Date, June 15.

The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance. Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of agendas required for Government Departments. Date, July 12.

The superintendent of Stores, Ministry of Education, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 3,600 table serviettes required for the school year 1916-17. Date, July 5.

The Army Finance Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of brooms, baskets, basins for zirs, and hooping iron, to the Citadel Stores, Cairo. Date, June 15.

The Army Finance Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of copper cooking utensils to the Citadel Stores, Cairo. Date, June 20.

The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of globes, bees-wax, and mats necessary for the Hedjaz. Date. July 1.

GREEK EMERY PRODUCTION.

Emery, says the U.S. Consul-General at Athens, is found in beds in various islands of Greece, but the only mines are on the island of Naxos, in the Cyclades group. This island's emery product (Al_2O_3) is a monopoly of the Greek Government, the sale of all Naxos emery being under the supervision of the Ministry of National Economy.

The product of the Naxos mines for 1915, delivery of which will be made in the current year, is estimated at 15,000 metric tons, of 2,204.6 pounds each. Applications have been filed for about 70,000 tons to date. In the past distribution has been made on the basis of order of application. There appears to be now a disposition to alter this arrangement, but no positive steps looking to this end have as yet been taken.

The world production of emery stone has been estimated by a local expert at 100,000 tons per annum; of this quantity, Greece produces in normal times perhaps 15 per cent. The largest centre of production is Asiatic Turkey; a fair proportion of the Greek product is shipped into Turkey and finds its way to market together with the product of Asia Minor.

The beds at Naxos are worked by the inhabitants of the island, who stoutly maintain that the mines are their property, and in practice, at least, this contention is admitted by the Government; no outsider, therefore, even though a Greek subject, is allowed to work in the mines; the inhabitants, however, reserve the right to employ outside labour should they see fit to do so. The ore extracted by this outside labour is for the account of the villages.

After extraction the mineral is transported to the seashore at either Lyonna or Moutsouna where delivery is made to officials of the Ministry of National Economy, who pay the villagers.

Government warehouses for the storage of emery are to be found at Syra; the contract for transportation of the mineral to the warehouse is given to the lowest bidder, the contractor being required to keep in the warehouse a minimum of 3,000 metric tons. The Government at present pays 10 drachmas per metric ton for the transport from Naxos to Syra, including shipping expenses at Naxos, and weighing, landing, and storage at Syra.

The present prices for emery, established by royal decree, represent an advance of about 30 per cent. over the prices prevailing in 1913. Delivery is made to the buyer at Syra; all expenses for weighing, cleaning, lighterage, and shipping are for the buyer's account, and average 3 frs. per ton. The maximum quantity that the Government can deliver per day is 250 tons.

THE FUTURE OF TABRIZ.

The U.S. Commercial Attaché at Petrograd, who witnessed the opening of the Julfa-Tabriz railway last March, has written a description of the ceremony, which will be found reproduced on another page of this issue of THE NEAR EAST. He mentions that possibly the line will be extended to Teheran and thence south-ast to Ispahan and into Beluchistan, "where it could connect at Nushki with the railway system of British India." The railway now follows between Julfa and Tabriz the line of the Indo-European telegraph system of India. From the town of Sophian, about twenty-five miles from Tabriz, a branch of the railway has already been completed to Lake Urmia. Around this lake (says the writer alluded to) is one of the richest districts of Persia, producing large quantities of raisins and other dried fruit, as well as considerable wine and wood. The completion of the railway to Lake Urmia has made it possible to bring big motor-boats to take the place of the old primitive sailing boats.

The railway to Tabriz, with its branch line from Sophian to Lake Urmia, will doubtless cause an enormous development through all this part of Persia. Much new land will be opened up to agriculture, and various mines, chiefly copper and wolfram, will be worked, which have not been developed because of transportation difficulties. Although the railway is to be used at present only for military purposes, it is the intention later to devote it to the interests of trade between Russia and Persia. The railway will doubtless cause a diversion of traffic to a large extent from the caravan route from Trebizond in Turkey to the railway route viâ Tiflis and other cities of the Caucasus. Before the war the greater part of the trade of north-western Persia went through the port of Trebizond in Turkey and through Persian and Russian ports on the Caspian Sea. The Caspian Sea ports will still be used for business originating in and around Teheran, the capital of Persia, but it will be unnecessary hereafter for any of the business of Tabriz, the largest commercial city of Persia, to be conducted through Caspian Sea ports or through Trebizond on the Black Sea. The commercial importance of Tabriz, now the leading carpet market of the world, should be greatly increased. It is understood to have at present a population of about 200,000. Its bazaars cover many miles of arcaded streets, and its carpet bazaars are specially noted. Besides the enormous trade in carpets, there is an important trade in cotton, dried fruits, tragacanth, etc.

SUDAN CATTLE TRADE.

The total number of big cattle exported from the Sudan during last April did not exceed 863 head, though in April of the preceding year, 1,842 head were exported. The total exports, however, from January 1 this year to April 30, exceeded those of the corresponding period in 1915 by 345 head, the figures being for 1915 and 1916 respectively, 4,992 and 5,337.

The exports of sheep during last April also showed a decrease from those of the corresponding month in 1915. The exports in April, 1915, were 3,561, while those in April, 1916, were only 1,502. The total exports of sheep from January to April 30 of the present year were 16,440 head, or 7,779 less than those of 1915, which were 24,219.

CYPRUS AND THE WAR.

Freight Rates.

The following are extracts from the recent speech of the High Commissioner at the opening session of the Legislative Council:—

Shipping

"In the particular case of the subsidized mail service the enormous rise in the price of coal, the large premiums payable for marine insurance, the high wages of crews and other charges due to war conditions have so increased working expenses that it has been found necessary to sanction an increase in the maximum goods and passenger rates contained in the agreement with the Khedivial Mail Steamship Company. The Government has deemed it expedient to negotiate for an entirely new standard of low freight rates on flour and other imported necessaries in temporary substitution for the schedule of maximum rates in the agreement. These latter relate almost exclusively to exports from Cyprus which now command high prices in Egypt, and are able to bear transport charges remunerative to the steamship company, while the interests of the general population are under present conditions better secured by lowering the rates for the importation of flour, oil, and other essential commodities."

Cyprus Timber.

The Forest Revenue has derived benefit from the closing of the foreign timber ports. The twelve months ended February 29 produced a revenue of £15,600, exclusive of the value of the fuel cut for the troops in Egypt, as against £11,275 in 1913-14. The Cyprus timber is much appreciated, and is of better quality than that usually imported from Austria and Anatolia. The two existing saw mills have been unable to meet the local demand, and two new sawmill outfits have been ordered and are expected shortly. In compliance with the wishes of a full meeting of the Executive Council, a gift of wood fuel was made for his Majesty's troops in Egypt. Two thousand tons were cut, and Cyprus sailing ships are delivering it at Port Said as quickly as shipment can be made.

Cyprus as a Health Resort.

In addressing you a year ago, I anticipated that Cyprus was likely to be brought more within the orbit of the war by the reception of large numbers of refugees from abroad, the utilization of its health-giving summer resorts for convalescent soldiers, and possibly other war measures. The influx of conducted refugees has been limited to between two and three hundred British subjects maintained at the cost of his Majesty's Government. On the other hand, the value of the Island as a convalescent station is being increasingly recognized.

INDIGO AND JUTE IN EGYPT.

At a meeting of the Egyptian Commission of Agricultural Commerce, held in Cairo on May 21, the two following decisions were taken:—

Indigo.

The meeting, after considering the various matters bearing upon indigo culture, were of opinion that it would be inadvisable to encourage its extensive cultivation in Egypt, as, owing to the relatively high cost of land and labour as compared with India, and in view of the greater facilities offered by other countries for the development of the industry, Egypt could not compete with success. This decision did not, however, apply to the Sudan, where it was proposed that recommendations should be made of the study of the question.

Jute.

With regard to jute, the same difficulties applied as were cited in connection with indigo, but the Commission recommended that the Industrial Commission should be communicated with in reference to experimental work in sack-making with the fibre of *H. cannabinus*, the common "Til" of the country, after which, if success attended their efforts, the matter might again be referred to the Commission of Agricultural Commerce.

Other matters up for decision were referred to sub-committees.

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Near East Markets.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, June 15.

Currants.

In consequence of the recent strong demand in the French and English markets, and the apparent shortage of available fruit for export in Greece, prices for all grades have considerably advanced. In the meantime there is no prospect for any new arrivals at present.

The apparent scarcity of currants for export in Greece compelled the Government to call a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Privileged Currant Company, in the Ministry of Finance in Athens, to discuss the question with a representative of the Government, and suggest the necessary measures to be taken. It was explained that, as it is known, France, being in great want of currants for the manufacture of wine and alcohol, has abolished the law by which the importation of currants was prohibited, revoking at the same time all relative regulations for import duty, etc. There has also been a greater demand in England; and the result is that with the available supplies for export such demand could not be satisfied. In the discussion it was proved that the scarcity of currants for export is due to the fact that all the taxes on the fruit, and the retention, amounting to 35 per cent., are kept in kind (currants) and used for industrial purposes in the country. And as the export of any quantity of that portion is prohibited, without coming to any final decision, the company suggested the passing of a Bill by which the tax may not be paid as hitherto entirely in kind. By this measure a larger quantity may be available for export.

Seeds.

Linseed is easier; London-Calcutta, spot, 68s. 6d.; July-August, 69s.; August-September, 69s. 6d. Bombay, afloat, 70s. Rapeseed is dull. Cawnpore brown, June-July, is quoted 65s. 6d. Cottonseed is quiet. London Egyptian, June, £14 5s., and Sakelarides, ditto, £13 10s. per ton.

Oils.

Linseed oil is quiet. Spot pipes quoted at £34 10s.; barrels, £35 10s., landed terms. Rape oil is dull. Ordinary brown, naked, spot, selling at £49. English, refined barrels, £51 to £52. Cotton oil is quiet. Crude, spot, in pipes quoted £43 10s., and refined pale pipes, £47; barrels, sweet, £52 to £54.

COTTON-WORM IN EGYPT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 1.

The recent comparatively mild weather has coincided with the appearance of cotton-worm in certain districts. The attack is by no means serious, and is causing little anxiety to the authorities, who are closely watching the situation, and are taking all the necessary measures to prevent any extension in the area affected or the nature of the attack. A rise in temperature would have a most salutary effect on the activities of this pest, but, as I have said, there is absolutely no reason for any alarm to be felt.

SUDAN DATES.

The Director of the Imperial Institute has reported to the Sudan Government as follows (extracts) on three samples of dates forwarded to the Institute for examination:—

The samples submitted were:—

1. About 1 lb. of dates packed in a small basket made of plaited palm leaf.
2. About 1 lb. of dates packed in the same manner as selected Tunisian dates in a small wooden box.
3. About 4 lbs. of dates packed in a tin.

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All three samples arrived in good condition, and consisted of soft dates rather smaller than typical Tunisian and Persian dates. They were not quite so plump as selected Tunisian dates, but apart from their size they seemed to be quite as good as the common Tunisian, Persian, and Egyptian dates imported into this country.

Representative samples of the dates were repacked in small boxes at the Imperial Institute and submitted for valuation to firms in Liverpool and London, who furnished the following reports:—

1. The London merchants stated that the present samples were somewhat similar to Tunisian dates, though not so fine, and that as the latter dates are available, in large quantities and at a very reasonable price, they were not of opinion that there would be any market for these Gondela dates in the United Kingdom. The firm mentioned that the price in London of the selected Tunisian dates, carefully packed in boxes of about 1 lb. each, ranged from about 3s. to 5s. per dozen boxes.

2. The Liverpool merchants stated that they could not hold out much hope of business in Gondela dates. They pointed out that the date trade is a very doubtful one at best, and considered that in normal times, the competition of Persian, Tunisian, and other dates would be too strong to allow favourable results for these shipped from the Sudan.

For your guidance it may be mentioned that the following prices were realised for dates sold in London on Wednesday, December 1, 1915:—

Tunisian dates—Hallowie.....	16s.	per case of 56 lb.
Khedrowie....	16s. 6d.	ditto
Sair	14s. 9d.	ditto
Egyptian dates—38s. to 40s. per case of about 1 cwt.		
Persian dates—Bussorah, 14s. 4½d. to 15s. 9d. per case of 56 lb.		

It is probable that the Gondela dates would fetch prices a little below Tunisian dates, and if such prices are likely to be profitable in the Sudan, it will be worth while to adopt the suggestion made by one of the firms consulted and send a trial consignment of the dates for sale in this country. It is suggested that this trial consignment should consist of about fifty 10 lb. boxes. The wood used in making the boxes should be devoid of taste and odour, and the boxes should be lined with thin parchment paper like that used in packing the third sample now reported on.

SUDAN COTTON.

In the annual report of the Director, Commercial Intelligence Branch, Central Economic Board, Sudan (1914), it is stated that the exports of cotton in that year amounted to 9,435 bales of 400 lbs., as compared with 12,830 bales in 1913, the decrease being due to the production of an unusually small crop at Tokar, owing to an unsatisfactory flood.

The whole of the Tokar crop in 1913-14 was grown from Sudan seed, owing to the importation of seed from Egypt being prohibited in order to prevent the introduction of the pink boll-worm (*Gelechia gossypiella*). The results have shown that the use of acclimatised seed is quite satisfactory, and is much more economical both to the Government and the grower. Only 11,353 feddans (1 feddan = 1.038 acres) were planted, owing to lack of control of the flood water, much of which broke away and was lost. In the Blue Nile Province, on account of the lack of rain, very little cotton was grown, except at Tayiba and at a cotton experiment station at Barakat, near Wad Medani, which has been established recently by the Sudan Plantations Syndicate. On the Zeidab Estate about 3,900 feddans were planted with Ashmouni, Sakellaridis, and Zeidabi cottons, the last-mentioned being an improved form of the Nyasaland Upland variety. The best results were yielded by the Ashmouni variety, but Zeidabi is considered the most suitable for cultivation by the natives.

We learn that for the past three weeks tobacco has ceased to come from Greece to Egypt. The total import of Greek tobacco last month was about 15,000 parcels, whereas the average of the imports of the previous months varied between 20,000 and 30,000 parcels per month. The stock of tobacco in Alexandria is so big that it will supply the country for twelve months.

Engineering Notes.

Moroccan Railways.

H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier reports that the railways in the western regions of the French Protectorate of Morocco, which were constructed merely as military lines, have now been thrown open to the public, although, naturally, priority is given to military requirements. The fare per kilometre is 0.30 fr., first-class; 0.15 fr., second class; and 0.08 fr., third class. Passengers are allowed 30 kilogs. of luggage free. For goods, the tariff per kilometre is 0.50 fr. per metric ton, or 0.75 fr. per cubic metre; goods weighing less than 200 kilogs. per cubic metre being charged on the latter scale. The tariff per kilometre for a complete wagon load of 7½ metric tons is 3 fr.

H.M. Agent adds that, as some years must elapse before the Tangier-Fez railway can be completed and become available for the transport of passengers and goods, merchants will be interested to learn that they can in the meantime have the advantage of the military railways referred to above.

Electric Vehicles in Persia.

At present no electric vehicles are in operation in Teheran, says the U.S. Vice-Consul. There is a small electric plant which supplies a 50-cycle, 220-volt, 850-ampere alternating current. The price per kilowatt hour is 2 krans (18 cents).

The roads of Teheran and vicinity are not in very good condition, although considerable progress has been made during the last two or three years. The country is generally level, and a limited number of electric vehicles could perhaps be disposed of here. The import duty is 10 per cent. ad valorem.

In normal times the most satisfactory way to ship vehicles of this kind to Persia is by way of Batum and Baku. The total transportation charge on a car from New York to Teheran, including the Russian transit duty and the Persian Customs duty is from 300 to 400 dollars. Shipments of this kind should be made against documents sent to one of the banks at Teheran (Imperial Bank of Persia, Banque d'Escompte de Perse, or Tomaniantz Frères).

Macedonian Roads and Rails.

The following are extracts from an interesting article by J. Condurier de Chassaigne which appeared recently in the *Observer*:—

The main lines of communication running northward (from the Ægean Sea coast) are the watersheds of the three rivers—the Vardar, the Struma, and the Mesta. Of these the last, situated to the extreme east of the theatre of war, is of less utility than the two first-mentioned. Its strategical importance only begins when it reaches the plain of Sari-Shabana, the tracks leading from the valley of the Mesta into Thrace and Eastern Roumelia being scarcely wider than bridle paths. But from the valleys of the Vardar and the Struma an excellent system of roads radiates, several adapted to automobile and all to wagon traffic, over which troops could easily be transported into the heart of Bulgaria.

The shortest road from Salonica into Bulgaria is by way of the Struma Valley. The river cuts through several passes, of which the Pass of Krasmin is of the highest value from the military point of view, for it affords an avenue of communication with the watershed of the Vardar. Further to the south, the Pass of Rupel gives the key of the plain of Sèrès. In the dry season the Struma is fordable in its upper and middle reaches, and at certain points of its lower basin.

The valley of the Vardar, though longer, offers for military transport certain advantages over the alternative road. It gives access to the plains of Tetovo, of Uskub and of Kumanovo, which are the principal battlefields of Western Macedonia. Besides these the plain of Outche-Polje is extremely important as the junction of all the strategic roads which start in the Tzrna Reka and the Struma, just as the plain of Monastir is the junction of the roads leading from the Adriatic Sea to the valley of the Vardar.

When we turn to the railways, it is evident that only two are at the disposal of an invading army marching from south to north; there is the line which runs from Salonica to Uskub and another going from Salonica to Monastir. But although both are single lines they do not merit the contempt which has been showered upon them, for it has been proved in military practice that twelve trains comprising 600 carriages holding ten tons each can be sent without any elaborate organization over a single line of normal gauge in the space of twenty-four hours.

Thus with a capacity of transporting 6,000 tons per day over the railways, with excellent roads for automobile, carriage, and horse traffic, the contention that an army of one million men can operate in Macedonia without running the risk of either starvtion or immobility is amply justified. It not only can be done, but has been done, for in both the first and second Balkan wars the armies engaged fell little short of that number and the ways and means of communication were far inferior then to what they are to-day. The combatants of that time did much to improve the conditions of transit, and since then the enemy at present in occupation of Macedonia has done more.

Clearing the Soil by Steam.

A novel agricultural apparatus has recently been brought out for the purpose of combating destructive vermin beetles, and undesirable vegetable growths by an application of steam to the soil, penetrating some distance below the surface. The machine carries a steam generating plant, and moves over the surface on a large drum, the outer circumference of which is armed with protruding steam outlets in the shape of blades or spines. As the apparatus is drawn over the ground the spines imbed themselves in the soil and while in this position the steam is released and penetrates the soil for some distance around the outlet, killing the worms, larvæ, beetles, and the undesirable crop of weeds which seed themselves from one season to another.

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CYPRUS LOAN FUND.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, May 27.

At a meeting of the Loan Fund Commissioners, under the presidency of the High Commissioner, the profits of the last year were stated to have amounted to £10,477. Two-thirds of this is devoted to the Agricultural Department. It was decided that loans should be granted to rural credit banks, bearing interest at 5 per cent. It was proposed by some of the members that aid should be given to villages which have suffered severely from hailstorms.

COMPANIES IN EGYPT.

An important judgment was recently delivered by the Mixed Court of Appeal, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, in the case brought by Messrs. Elias Siage, Elias Malluk and Nessim Sayba, three shareholders of the Banque Egyptienne de Commerce, now in liquidation, against its administrators, from whom damages were claimed on account of unlawful and unstatutable acts committed during their management.

The Cairo Mixed Court of Commerce had previously laid down that such an action was not permissible, as according to the regulations of the bank, no action referring to the general interests of the company could be brought against the board or one of its members, except on behalf of the majority of the shareholders, and in virtue of a resolution of a general meeting. The Mixed Court of Appeal, on the contrary, held that, as in France, so in Egypt, jurisprudence has conferred the right on a single shareholder to sue the administrators of a company in case of misconduct, within the limits of his shares.

The Court then examined if this right could be entirely suppressed by express provisions in the statutes. The Court of First Instance replied negatively on this point, pointing out that the individual right of a shareholder to sue the administrators is a powerful weapon which must remain in his hands so as to overrule the arbitrariness or apathy of a majority acting often by collusion.

The Appeal Court completely supported their opinion, showing its opportuneness in Egypt, where experience has proved how much shareholders need the protection of law against unscrupulous directors.

As regards the regulation in the company's statutes on this point, the Appeal Court held that the regulation must be accepted or rejected, and declared that the company is to blame for having made such regulations, which the Court cannot respect.

Whatever may be the general rule on the matter, the Court considered plaintiffs' action as justified.

The Court found in plaintiffs' favour to the effect that the bank had been really mismanaged.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Roumanian Government is sending delegates to Archangel and Vladivostok in order to receive goods which have been ordered abroad.

The Danube salvage boat Adagena, belonging to the Generala Insurance Company in Roumania, has been sold to the Russian Government. The boat was formerly the Alfred Noble, which brought President Kruger to Holland from South Africa during the Boer war.

The new commercial convention between Roumania and Turkey is, says the *Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula, on the point of being concluded.

According to the *Times* correspondent in the Balkans, the Turks have purchased 2,000 tons of flour in Roumania; moreover, Germany is supplying Turkey with 250,000 tons of wheat (grain?) from purchases made in Roumania.

At Lloyd's, on Wednesday, the Greek steamer Georgios, of 3,260 tons, Sachtouris master, was posted as missing. Nothing has been heard of her since she sailed from New York on February 29 for Piræus with a cargo of wheat, etc. She was built at Sunderland in 1894; was valued at £20,000, and was owned at Piræus.

COMPANY REPORTS.

Mortgage Company of Egypt.

The directors report for the year ended March 31, 1916, that, after providing for interest on the 4½ per cent. first charge debentures and on temporary loans, and increasing the general reserve for contingencies by £50,000, the accounts show a profit for the year of £52,883 11s. 3d. Adding the amount brought forward from the previous account, £7,203 18s. 8d., there remains available £60,087 9s. 11d. Out of this sum the directors propose to devote: (1) To writing down the discount and expenses of the debenture issues, £2,800; (2) to the payment of a dividend on the 5 per cent. preferred shares for the two half-years ending June 30 and December 31, 1915, £50,000, or together, £52,800; and to carry forward to the next account the balance of £7,287 9s. 11d. Notwithstanding a very small cotton crop, partly due to the reduced area sown, the economic situation in Egypt during the year 1915-16 showed a marked recovery from the severe depression of the early-war period, and this improvement was reflected in largely-increased payments by the company's clients. Owing to the continued uncertainty of the position, however, it has been thought prudent to set aside a further sum of £50,000—the same amount as last year—to increase the provision against possible loss on arrears or properties acquired by foreclosure. The two separate reserves shown in the accounts of last year, viz., the "general reserve" and "special reserve for arrears," have been amalgamated into a single "general reserve for contingencies," which, with the addition of the £50,000 just referred to, now stands at the substantial figure of £152,500. Mr. T. A. F. Critchley, Sir William E. Garstin, G.C.M.G., and Col. the Hon. Sidney Peel, directors of the company, retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Suez Canal Company.

The following are further particulars of the report submitted by the directors to the recent meeting of the shareholders in Paris, to which reference was made in last week's issue of The Near East:—

If the year 1915 had been reduced to its own resources we should have been forced to make a further reduction in the dividend. However, you wisely consented, when passing the accounts for 1914, to bring forward a large amount, and it was possible for the directors to propose the maintenance of a dividend equal to that of the preceding year, and to bring forward again the sum of 11½ million francs.

In order to protect your revenue and to avoid as far as possible any further decrease, you did not hesitate to raise transit dues by 50 centimes per ton. The formalities under which our statutes are controlled caused somewhat long delay, and this measure was only able to be put into force from April of this year. If our receipts do not improve in spite of this increase, we are resolved to put into operation a second increase of the same amount. From this you will have the benefit of the wise and liberal policy that you have invariably followed.

The total receipts of 1914 amount to the sum of 98,228,098 frs. 87 c., showing, in comparison with the receipts of 1914, a diminution of 26,893,138 frs. 67 c. The decreased value of the transit receipts amounts to 28,762,959 frs. 81 c., but there has been an increase in the receipts from other sources to the extent of 1,869,821 frs. 14 c. There has also been an increase in the receipts from interest and the revenue from the supply of water. The total expenses for the year 1915, comprising, as in the years 1913 and 1914, the allocation of 3,000,000 frs. to the account for depreciation of material, amount to 32,029,968 frs 36 c. They show a decrease of 910,706 frs. 41 c., as compared with the expenses of 1914, which had already been reduced by 1,159,890 frs. 74 c. in comparison with those of 1913. The excess of receipts over expenditure, including the amount brought forward from 1914, amounts to 73,021,375 frs. 68 c. It is proposed—(1) To fix the amount of profit to be distributed at 61,567,387 frs. 33 c.; (2) to carry forward to the profit of the current year the surplus of the excess—i.e., 11,453,488 frs. 35 c. The distribution of the profits—61,567,887 frs. 33 c.—among those entitled, as mentioned in the accounts, will have the effect of bringing the dividend on each share up to 109 frs. 28 c. This dividend, augmented by the interest of 25 frs., represents a gross revenue of 134 frs. 28 c., and a net revenue of 120 frs.

During the year 1915, 3,708 ships, representing a net tonnage of 15,266,155 tons, have passed through the Canal. This, in comparison with 1914, is a decrease of 1,094 passages and 4,143,340 tons—21.35 per cent.—and in comparison with 1913, the last normal year, a decrease of 1,377 passages and 4,767,729 tons—23.80 per cent. In the traffic of 1913 the German, Austrian, and Turkish flags contributed 1,047 ships and 4,239,765 tons—21.16 per cent. Their entire disappearance thus represents almost the whole of the decrease recorded in 1915. But if the commercial traffic is taken alone and separated from the special movement created by the war, it will be found that the changes were far more noticeable than appears from a comparison of the total tonnage. Government ships and chartered vessels, whose rights are regulated by the Governments, figured in the traffic of 1913 to the extent of only 105 passages and 301,145 tons: in 1915 they furnished 743 passages, representing 3,379,597 tons. The decline of the commercial traffic in comparison with 1913 was no less than 7,846,181 tons—39.16 per cent. Threats directed against the Canal have made it necessary to take certain precautionary measures and to suspend the navigation at night in certain parts. In spite of 119,812 military passengers carried through the Canal, the year 1915 shows a net decrease of 72,000 passengers as compared with 1914. There has been a reduction of nearly one-half in the number of civilian passengers. The suppression of the pilgrimage to Mecca affected the passenger traffic, which furnished 22,000 passengers in 1913.

As in our preceding report, we will not attempt to forecast the probabilities of future traffic. We will confine ourselves to stating that if the present situation is indifferent, it is only too well explained by the profound disturbance which the economic life of the majority of nations interested in this traffic has undergone. We must look to the future for a full compensation of this critical period.

Persian Carpet Company.

By an order of the Board of Trade dated March 20, requiring the business of the above-named company to be wound up, Athelstan Dangerfield, of 56, Cannon Street, E.C., chartered accountant, was appointed controller of the company to control and supervise the carrying-out of the said order, and to conduct the winding-up of the said business. Notice is now given that the creditors of the company are required on or before July 17 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to Athelstan Dangerfield, and if so required by notice in writing from the said controller are to give in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified, or, in default, they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made.

Steaua Romana.

The report of the Steaua Romana to December 31, 1915, covers 7½ months, i.e., from May 14, 1915. There is a gross credit balance of 19,960,750 frs., against 21,899,278 frs. for the preceding twelve months. After deducting 639,123 frs. general expenses, 315,262 frs. taxes, 153,555 frs. pensions and assurance funds, and 80,241 frs. special relief, there is a gross profit of 18,519,569 frs., against 19,921,352 frs. the preceding twelve months. From this is deducted 721,479 frs. interest, 6,279,417 frs. depreciation, 3,000,000 frs. special depreciation, leaving a net profit of 8,518,673 frs., out of which a 10 per cent. dividend is recommended, amounting to 7,000,000 frs.—*Petroleum World.*

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New Egyptian Company.

The directors submit the balance-sheet as at December 31, 1915, with the profit and loss account for the year ending that date. The profit and loss account shows a profit of £12,514 2s. 6d. Deducting £5,525 11s. 11d. for the service of the debentures, and £4,361 14s. 9d. as reserve against loss on 1914-15 rentals, interest owing by debtors for land sold, etc., there remains a balance of £2,626 16s. 1d. Adding £4,705 14s. brought forward from last year, the balance at the credit of the account amounts to £7,332 10s. 1d., which the directors propose to carry forward. The adverse influence of the war on Egyptian affairs continues to be reflected in the result of the year's working. The restriction of the area of land for cotton cultivation, imposed by the Government in 1914, made it difficult to obtain tenants at suitable rentals. In consequence, the company was obliged to resort to direct cultivation and half-farming of a considerable portion of its lands. These systems are not so remunerative as leasing the land on account of the expense of supervision. This expense has been increased by the high cost of coal, oil, and other material. The restrictions above referred to have now been modified, and the policy of leasing to tenants has been resumed. It is, therefore, to be anticipated that better results will be obtained during the current year.

The area of land sold is smaller than last year, as was to be expected, only 172 feddans being sold, at an average price of £92 5s. 3d. per feddan. The total sales up to December 31, 1915, amount to 3,082 feddans, at an average price of £94 17s. 9d. per feddan.

The capital expenditure on the Lower Egypt Estates (6,350 feddans) during the year amounted to £11,739 7s. 3d., as against £32,266 8s. 11d. during the previous year. As practically all the uncultivated lands have now been taken in hand, this expenditure should continue to decrease in the future, as little now remains but routine work. The revenue from these estates for 1915 was £14,629 14s. 10d.; and the estimated revenue for 1916 is £20,215 7s. 8d. During the year thirty-four feddans have been sold at an average price of £114 17s. 5d. per feddan, showing a profit of £1,374 10s. 8d. A large area is now in a saleable condition, and with the prospects of a good cotton crop and fair prices, it is hoped satisfactory sales will be effected during the present year.

The capital expenditure in the Upper Egypt Estates (2,326 feddans) during the year was £1,498 5s. 7d., as against £9,268 18s. 2d. in 1914. Only such works as were necessary for maintaining the reclaimed lands were taken in hand during the year. The revenue for 1915 was £8,211 5s. 8d., and the estimated revenue for 1916 is £9,948 14s. 4d. During the year 138 feddans have been sold (70½ at an average price of £117 18s. 6d., and 67½ at an average price of £54 7s. 2d. per feddan) showing a profit of £4,629 16s. 9d. Since the close of the accounts several small sales have been effected at satisfactory prices.

During the year we sold 1,705 square metres of the Port Said plots, and re-purchased one-half of the Rodah Island property previously sold.

It will be seen from the above figures that £13,237 12s. 10d. has been expended on our various estates during the year as compared with £41,535 7s. 1d. during the previous year. This expenditure has been reduced to the lowest dimensions compatible with the process of improvement followed. The directors have agreed to reduce their remuneration during the current year, and other economies have been effected. Mr. Day, who was appointed secretary on the formation of the company, has now been appointed London manager and secretary.

Our Lower Egyptian estates of Docmera, Kahwakia, and Samatay, are now some 6,350 feddans in extent. No land has been purchased, and only some thirty feddans have been sold during the year. In spite of the many adverse circumstances experienced a steady programme has been maintained. Whereas capital expenditure has been reduced as far as possible, practically all the uncultivated lands have now been taken in hand, and little now remains but routine work. The fact that we had rice cultivation at all estates, excepting Kahwakia, greatly accelerated the reclamation of the poor lands. The amount of new capital expenditure was not large, the routine work accounting for the greater part of the expenditure. At the same time, the following new works, which were deemed necessary in order not to retard the general progress, were undertaken :—Canalization of some 600 feddans at Docmera, Kahwakia and Samatay; motor ploughing some 770 feddans at Docmera; building a new Ezbeh (village) at Docmera; and the installation of a 25 h.p. oil engine for the drainage installation at Samatay. At Nashart, practically all capital expenditure, excepting some routine expenditure, has ceased, and very shortly the other estates will enter the same stage. While it would be incorrect to suppose that capital expenditure will cease entirely on account of the fact that the main works have been practically completed, yet the progress already realized is such that one may reasonably hope for a rapid diminution each year. The fact that we are reducing our livestock, which accounts largely for such routine expenditure, from 200 to some 120 head corroborates this premise.

The progress of reclamation is clearly shown in the fact that our revenue from the estates will probably be increased by some £E5,000, or more, in 1916. The cultivable land during 1916 is estimated at about 80 per cent. of the total area of the estates, exclusive of roads, canals, etc. On the same basis this percentage for 1915 works out at 63 per cent. The revenue charges have been reduced as far as possible, but the fact that fuel, etc., is very expensive has adversely affected such savings for the time being.

The cotton crop was fair at Docmera and Samatay, but at Kahwakia the boll worm did damage to the extent of some 30 per cent. of the crop. The price was most satisfactory, and, as a result, a large amount of our arrears and practically the whole of our rent were encashed at Docmera and Samatay. At Nashart no cotton was grown in order to give the land a rest, the crop during the past few years having deteriorated considerably. The wheat crop, as a whole, was disappointing, as it was almost everywhere badly affected by "rust," especially at Docmera. The barley crop was fair, while the prices, on account of the presence of the Army in Egypt, were most satisfactory. For the same reason we were enabled to dispose of our Berseem (clover) hay crop at remunerative rates. The maize crop was the best we have ever experienced. The rice crop was excellent at Docmera, and on those parts of Nashart where there had been sufficient water. The water supply has been, as a whole, satisfactory, though considerable difficulty was experienced at Nashart, where the rice crop suffered in consequence. The irrigation engines were not much worked, thereby realizing a considerable saving in view of the high price of fuel. Our various installations at Docmera, Kahwakia and Samatay have worked regularly and satisfactorily. The wisdom of having artificial drainage systems at all estates, except Nashart, has been proved again this year, when the Government, for reasons of economy, had either not cleared, or had sufficiently cleared, the public drains —without our pumps at least half of our land would have been badly damaged through bad drainage. The cost of drainage has, however, been comparatively heavy on account of the high price of fuel. Our motor-plough worked satisfactorily at Docmera, where it ploughed some 770 feddans of land generally too hard to be touched by cattle. The experience gained in working has avoided much delay. The work done is most valuable, but the recent sharp rise in the price of petrol may prohibit its extensive use at the present.

Towards the end of the year signs of activity were not wanting. Some 33 feddans have been sold at an average price of £E111 per feddan. The good prices of cotton and the increasing political confidence augur well for future sales. A large area of land is now in a saleable condition. At Samatay a large amount of arrears has been encashed and many outstanding sales cleared up.

It is most satisfactory to note the great improvement that has been experienced at our estates. All are now well on the way to full reclamation. With a steady programme and good drainage, the results are certain. With a good cotton crop and fair prices, there is every reason to hope that sales will be numerous and remunerative, and that the remaining effects of the crisis of 1914 will be overcome.

As the reclamation of our estates is now far advanced, only high floods benefit our properties from the point of view of silting. Further, all our estates are now independent of the flood water for irrigation purposes, except Feshn, which is situated on the east side of the river, and, therefore, risk of drought in low floods has been much reduced. The flood of 1915 was a bad one. At its commencement it threatened to be very bad, but an exceptionally late rise greatly relieved anxiety, though the river was still considerably below its average maximum. It is very satisfactory to note that all our works are practically intact, in spite of the fact that low floods are frequently found to be very troublesome on river berms. It is with regret that I must report that the erosion which has been occurring during the past few years at Feshn still continues at a point beyond the influence of our spur. It is also regrettable that the Government will not allow us to make any protection of further river training works at this point for fear that they may accentuate the eroding action that is already taking place on the opposite banks. It is hoped that given a big flood the river will straighten itself out on this reach.

The following works were carried out in Upper Egypt :—At Ashmant, the permeable spur was heavily strengthened and completely repaired; the divide bank in the khor was reinforced, and some new canals made for irrigating land in the khor which was threatened with "Sharaki." At Hataba, the southern spur was completely remodelled and strengthened; the regulator was replaced by a stone wall of permanent character; the main canalization of the estate and the building of two new masonry heads and the Government canals

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were carried out. At Freshn, the southern spur was heightened with woodwork by one metre. At Saadat, the permeable spur and its toe were strengthened; the regulator (crest wall) was heightened; and a strong bank was constructed at the south of the khor to prevent the flooding of the khor by any but high floods; the 120m.-long iron syphon was replaced by an embanked canal; and the canalization of the estate was completely remodelled. At Garf Sarhan some new canals were made; the enclosing banks were completed, the excavation for the artesian wells were filled in, etc.

It is most satisfactory to note that in spite of the advanced state of our lands a further considerable increase in rentals can be recorded. It is estimated that the accrued rentals for the year 1916 will show an increase of some 20 per cent. on those of 1915. This is the result of various improvements by levelling, canalization, and the special treatment of sandy lands. It should be borne in mind that the estates have nearly reached the fully productive stage, and thus it would be unwise to anticipate a large increase in the following years. This is especially the case at Ashmant and Saadat. The encashments have been most satisfactory, in spite of many difficulties, especially that of constant changes in the staff.

As was anticipated, there were but few new sales during the year. Since the beginning of 1916, several small sales have been concluded at satisfactory prices, and it is thus hoped that before the end of the year the profits from this source may be considerable. At the same time, conditions are far from normal, and, unfortunately, the onion crop has neither been good nor has it realized good prices. It would be, therefore, unwise to anticipate the sale of a large area.

In conformity with the company's articles of association, Sir Ernest Spencer and Mr. H. E. Barker retire from the board, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for week, 20 tons (last week, 21 tons); Hurgada production for week, 456 tons (last week, 478 tons).

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.—Transfer register will be closed from 16th to 29th instant.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN MERCANTILE COMPANY.—The creditors of the above-named company are required, on or before July 31, to send their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors, if any, to Edward Charles Weston and Henry Brownrigg Hunter, of Baltic House, Leadenhall Street, in the City of London, the liquidators of the said company.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LAND AND INVESTMENT COMPANY.—A dividend of 4d. per share will be paid on and after June 24. Dividend warrants for amount of their dividend will be posted to the registered shareholders. Holders of share warrants to bearer are requested to fill up the form to be obtained at the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo or London, and to lodge the filled up forms along with Coupon No. 4 at the offices of the Bank in Cairo or London.

MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.—The eighth ordinary general meeting of the Company will be held at Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., on Friday, June 23, at 12 noon.

NEW EGYPTIAN COMPANY.—The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the members of the New Egyptian Company will be held on Wednesday, June 21, at 12 noon, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street. The transfer books will be closed from June 10 to June 21, both days inclusive.

UNITED EGYPTIAN LANDS.—The ninth ordinary general meeting will be held at the company's offices in Alexandria on Monday, June 19, at 4 p.m.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended June 10.		1916. Week ended June 8.
Cattle markets	523	..	437
General markets	377	..	362
Cattle markets closed	30	..	46
Receipts (£)	900	..	799
Total from commencement of year (£)	25,722	..	26,607

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended May 20.

	1915. £E.		1916. £E.
May 10–May 20	3,489	..	4,390
April 1–May 20	18,887	..	22,941

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 30 Avril.

Prêts Existants:

	1915. £E.		1916. £E.
Prêts à court terme	6,103	..	5,311
Catégorie "B"	5,485,156	..	4,970,125
Total	5,491,259	..	4,975,436
Echéances:			
Dues	3,087	..	2,412
A échoir	995,454	..	820,699
Total	998,541	..	823,111

Perceptions:

	1915. £E.		1916. £E.
Arriérés au 31 janvier	1,394,546	..	1,209,186
Restant	1,293,317	..	1,137,256
Perçu	101,229	..	71,930
Echéances:			
Perçu	269	..	1,076
Total perçu sur annuités échues	101,498	..	73,006

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 31 Mars, 1916, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

	£E.
Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien	5,589,934
Titres divers	400,642
Comptes-Courants	237,036
Avances sur Marchandises	347,679
Avances sur Titres	1,285,664
Avances sur d'autres garanties	843,006
Effets sur l'Etranger	2,616,653
Effets sur l'Egypte	176,973
Immeubles et mobilier	235,086
Placements à courte échéance	1,106,625
Comptes Banques	957,098
Gouvernement du Soudan	447,508
Comptes Divers	116,801
Encaisse:	
Billets de Banque £E.1,252,918	
Or £E.176,544	
Argent, nickel, etc. £E.88,335	
	1,517,797
	£E.15,928,502

	£E.
Capital 300,000 actions de £10 chacune entièrement liberées	2,925,000
Fonds de Réserve:—Réserve Statutaire	1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	5,935,621
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,295,733
Gouvern. Egyptien	3,608,556
Do. Compte spécial	9,843
Comptes Banques	364,757
Chèques et effets à payer	190,454
Comptes Divers	331,038
	£E.15,928,502

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

	£E.
Or	£E.7,013,968
Titres	5,386,032
	£E.12,400,000
Billets émis	£E.12,400,000
	£E.12,400,000

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

PAYMENT OF DIVIDEND.

Notice is hereby given that a Dividend of Nine Shillings and Ninepence per £5 Share on Coupon No. 55 is Payable on and after June 15, 1916, at Messrs. Barclay and Company, Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, Alexandria, Egypt, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, forms of which will be supplied upon application.

By Order of the Board,

H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Manager.

Alexandria, Egypt.
June 5, 1916.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	—	80
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93¼	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	79
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	68
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	64
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	66
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	54
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	50
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	42
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	52½xd
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	49
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	66
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	75½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	76½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	68½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	64
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	4½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69xd
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	11½xd
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	6	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½xd
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	12½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	—
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	15½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅛	—	2½
Do. Do. Def.	—	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8⅛	—	6
Do. Pref.	4⅛	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Bd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	8/3
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	85½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	⅛
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅛	—	⅛
" " Founders	⅛	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	98	—	6⅛
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	72½
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	7/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	—	⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11⅛xd
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	1
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	24/-
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	18/6
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	98	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	—	27/-
Do, do. Prefs.	3⅛	—	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	1½

OIL.

	Price on June 6.	June 14.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	6/3	7/3
Anglo-Persian	20/-	21/9
European Oilfields	3/9	3/9
Roumanian	13/-	14/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	June 6.	June 13.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	442	442
Canal de Suez	4500	4470
Credit Foncier Egyptien	630	627
Turkish Unified 4%	61	60.10
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.30	87.20
Sarhian, 1895	—	60 70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 268.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The real answer of Islam to the appeal for a "holy war" launched by the German rulers of Turkey and their free-thinking satellites of the Committee of Union and Progress has been long delayed, but it has come at last. The Grand Sherif of Mecca, supported by the Arab tribes of West and Central Arabia, has proclaimed Arab independence of Turkey, has captured Mecca, Jeddah, and Taif, and is closely besieging Medina. Arab revolts against Turkish misrule are no new feature; but a movement which has for its first object the ejection of Turkish control from the Holy Places of Islam has a far wider significance than an ordinary local rebellion. There is nothing startling in the event. It has been well known for some time that the Arabs have been growing increasingly dissatisfied with Turkish rule and German domination over the Ottoman Empire. The recent visit of Enver Pasha to Medina was not undertaken from purely pious motives on the part of a devout Moslem. From the political importance that the official communication sought to attach to the tour it was evident that its object was to restore Turkish prestige in these parts. Recent developments prove how completely the Minister for War failed to achieve his purpose.

The Arab revolt is said to have begun about June 9. It has met with considerable success in a short time; but we must expect that the Turks will make a determined effort to reverse the verdict of the earlier operations. If they were free to turn their whole attention to Arabia, their present resources would give them a great advantage over the Arabs. It is for the Allies, therefore, to see that the Turks are not in a position to despatch large forces to the Hejaz, and the first precaution ought to be to cut the Hejaz Railway and to secure the permanent interruption of that avenue of communication. The Turks are still in considerable strength in Palestine, although recent events on their different fronts will have caused them to reduce the original army collected for the advance on Egypt. By the early occupation of Jeddah the Grand Sherif has shown that he is acting with an eye to strategical requirements, and possession of this port ought in existing circumstances to enable him to make good the supplies of war material in which he may be deficient. His future movements will be watched with close interest, as it is one of the preoccupations of the British Government that Mohammedans of the Empire should be assured of free access to the Holy Places.

Greece is testing the truth of the proverb that, as one makes his bed, so he must lie. The particular conditions which the conduct of King Constantine and his advisers have brought about include, in addition to the complete estrangement of the country's real friends, financial embarrassment, a Ministerial crisis, and a total "loss of face." If there are compensating advantages in the opinion of the military clique, they are not apparent to the outside world, which is now tempted to blame the Allied Powers for a policy that allows Greece, merely on the strength of her contrariness, to occupy a position out of all proportion to her importance in a world struggle.

For the luxury of keeping on a war footing an army which was never intended to take part in the war or even to protect Greek territory against invasion by her traditional enemy, Greece has had to face deficits in the two financial years, 1915 and 1916, of £17,000,000. This year she incurs an expenditure of £20,000,000, and her revenue is less than half that amount. An attempt to obtain some relief by a loan from the National Bank has brought the Greek Government into conflict with the International Financial Control Commission, which refuses to allow a fresh issue of paper money to the extent stipulated by the Bank as a condition of the new loan. If further proof were needed of the short-sightedness of the policy which has found favour at the Court, it is supplied by the financial situation of the country.

As frequently happens, a clumsy abuse of the censorship has recoiled on the head of the Greek authorities. There were some disorderly scenes in Athens on June 12 after a military fête, and the Greek Government hastened to represent them as being directed against M. Venizelos and his supporters. *The Times* was able to correct this version on the authority of an eye-witness, who pointed out that the demonstration took place with the connivance and assistance of the police, and was directed as much against the Allies as against the Venizelists . Moreover, during the military fête "members of the British Legation, including the military attaché, as well as Admiral Palmer, the new Chief of the British Naval Mission, found that members of the secret police were placed around them in the most ostentatious and impertinent manner immediately on the arrival in the Stadium of the King and members

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of the Royal Family." The Greek Government has since taken upon itself to correct the account in *The Times;* but as it ignores the insult officially perpetrated in the Stadium, and denies statements which the eye-witness did not make, it cannot be said to have improved its case. The *communiqué* says:—"The statement that the demonstration was directed against the Allied Legations is mendacious and malevolent. No insult and no cry was uttered outside any Legation of the Entente." It had not been stated that such an incident took place. The building in front of which "insulting epithets" were hurled was a hotel and not a Legation; but the French Minister resides there. Again, the mob would not pass in front of the British Legation on its way to the newspaper offices selected for its attacks, but it would pass near enough, as the eye-witness stated, to be able to indicate the object of any special cries it might utter.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the Greek explanation is the naïve statement about the *revue*, which was given the same evening in an Athens theatre, and, according to the account of the eye-witness, "from beginning to end constituted a series of insults against the Entente and their forces." The Greek Government gives "the truth" as follows: "The *revue* in question —a clumsy production—was given in a small out-of-the-way theatre, the management of which seems to be not indifferent to encouragements of a pecuniary character. The performance took place before a very scanty audience, for the most part guests of the author." Evidently the encouragements of a pecuniary character were not derived from the prospect of a full house, and we are left to infer that the Greek Government wishes it to be understood that the management was in receipt of a German subsidy. It is, therefore, for a country which can sink to these depths for the object of furthering its cause that Greece has repudiated her pledged word, estranged her friends, and saddled herself with a serious financial crisis.

The British public will shortly begin to look out for and welcome Constantinople accounts of signal successes achieved by Turkish arms, for they enable us to count upon receiving a week or so later a correct version of the incident, which otherwise would have passed unrecorded by the British Government. After the announcement of a successful advance on the part of General Gorringe's force on May 22 nothing was heard of Mesopotamia until June 17, when a statement was issued regarding an incident on June 10, which had been the subject of a Turkish *communiqué* on June 14. It would be imagined that during those three or four weeks an occasion would have arisen at least to state that the situation remained unchanged, with General Gorringe's force still in touch with the enemy. But the War Office prefers to maintain an obstinate silence and allow the Turks to claim the destruction of two gunboats, when in reality they had merely sunk three barges. The very silence of the British authorities lent colour to the Turkish version. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon the Government that reticence in dealing with the East may often be as injudicious as disclosures, and that one of the best methods of obviating false reports about the progress of a campaign in this war is to refrain from long silences. It would be reassuring to have some knowledge of the situation in the Aden hinterland, before some preposterous enemy claim is given several days' start.

A feature of the air-raids now being carried out from Egypt is their gradually widening range. El Arish, a hundred miles from the nearest British aerodrome, has been attacked with no little success, although three out of the eleven machines which took part in the operation were lost, and one pilot was captured by the enemy. A Turco-German aerodrome had been located at El Arish, and was the objective of the raid. If two out of ten hangars were destroyed and four others hit with bombs, the British airmen have every reason to be satisfied with their day's work. The size of the aerodrome points to the enemy's strength in this arm, and will account for the persistence with which he has tried to attack the town of Port Said. It is significant of the confidence felt by the Egyptians that they have been left quite unperturbed by the fall of Kut and by another mishap, on a much smaller scale, indeed, but nearer home, the Katia incident. The continual bombing of Port Said, however, even though comparatively little damage has been done to life or property, has given rise to considerable comment, and the people of Egypt feel as the inhabitants of London did in similar circumstances, that they are entitled at least to greater, if not complete, immunity. As the best protection is afforded by the destruction of the enemy's aerodromes, it is to be hoped that the policy of the El Arish raid will be continually repeated. At the same time the achievements of British airmen in this region suggest a means of interrupting communications on the Hejaz Railway before Turkish troops can be sent in any large numbers to deal with the Arab revolt.

A recent message from Russia refers to the advent of summer heat in Mesopotamia, and states that for this reason no early development of large-scale operations in the direction of Baghdad is to be expected. The Russians, however, have been able to check the Turkish offensive, which caused them to fall back behind Kasr-i-Shirin, and are now, in turn, ousting the enemy from the positions he had occupied. It is noticeable that in regard to the fighting in the country south-west of Bitlis the expression "near Diarbekr" appears in the Russian reports. If the term is used more correctly than the somewhat loose application given to the words "in the direction of," it should mean that the Russians have made notable headway in this neighbourhood. The occupation of Diarbekr would materially affect the progress of the operations on the rest of the line between that town and the Black Sea.

The remarks of the Russian Foreign Minister to a Roumanian journalist will be of interest to the large number of people in this country who find difficulty in understanding Roumania's attitude in this war. After pointing out that the love of liberty and independence, which is strong in Roumania, decided her to resist the intrigues of Austria and Germany, and would, in his opinion, place her in a position to realize her national ideal, M. Sazonoff continued: "It is true that public opinion in Russia has latterly displayed some dissatisfaction at the commercial arrangements which Roumania has made with the Central Powers. These arrangements may be defended up to a certain point by your economic interests. But they have also a political character; they enable the Central Powers to continue the war. We do not ask for commercial opportunities in Roumania provided by treaties signed under pressure of threats, nor for the construction of railways serving political ends, nor for outlets for contraband trade. We simply desire your loyal co-operation, and on the day when Roumania takes up arms to realize her political ideal she will find in us, and in our friends, allies resolved to make right triumph over might." Roumania must be the sole judge of her own interests. The longer she postpones participation in the war the easier becomes her military task, but the less valuable will be her co-operation with the Allied Powers. Ultimately a point would be reached at which she would stand to incur no risks at all, but the Allies would naturally feel under no sense of obligation to her. In the meantime, however, they are prepared to admit that until the Austrians have fallen back some distance from the frontier line along the Carpathians the task of driving them from entrenched positions would probably be too great for the Roumanian Army.

Wednesday, June 28 (June 15, Old Style), is the anniversary of the Battle of Kossovo, at which the Turks (in 1389) overthrew the Serbians, and were able to establish themselves in Europe as far as the Danube. The Serbians observed this day as a national festival in proof of their confidence in the ultimate emancipation of the race. It has remained essentially Serbia's Day, and a movement has been set on foot to celebrate the day in Great Britain with the object of promoting a sympathetic understanding of Serbia.

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JUSTICE IN EGYPT.

THE JUDICIAL ADVISER'S REPORT.—I.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

Next to the annual note presented by the Financial Adviser, perhaps the most important administrative document published by the Egyptian Government is the report of the Judicial Adviser, and the review of the work done by the Ministry of Justice and the various jurisdictions during the past year, which Sir Malcolm McIlwraith has just published, is, as usual, full of interesting facts. The year under review has been an abnormal and eventful one, and it is instructive to note the effects which the régime of martial law and the continuation of war have had on the people.

Native Civil Jurisdiction.

In the first place, we find that there has been a phenomenal increase in the civil work of the Native Tribunals, where no less than 221,723 new cases, representing an addition of 60 per cent. on the previous year's figure, have been entered for trial. The bulk of this increase fell on the Summary Courts, the competence of which was enlarged in 1914, and which were called upon to deal with 140,893, or about 45 per cent. more cases, and on the Cantonal Courts, in which 181,093 additional cases, or 70 per cent. of the previous year's total, were brought. In the other civil courts a reduction in the number of new cases was recorded. It is satisfactory to note, however, that the work was in every instance so energetically handled that even in the Summary and Cantonal Courts the arrears at the end of the judicial year were only increased by 1,659 and 7,676 cases respectively. In the Appeal and Central Courts a considerable reduction in arrears is noticeable, and the Adviser pays a well-merited tribute to the judges, especially those of the Summary Courts, where, thanks to the special efforts made, 50 per cent. more cases were disposed of during the summer vacation. It is pointed out that a great proportion of the increase in cases in the Summary and Cantonal Courts is accounted for by personal actions for small sums, which, in the case of the first-named jurisdiction, represent about 75 per cent. of the total increase registered before it. This, Sir Malcolm says, "would seem to show that creditors have found considerable difficulty in collecting small debts." Since this opinion may seem to contradict the view expressed recently by the Financial Adviser and other financial experts as to the general situation of the country, it may be as well to add that the judicial year runs from November to October, and the financial year from April to March, whence it follows that the judicial statistics relate to a state of affairs that is about six months behind that dealt with by the Financial Adviser. Further, with regard to the Cantonal Courts, it is pointed out that half the increase is accounted for by personal claims for sums under £T100, where no fees are paid. Whilst the abnormal conditions existing in the country may have occasioned this increase, it is at the same time quite possible that the gratuitous nature of these courts may have constituted the attraction. From the beginning of the new year a small fee is being imposed on all cases coming before these tribunals, and it will now be possible "to judge how far these courts have supplied a real want, and how far the fellahin have been using them as a cheap and easy method of collecting debts or annoying their enemies."

Crime.

Crime is, unfortunately, on the increase again, arson, murder, and attempted murder, and theft constituting two-thirds of the total. The Adviser is of the opinion that, whilst the increase in theft can alone be attributed indirectly to the continuation of the war, that under the other heads can only be ascribed to general increased lawlessness. He further thinks that the general increase is due to the time and energies of the interior officials being absorbed by business outside their ordinary duties. "Almost the whole of the police and ghaffirs have been employed on such duties as guarding railway bridges and military camps, patrolling frontiers, etc. Moreover, the locust campaign has led to every police officer and man in the provinces affected being out in the fields for weeks at a time, and to every police horse used for the purpose being so exhausted as to be unavailable for patrol duty for months afterwards. There has probably never been a year in Egypt in modern times in which the administrative officials, from the mudirs downwards, have had so much extra work thrown upon them, naturally to the detriment of their ordinary duties." Sir Malcolm is, however, not despondent, and he thinks that there is "no ground for apprehending that, with the return of normal circumstances we shall not once more attain, and perhaps surpass, the favourable results in the diminution of crime shown by the figures of 1913-1914."

The number of offences reported rose slightly, by 1.3 per cent., but it appears that, but for the enormous increase in petty thefts, due probably to the greater lack of employment and consequent poverty, there would have actually been a considerable decrease in the general total. Misdemeanours have again increased, this time by about 5 per cent., whilst contraventions have fallen off slightly. The decrease in the latter is to a great extent due to the reduction in Cantonal Court contraventions. Contraventions expand or contract to a great extent in proportion as the various Government departments supervise efficiently or otherwise the execution of the bye-laws and other regulations enacted at their instance. Thus there is a marked increase under "Protection of Plants and Animals" offences, which shows that the responsible administration, the Ministry of Agriculture, has more zealously carried out its cotton and boll worm campaign. Similarly, the increase in prosecutions under "Weights and Measures" is due to the activity of the new department formed for the supervision of this matter, and the decrease in the Arms Law offences is possibly due to the fact that closer supervision of the sale and import of arms is being carried out. The Adviser points out that "hashish" and drunkenness offences are on the decrease. While the first is probably due to the increased difficulty in obtaining the drug and to the abnormal economic conditions, and the other to the more stringent regulations introduced under martial law, it is perhaps too much to hope that this improvement is more than temporary.

Turning to the work of the Courts in criminal matters, we find that of the 1,321 appeals made to the Cassation Court against sentences inflicted by the Assize Courts, only two were admitted, of which one resulted in an acquittal and one had the sentence reduced. As showing the good work done by the Assize Courts, it is interesting to note that this acquittal is the first pronounced by the Cassation Court since 1912. The Assize Courts handled about the same number of cases as in the previous year, viz., 2,533, a large number of cases resulting from the general increase of criminality, already referred to, having been sent for trial by the committing magistrates after the close of the judicial year. The Adviser notes as satisfactory the fact that the period passed by accused persons under preventive arrest has undergone substantial improvement.

Some interesting statistics are appended with regard to the sex, state, instruction, and previous convictions of persons convicted by the Assize Courts. Thus 3,539, or 94 per cent., were men, of whom 2,222 were married and 154, or 4.1 per cent., were women, of whom 101 were married. The comparative figures for England were 90.3 and 9.6. All the women were illiterate, as against 16.5 per cent. for England, and it is curious to note that the proportion of the men who were illiterate was exactly the same as the proportion of illiterates in the English statistics. As regards previous convictions, 144, or 3.8 per cent., had been previously convicted of crimes and 853, or 22.6 per cent., of misdemeanours. The figures for England were 41.9 and 26.3 per cent. respectively.

Moslem Religious Jurisdiction.

Very considerable improvement has become noticeable in the general atmosphere of the Mehkemehs Sharias or Moslem religious courts during the past year. The reason is not far to seek. The stumbling-block in the past had been the Grand Cadi, who previously presided over the Cairo and the Supreme Mehkemehs. The change in the régime has completely altered his position. Instead of holding his mandate from the Sublime Porte, and claiming, as he always did whenever any attempt was made to introduce any radical reforms in these courts, that he held his powers from Constantinople, and therefore could not be interfered with, this functionary is now a purely Egyptian official; and it has been possible not only to reorganize the interior machinery, but also to bring these courts directly under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice. "Those occult and insidious influences which exercised powerful sway over their deliberations and undermined their independence" have now been eradicated, and confidence has been restored in these courts. As proof of this we have the fact that, whereas in 1914 only 821 applications in matters of trusteeship, exchanges, etc., of *wakf* property were presented to the Cairo Mehkemeh, in 1915 their number rose to 1,325. This gives an idea of the opinion which the Moslem community held previously of their own courts, and of what British control stands for in their minds. But, although great changes have already been achieved in the tone of these courts, and in the place they hold in the Moslem community, it is not pretended that the entire administration has been exhaustively cleansed; and the Ministry of Justice continues to give these courts its closest attention, so that all that has been so unsatisfactory in the past may eventually be eradicated, lock, stock, and barrel, and "replaced by the most honest and intelligent elements that can be found among the young graduates from the Cadis' School and the Azhar." There is every hope that this will be achieved without difficulty, for both the last-named institutions are now being conducted on far more enlightened lines than in the past.

Side by side with this endeavour to purify these courts and provide them with an efficient personnel, efforts are being made to reform within a certain measure the system of law which they administer. There are, it may be remarked, four different orthodox rites in the Moslem religion. In former times each rite had its own Grand Cadi in Egypt, and in cases of dispute between parties belonging to different rites, it was that of the defendant which was always applied. At the beginning of the last century, however, the Hanafite rite was adopted as the general rite for the solution of all disputes, and, accordingly, the Mehkemeh regulations laid down that this practice should be followed. But this decision gave rise to certain inconveniences, and the more en-

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lightened Moslems repeatedly drew attention to this unsatisfactory state of affairs, and demanded that the Mehkemehs should be permitted to apply the provisions of other rites in certain circumstances, which were constantly arising before the courts. Although that notable man Sheikh Mohammed Abdu took an active part in the campaign, and actually went so far as to draft provisions which might usefully, in the cases in question, be taken from rites other than the Hanafite, it was not until the end of 1914 that it was found possible to take any action. A commission was formed, under the presidency of the Minister of Justice, with, amongst others, the Sheikh of Al Azhar, representing the Malakite rite, the Grand Mufti, and the heads of the Shafeite and Hambalite rites as members, and it held its first meeting in January, 1915. There is, it may be pointed out, no idea of exercising any restriction on the application of Moslem law. "The sole intention is to promulgate, in the form of a clear and well-ordered Code, the rules which the judges at present apply to suits which come before them, substituting, however, for the provisions which have given rise to inconvenience in practice, more suitable solutions drawn from other rites." A preliminary draft of important portions of the work has been circulated amongst the Cadis and other high Moslem jurists, who have been invited to give their criticisms and suggestions. Whilst the publication of any extensive details would be premature, as well as impolitic, the Judicial Adviser makes the interesting statement that "one of the main preoccupations of the revisors has been to seek in the best accredited commentaries of the different rites solutions of a nature to improve the legal situation of women." The prevalence of child-marriage, especially in the case of girls, which has become such a serious social evil, has also engaged the earnest attention of the revisors; and "it is hoped, by rigorous regulations, that it may prove possible to put an end in practice to the deplorable abuses which occur." An improvement has also been noticeable in the administration of the Meglis Hasbys (courts of wards), where the Ministry has been able to introduce various salutary administrative reforms.

Personnel.

Sir Malcolm pays an eloquent tribute to the memory of Mr. Lionel Sandars, who died last winter, and was the first English President of the Mixed Court of Appeal. Later on in his report he refers to the services of Mr. H. W. Halton, who was one of the pioneers of the English section of the Government Law School, and who was promoted from the Presidency of the Cairo Mixed Court, which he was the first Englishman to hold, to the English Counsellorship in the higher court, left vacant by the death of Mr. Sandars.

Sir Malcolm has a few words to say with regard to the personnel of the courts and of the Ministry. Two of the vacancies created in the Mixed Courts as a result of the absence of the German and Austrian judges have been filled by members of the Ministry, and a French advocate of Cairo has been appointed to a third. An interesting point is settled by the statement that "these posts are, of course, personal to their holders, being supernumerary to those allotted to the Powers respectively concerned under their conventions with Egypt." It is to be assumed that this applies equally to the extra Italian judgeship recently created. The Mixed Courts have also lost two very valuable members in the Greek and Portuguese judges, MM. Demetriades and D'Alpoim, and the Native Court of Appeal a promising Egyptian, in the Coptic Counsellor Mina Bey Ibrahim. The Ministry itself suffered a great loss in the person of Mr. D'Aubuz, Director of the Statistical Office, who died last summer and who "had proved himself a very valuable coadjutor," and had been chiefly responsible for the statistical portion of the Adviser's reports. In my reviews of these reports I have repeatedly referred to the remarkably clear and intelligent manner in which the divers statistics were set out—as it turns out by this official, whose "untimely decease at the early age of forty-six is greatly to be deplored."

Like all other Egyptian administrations, the Ministry of Justice has had to work with a depleted staff owing to the absence of many of its officials on military duty. No fewer than twelve of its European personnel are serving with the Allies in one capacity or another, but it is only fair to say that all the other members who are of military age would be doing likewise if the Ministry had been able to spare them and accede to their request for permission to volunteer.

NEW MILITARY COURT IN CAIRO.

A Reuter's telegram states that a summary military court is being established in Cairo to deal with offences against proclamations and other offences deemed prejudicial to military interests. It is empowered to deal with offences against public decency and morality, following the principles of English law. Generally speaking, the court has similar powers to those of the petty sessional courts in England.

A representative committee (of which Mrs. Brabant is secretary) has been formed in Oxford to organize a local celebration of Kossovo Day, says the *Oxford Magazine*. It is proposed to hold a public meeting on Monday, June 26, at which short addresses on different aspects of Serbian history and civilization will be delivered by Mr. Vesnic, the Serbian Minister in Paris, M. Victor Bérard, Sir Arthur Evans, Professor Vinogradoff, and Mr. Nevill Forbes; failing the first two speakers, Dr. Seton Watson will also take part. Arrangements are being made for lectures or lessons on Serbian history throughout the schools on June 28. It is hoped also to arrange a concert of Serbian music in a College garden on Thursday, June 29, and a lecture-recital by Miss Vivian Edwards in one of the schools. Literature will be placed at the disposal of teachers, and will also be on sale in the Oxford bookshops.

TO RELIEVE DISTRESS IN SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 1.

The movement of Syrians abroad towards succouring their fellow-countrymen who are on the verge of destruction by starvation and persecution already gives promise of early results. According to a telegram received from the New York Committee, President Wilson has granted an audience to a deputation of representative Syrians, to whom he gave a formal promise of help. At the same time the U.S. Diplomatic Agent in Cairo addressed to his Government a long telegram, based on an exhaustive report submitted to him by representative members of the Syrian community, and supported it by strong personal recommendations. Again, the Maronite Patriarch's delegate in Egypt received a telegram from the Pope acknowledging the receipt of the appeal addressed by him and his Catholic colleagues, and stating that his Holiness is giving the matter his very serious attention, and taking the necessary steps with a view to putting a stop to the campaign of persecution and starvation to which his spiritual children in Syria are being subjected. His Holiness at the same time calls upon the relief organisers to press forward energetically with their work in connection with the raising of funds and the purchase of foodstuffs and medicinal requisites, etc., for eventual distribution among the famine-stricken population.

Furthermore, in reply to a similar telegram of appeal, addressed to his Holiness by the spiritual chiefs and notables of Alexandria, the papal secretary wired back that this matter had already been brought to the attention of his Holiness, who is doing what is needful with a view to alleviating the distress of the people, and saving the land from the avoidable woes of war.

The Central Committee in Cairo has already completed its preliminary work of organisation, and it is expected that its programme will be laid before a large gathering of Syrians on Saturday next. Then the decision will probably be taken to start the Press campaign and the collection of funds at once. The spiritual chiefs of various Christian sects, as well as of the Jews and Moslems, are represented on this committee, together with leading notables of each of these communities. Sub-committees, similarly constituted in the provinces, will be entrusted with the raising of funds within their own areas. It is suggested, though not yet confirmed, that the sums to be contributed shall not be left entirely to the charitable inclination of each contributor (Syrian, of course), but shall be fixed by the members of the respective committees, who will have to take into careful consideration his means and his personal and family obligations, if any.

It is proposed that special committees shall be formed to keep in touch with the committees outside Egypt, with a view to a better co-ordination of effort, and that other special committees shall be entrusted with the work of making appeals abroad to allied and neutral organisations, such as the Red Cross, etc.

It will no doubt interest British readers to know that the Bishop in Jerusalem is taking a deep interest in the movement, and that, in addition to having offered 300 tents—to be used eventually as temporary stores far from the principal centres of distribution—and some clothing, he is trying to obtain all possible support from home.

Havas' representative here has sent a long report to his agency in Paris, setting out fully the situation in Syria and the Lebanon, both from the economic and political standpoint, and, as this will be circulated throughout France, it is expected that French public opinion will be stirred to prompt and generous action.

According to advices from Constantinople, the Turks are brutally driving away from their homes the Greek population along the Black Sea coast, west of Trebizond, on the pretext that they are saving the Ottoman Greeks from the dangers of Russian invasion.

Speaking at a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on Monday, the President, Mr. Douglas W. Freshfield, referred to the late Lord Kitchener, who had been a Fellow for thirty-one years. What they remembered perhaps most of all, he said, was that Lord Kitchener's career began in geographical work with his services in Cyprus, and afterwards in Palestine in connection with the Palestine Exploration Fund. While commemorating with pride his connection with that Society as a great soldier, they had to recognise that he was something more than a soldier. He restored the Sudan to civilisation and contributed largely to the establishment of order and prosperity in Egypt; it was mainly due to him that the inhabitants of the Nile from Khartoum to Cairo were able to live in peace and happiness. At Fashoda he prevented by his tact and discretion what might have been a most lamentable dispute between France and England.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 27.

Count Czernin's Blunder.

An incident occurred last week which aroused much attention, and is worth recording in some detail on account of its unusual character. The facts are as follows:—In a private conversation with M. Cioraneano (M. Take Jonescu's political secretary), Count Czernin announced the Austro-Hungarian Government's intention of shortly calling upon M. Take Jonescu to restore the insignia of the "Crown of Iron" conferred upon him years ago, and suggested that M. Take Jonescu should anticipate events by voluntarily returning the decoration. M. Jonescu, of course, fell in with the suggestion and returned the insignia in question. At the same time, however, he went rather further than the Austrian Minister had intended, and sent to the German Minister his decoration of the "Red Eagle," together with a letter, of which the following is the text:—

The political attitude dictated to me by my conception of a Roumanian's duties in this world-crisis has imposed upon me the obligation to forego the privilege of possessing Austrian and German decorations.

In spite of this, the restitution of insignia appeared to me a useless act of discourtesy.

The course followed by the Austrian Government—your ally—has shown that in respect of courtesy the views entertained by the Central Powers and myself are at variance.

At the present moment I no longer have any scruples in requesting you to return to your Government the insignia of the Order of the Red Eagle.

The immediate consequence of this incident was the restitution of Austrian decorations by a large number of prominent personages, including half-a-dozen former Ministers, the decorations in many cases being accompanied by letters which cannot have proved pleasant reading. Below is the text of a letter addressed to the Austro-Hungarian Minister, to which several well-known public men subscribed their names:

The pretensions of the Austro-Hungarian Government to assume the position of a judge in respect of the political attitude of Roumanian citizens who possess Austro-Hungarian decorations, and of withdrawing the same decorations from those whose attitude provokes this Government's displeasure, confers upon these decorations a character which for us is quite inadmissible.

We, therefore, beg you to return to your Government the insignia of the Orders which we hold.

Our mode of restoring them is, we admit, somewhat irregular, but it is the one which your Excellency himself found it good to select.

The Tenth of May.

It was on May 10 (Old Style) exactly half a century ago that Prince Charles of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen made his solemn entry into Bucharest as ruler of the United Principalities. On the eleventh anniversary of this date the country celebrated its independence, proclaimed the day before by the legislative bodies. Finally, it was on May 10 in the fourth year of her independence that Roumania proclaimed herself a kingdom, and that Prince Charles and his consort assumed the Royal crown. This day of the years 1866, 1877, and 1881 thus marks three stages in the country's upward progress, and is associated with events whose influence upon the national development is incalculable. It is Roumania's "*jour de fête.*" What gift will the next one bring her?

This year's celebrations were much the same as in former years: a Te Deum at the Metropole, and the procession up the Calea Victoriei and past the tribunes at the entrance to the Chaussée. As in the case of last year's review, the foreign diplomats and military attachés receive no invitation, principally, we may assume, in order to avoid the chance of a hostile manifestation against the Central Powers taking place. There were one or two features which drew the attention of the public. Thus the King wore the new green uniform which is about to be introduced into the army, and is very becoming, and then there was the passage of the Sanitary Corps—admirably organised and equipped, thanks to the untiring labour and technical knowledge of Dr. Anghelescu, the Minister of Public Works—with its new ambulance wagons, its motor ambulances fitted with stretchers, etc. An unfamiliar spectacle was presented by the guns with muzzles directed skywards, on the look-out, it would seem, for a Taube. And finally there were the four squadrons of the Aviation Corps which was formed last autumn, the aeroplanes being conveyed on motor lorries.

On the Bessarabian Frontier.

The Military Governor of Bessarabia has ordered all owners of land in the valley of the Pruth to remove every obstacle to the free circulation along the bank of the river. From the Roumanian side one can observe people hewing trees and pulling down houses.

An Outspoken Uutterance.

Your readers may be interested in the following extract from the *Narodni Prava*, the Bulgarian journal in which M. Radoslavoff's opinions find expression. According to the *Journal des Balkans*, the passage has been reproduced by a number of other papers, including the semi-official *Echo de Bulgarie*:—

It is possible that in the near future Bulgarian diplomats may be called to pronounce upon the liquidation of the war at an international conference. The Serbian question will then occupy a prominent position, and will require a definite solution. Our diplomats will have to be firm on this point, *and not allow themselves to be softened by any humanitarian sentimentality.* The existence of Serbia, under any form whatsoever, would be a perpetual menace to the peace of the Balkans, a continual obstacle to the pacific development of Europe. This State has been a nest of intrigue and quarrels from the moment it gained its independence, *and must cease to exist.* It is not cruelty which demands its suppression, but a higher necessity, upon which depends the future of humanity, and, above all, our own.

Although Bulgaria is our enemy, and her rulers have been guilty of hideous crimes, we cannot help regretting that her Press should publish such diabolical stuff. A suspicion may be entertained that Bulgaria's rather cumbersome allies have a hand in it. Apart from the monstrous character of the suggestions made, the lines quoted indicate a complete unconsciousness of the fact that the expression of such views will not facilitate the Quadruple Entente's task of respecting the principle of nationalities.

M. PASHITCH AT ODESSA.

Odessa, May 17.

M. Pashitch arrived here yesterday from Kieff, and in the evening was entertained at a banquet given in his honour at the Town Hall, at which all the highest military and civil authorities were present, as were also the Consular representatives of the Allied nations.

In replying to the toast of his health, with which was coupled the Serbian Nation and the Serbian Army, M. Pashitch expressed warm gratitude to Odessa for the brotherly help given to the wounded Serbian soldiers and to the Serbian refugees who had been driven from their devastated homes. Serbia, he said, had always fought for right and freedom, and to the present great struggle she had brought her faithful principle, "Better to die an honourable death than to live under a shameful yoke." Relying on her faithful sister, Russia, with her great allies, Serbia still firmly believes in the triumph of the Allies; and the enthusiasm and confidence which the speaker had witnessed everywhere in Russia had strengthened this faith in him.

In the evening M. Pashitch attended a gala performance given in his honour at the Opera House, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion.

At Bucharest on Sunday there were a number of Interventionist demonstrations, including a procession of 50,000 persons who marched, singing, to the Royal Palace.

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ISPAHAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ispahan, April 20.

Since I wrote my last letter a regiment of Russian infantry has arrived here, and the day before yesterday a regiment of Russian Cossacks came in. They were all received with great enthusiasm by the population, and their presence has already brought about a state of order in the region which is unparalleled in recent times. The approach of Easter is being celebrated with great rejoicings, in many of which the Moslem population seems ready to participate—in spirit at least—and the town presents a very cheerful appearance.

The British flag was hoisted at the Consulate last Saturday with considerable pomp and ceremony. Unfortunately, the British Consul-General and the British colony, who left Ispahan in the middle of September, have not yet returned, though they are reported to have left Ahwaz, and are due here in a fortnight. The British Vice-Consul and some American travellers were present at the ceremony. Russian troops mounted a guard of honour at the entrance to the Consulate and their band supplied the music; and the Russian Consul-General and the British Vice-Consul exchanged cordial speeches.

The Russian Consulate has issued a circular stating that a telegram has been received from the Kermanshah Consulate announcing the arrest of Suleiman Khan, his brother, Suleiman Mirza, and others (seventeen persons in all), leaders of the so-called Democrats. This news was received with rejoicing by the inhabitants of Ispahan, who had been terrorized by these people ever since the outbreak of the war.

Naib Jelal, a German hireling who had played a very active part in raising the so-called Nationalist troops before the arrival of the Russians, was hanged a few days ago in the market square.

The Ahwaz-Ispahan road, which had been closed for several months by bandits, is now open, and caravans arrive and depart almost every day.

OPERATIONS IN EGYPT.

A number of despatches on the military operations in the Egyptian Command were published in a Supplement to the *London Gazette* on Wednesday. The first is from Lieutenant-General Sir J. G. Maxwell, the G.O.C. in Egypt (February 16, 1915), covering a report from Major-General Alex. Wilson, Commanding the Suez Canal Defences, on the then recent attack on the Suez Canal. The second from General Maxwell (August 19, 1915) accompanies a further report by Major-General Wilson, containing a narrative of subsequent events. The third despatch (March 1, 1916) is from General Maxwell on military affairs in the Egyptian Command since the Turks attacked the Suez Canal in February, 1915. The fourth (March 16) submits the names of officers and other ranks whom General Maxwell desires to bring to notice: (1) in connection with operations on the Western Front; and (2) in connection with Administration in Egypt. The fifth (April 9) supplements the despatch of March 1, and brings up the record of the position from January 31 to March 19, on which date he handed over his command to General Sir A. J. Murray, Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force; and it describes the operations under Major-General W. E. Peyton for the reoccupation of Sollum.

The Suez Canal defence operations covered in the first and second despatches are now ancient history, and it may be sufficient to say that General Maxwell reported that they had been conducted by Major-General Wilson to his complete satisfaction. In the second period the actual fighting was not severe, but the work of the troops was heavy and monotonous, owing to the large amount of patrolling necessitated by the enemy's attempts at minelaying and crossing the Canal.

General Maxwell submits the following among other recommendations in connection with the various operations:—

OPERATIONS ON WESTERN FRONT.

Commanders and Staff.—Maj.-Gen. A. Wallace, C.B., Ind. Army; Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) J. D. T. Tyndale-Biscoe.

ADMINISTRATION IN EGYPT.

Commands and Staffs.—Maj.-Gen. H. E. Stanton, C.B., D.S.O., Brig.-Gen. in charge of Administration; Maj.-Gen. J. Spens, C.B., Res. of Off., Comdg. Aust. and N.Z. Training Depot; Surg.-Gen. R. W. Ford, C.B., D.S.O., D.M.S.; Vice-Admi. Sir R. H. Peirse, K.C.B., M.V.O., Commander-in-Chief, East Indies; Rear-Admi. H. R. Robinson, P.N.T.O.; Maj. and Bt.-Lt.-Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) N. Malcolm, D.S.O., Arg. and Suth'd Highrs., Senior Gen. Staff Off.; Col. H. B. H. Wright, C.M.G. (late R.E.), Chief Engineer; Col. T. B. Beach, A.M.S.; Capt. (temp. Lt.-Col.) G. F. Clayton, C.M.G., ret. pay (Res. of Off.), Gen. Staff Off. in charge of Intell. Sec.; Lt.-Col. A. W. Jennings Bramly, Intell., Egyptian Army; Maj. and Bt. Lt.-Col. E. N. Broadbent, K.O. Sco. Bord., D.A.Q.M.G.; Maj. R. E. M. Russell, D.S.O., R.E., Gen. Staff Off.; Maj. W. S. Whetherley, 7th D.G., Gen. Staff. Off., Aust. and N.Z. Training Depot; Capt. A. G. McClintock, 5th Lrs., D.A.A.G.; Maj. B. H. W. Taylor, S. Staff, R., D.A.A. and Q.M.G.; Surg.-Maj. B. Pares, D.S.O., R.H. Gds., A.D.M.S.; Maj. H. V. Bagshawe, R.A.M.C., A.D.M.S.Sanitary; Capt. and Bt. Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) J. N. Brown, Manch. R. (T.F.), Embarkation Staff Off., Alexandria; Capt. (Local and Temp. Maj.) C. Garvice, D.S.O., Intell., Alexandria; Capt. (Local and Temp. Maj.) H. A. Engledue, Deputy Chief Censor; Capt. and Bt. Maj. H. O. B. Wood, 8th Rajputs, Embarkation Staff Off., Suez.; Capt. P. A. Maxwell, 3rd Brahmans, Embarkation Staff Off., Port Said; Capt. A. G. C. Dawnay, C. Gds., Gen. Staff Off., Aust. and N.Z. Training Depot; Lt. C. L. Price, 4th Aust. Lt. H., Asst. Embarkation Staff Off., Alexandria; 2nd Lt. (temp. Capt.) B. H. G. Arkwright, Derbyshire Yeo., Asst. Embarkation Staff Off., Alexandria; 2nd Lt. (temp. Capt.) E. R. Harris, 2nd County of London Yeo., R.T.O.

Royal Flying Corps.—Bt. Maj. S. D. Massy, 29th Punjabis, attached R.F.C.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.—Miss S. E. Oram, R.R.C., Temporary Matron in Chief, Egypt Command. Matron.—Miss J. E. Dods, Citadel Hospital, Cairo. Acting Matrons.—Miss M. Grierson, No. 15 Gen. Hosp. (Abbassia Schools); Miss D. M. C. Michell, Mil. Hosp. Ras-el-Tin; Miss M. E. Medforth, No. 18 Stationary Hospital, Mudros; Miss M. E. Neville, No. 17 Gen. Hosp. (Victoria College).

General List.—Maj. (Bt. Lt.-Col.) Lord E. H. Cecil, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Res. of Off.; Lt.-Col. Sir J. G. Rogers, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., M.B., ret., A. Med. Staff; Temp. Col. Sir C. Thomson, Kt.; Temp. Col. G. S. A. Harvey Pasha, C.M.G., Provost-Marshal, Cairo; Capt. (temp. Col.) H. C. B. Hopkinson Pasha, C.M.G. (Res. of Off.), Provost-Marshal, Alexandria; Capt. and Bt. Maj. Sir G. B. Macauley, K.C.M.G., Res. of Off; Maj. C. S. Spong, D.S.O., F.R.C.S., ret. pay.; Capt. (local and temp. Lt.-Col.) A. C. Parker, Intell.; Local and Temp. Capt. M. S. Macdonnell, Intell.; Temp. 2nd Lt. C. L. Woolley, Intell.; Temp. 2nd Lt. T. E. Lawrence, Intell.; Sagh Adjt.-Maj. Essani Ahmed (Egyptian Army), Intell. at Tor.; Local and Temp. Lt. N. R. Bawden, Egyptian Government P.W.D., attached R.E.; Local and temp. Capt. Annesley De R. Gordon, Egyptian Veterinary Service; (Local Maj.) Dr. W. Hastings; (Local Maj.) Dr. E. V. Oulton; (Local Maj.) Dr. A. F. MacCallan; (Local Maj.) Dr. W. Hayward; (Local Maj.) Dr. C. Ekins; (Local Maj.) Dr. L. P. Phillips, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P.; Dr. H. V. Keatinge, C.M.G.; Dr. J. E. Cresswell; Dr. Armand Ruffer, C.M.G.; Vice-Admi. Moreau, commanding 3rd Squadron Premier Armée Navale; Lt. de Vaisseau de L'Enaille; Count de Serionne (Suez Canal).

Officials, Egyptian Government.—Sir R. Graham, K.C.M.G., C.B.; Sir W. Brunyate, K.C.M.G.; Sir M. Macdonald, K.C.M.G.; Sir David Semple; N. T. Borton Pasha; Burnett Stewart, Esq.; E. M. Dowson, Esq.; Ward Boys, Esq.; Dr. A. Granville; C. H. Ambruster, Esq. (Sudan Government).

Ladies.—H. E. Lady McMahon; Lady Maxwell; Lady Henry Bentinck; Lady Howard de Walden; Lady Graham; Lady Douglas; Lady Rogers; Lady Godley; Mrs. Phillips; Mrs. Ford.

THE RE-OCCUPATION OF SOLLUM.

General Headquarters Staff.—Hunter, Local and temp. Col. G. G., C.M.G., Egyptian Coastguard Administration; Royle, Local and temp. Capt. L. V. A., Egyptian Coastguard Administration.

Miscellaneous.—St. Quentin, Lt. le Compte de, French Army; Meberley, Kaimakam (temp. Maj.) M., Egyptian Ministry; Grundy, R. T., Esq. (graded Maj.), Asst. Traffic Manager, Directorate of Railway Transport; Duke, R. H., Esq. (graded Maj.), Divisional Engineer, Directorate of Railway Transport; Jennings Bramley, W., Esq., Sudan Civil Service; Pringle Bey, El Miralai R., Egyptian Ministry of Finance; Hopkins, J. F. G., Esq., Egyptian Ministry of Finance; Ziaki, Yusbashi Mahmoud, Egyptian Military Works Dept.; Lebib, Yusbashi Arif, Egyptian Military Works Dept.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

THE FUTURE SETTLEMENT IN THE BALKANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I cannot forbear from congratulating you on your leading article of April 28, which shows a statesmanlike appreciation of the problems which must be encountered by Europe in the final settlement of the Balkan question. You are eminently right in concluding that the main cause of the discomfiture of the Allies' diplomacy in the Balkans was their failure to have a policy of their own, and that for Europe the one desideratum is that there should be a permanent peace in those regions. As you point out, we must achieve this either "by confining Bulgaria for ever in the prison house of unrealised national aspirations, with Serbia and Greece as head gaolers, or by settling once for all the differences which estrange the Balkan States."

Obviously the adoption of the first alternative would entail an early renewal of bloodshed, which in all probability would not be confined to the Balkans. In ordinary circumstances no fair-minded person with any acquaintance with practical politics would tolerate such a programme for a moment. But we live in exceptional times, and the resentment which we now feel against Bulgaria (whose accession to the list of our enemies is in reality due to our own blunders) affords an opportunity for interested suggestions on the part of those who look forward to appropriating the legitimate heritage of the Bulgarian race. The extent to which our natural feelings of sympathy and indignation over the misfortunes of Serbia (which in all probability we might have prevented) have been turned to account for this purpose is scarcely realized, or perhaps not realized at all, by those who in all sincerity come forward as the champions of Serbian or Greek aggrandisement in regions inhabited by Bulgarian populations. In the present temper of our people almost any proposal hostile to Bulgaria is likely to find a hearing. The war spirit, not the schoolmaster, is abroad; few persons care to tackle the intricate racial problem, and the majority lend a ready ear to misleading statements regarding Macedonia, just as in 1878 they believed Lord Salisbury when he called that province "a Greek country." A case in point is the assertion, reiterated persistently until it has come to be believed, that Bulgaria is fighting, not for national rights, but for the hegemony of the Balkans. Hegemony, it may be observed parenthetically, is a Greek word and a Greek idea; the Greek claim to the reversion of the Byzantine empire (to which the name of the present Greek sovereign bears permanent witness), and the Serbian demand for the restoration of Tsar Dushan's empire, are alike based on imperialist pretensions; the Serbian claim to Macedonia was never seriously put forward till King Milan, at the instigation of Austria, demanded "compensation" for the union of Eastern Rumelia with Bulgaria, and attacked the sister country. The Bulgarians, on the other hand, base their claims on nationality alone; what they have always demanded is the revival of the Treaty of San Stefano, which was drawn up on ethnographic lines, or, failing that, Macedonian autonomy. The empires of their former Tsars have never figured in the controversy. To say that their claim has no better basis than "ceaseless reiteration" is to ignore all the best authorities on the subject. An interesting, though not complete, list of these will be found in an article by Mr. A. Shopoff, himself a high authority, in the *Asiatic Review* of July, 1915.

The cardinal difference between the claims of Bulgaria and those of Serbia and Greece in regard to Macedonia has always lain in the fact that the former are founded on the principle of nationalities, the latter on traditions of imperialism. The legitimate expansion of Serbia towards the Adriatic and of Greece in Crete, the Ægean Islands, and Asia Minor have never hitherto been opposed by the Bulgarians, who know that their own claims stand or fall with the recognition of the principle of nationalities. But since Sofia has fallen wholly under Austro-German influences some declarations appear to have been made in official quarters which conflict with the attitude hitherto maintained by Bulgaria, and can only redound to her detriment. The admission attributed by your correspondent, Mr. A. H. E. Taylor, to Dr. Radoslavoff seems to be confirmed by the language of a recent article in the *Echo de Bulgarie*:—"L'existence de la Serbie, n'importe sous quelle forme, serait une perpétuelle menace pour la paix des Balkans . . . Cet état, qui depuis son indépendance était un nid d'intrigues et de querelles, doit cesser d'exister." This truculent outburst, undoubtedly due to Austrian inspiration or even dictation, will inevitably be brought up against Bulgaria in the day of final reckoning, but it does not in any way represent the mature opinion of Bulgarian statesmanship, which has always desired the existence of a strong buffer State between Bulgaria and the aggressive *empires de proie* of Central Europe. That Mr. Gueshoff may have claimed Nish and the Morava valley for Bulgaria seems likely enough; up to the Berlin Treaty this region was always regarded as Bulgarian both by Turkey and the Powers.

It seems unfortunate that the ultimate settlement in the Balkans should be publicly discussed at the present moment, for the world in general is not in a judicial frame of mind. But as you, sir, observe, the policy to be adopted by the Allied Powers ought to be adopted now, for hand-to-mouth diplomacy will only bring us a crude settlement gratifying to the resentment of the moment, but laying up a heritage of fresh trouble for the future. We must not be led astray by the cynical argument that, as the Balkan races have always fought with each other in the past, they will continue to do so in the future. The sad history of the past is due to the fact that conquest took the place of equity as the basis of all arrangements. We must change all that; we must not be weary of well-doing. The new equitable settlement on the basis of nationalities must, of course, be imposed by force, and for a while be maintained by force; but in a surprisingly short space of time the young States will settle down within the limits assigned to them, provided those limits are just in regard to the nationalities and carefully adapted to local requirements. They will then find it to their interest to unite, as they once united for a time, and, warned by the sad experience of the past, they will avoid fratricidal quarrels and maintain a firm front against aggression on the part of their great neighbours.—I am, etc.,

"BEHIND THE SCENES."

June 2, 1916.

THE PLIGHT OF SYRIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The account that your correspondent (in Cairo) gave in your last issue of the state of Syria is being daily added to by the Paris and Rome press, and to-day we learn from these sources that the Maronite Bishop of Beyrout has been, with seven other Bishops, exiled to the interior, and that the Maronite Patriarch and his secretary, Bishop Sakr, are now on their trial at Aley.

More names, too, of notables from Beyrout and the Lebanon are given me as further victims of Jemal Pasha, and the Arabic journal of Paris, *Al-Moustakbal*, makes the statement that 80,000 Lebanese have already perished by starvation.

In my letter of the 16th ulto., which appeared in your issue of the 19th, I foreshadowed all this and called for remedies to this deplorable state of the country. I fear that any armed intervention is for the moment not contemplated by either France or ourselves. But when the Turks are resorting to methods of defiance by murdering our protégés within gun shot of our fleet, it seems time we did something to punish them, and to secure a ground where relief to the starving could be landed, and a refuge to the oppressed could be provided.

Early in the war I heard that the American Mission in Beyrout was helping the poor there by creating work for them in street widening and building, and perhaps it is doing so now; but it seems that flour is scarce in the town, and that the Turks will not allow any of it to go to the Lebanon, where people are consequently reduced to eating grass like cattle, and are dying from starvation and typhoid by the thousand. Surely Americans cannot be indifferent witnesses to such brutality, and when their people at home hear of it they will, I have no doubt, find means of giving assistance without delay.

It is true that our blockading of Syrian ports must entail hardship on the people, but it was never meant to starve them, as they have nothing to do with the policy of their government, and, moreover, were it not that the locusts have eaten up their crops, they would have had plenty of cereals from their own land. Mount Lebanon, however, grows little to speak of in the way of foodstuff, its main industry being the raising of silk-worms, which provides it with the means of buying food. There being, however, no insurrection in the country, it passes understanding how the Turks can benefit by murdering its unarmed people, were they to remain masters, or to be ultimately ejected from power. Surely common-sense and their future interest might suffice to induce them to be righteous for once when the fate of their whole Empire is in the balance.—I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER SEFI.

June 20, 1916.

Private letters received from Jerusalem state that in consequence of the rapid spread of spotted typhus, whooping-cough, and small pox, the Turkish Government has closed all the schools in Jerusalem. In Jaffa the plague is spreading so fast that all the schools have been closed.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I was uncommonly glad to learn of Sir Percy Sykes's arrival at Kerman, and I can readily believe that the reception accorded to him and his command was a thoroughly cordial one, for he is a real friend of Persia and the Persians, and the people recognise the fact and reciprocate his liking. His selection for the mission entrusted to him was probably the very best that could be made, and he will, I feel sure, accomplish all that mortal man can do in the way of restoring order to distracted Southern Persia, which has been too long a happy hunting ground for the Austro-German propagandists and their ruffianly agents.

***

That champion of light and liberty, Talaat Bey, has been unburdening his soul to a journalist in Constantinople. The journalist, I observe, was a German, and as Talaat's confessions referred to the massacres of Armenians, they doubtless fell upon sympathetic ears. But, even so, I wonder how they will have been received in Germany, which—save to the Moslems—still poses as a Christian country, and in Austria-Hungary, where the Turk is not yet quite so "popular" as he is in Hun-land. If the Bulgarians had not suddenly discovered that they are, after all, the blood-brothers and good friends of the Turks, whom yesterday they so hated and despised, we might even be tempted to ask what *they* thought about these massacres. One seems to recollect that, not so very long ago, Sofia was moved to tears by the arrival of Armenian refugees. To-day, however, in view of the treatment meted out to the Serbians, one supposes that the butchery of helpless Armenian women and children rather appeals to the Prussians of the Balkans, who, under the tutelage of "Tsar" Ferdinand, appear to have made rapid progress in the art of Frightfulness.

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Whatever the Central Powers and their Balkan dupe may think, or affect to think, of Talaat's frank statements, there can be no manner of doubt as to the way in which other nations will regard them. They carry their own condemnation with them. In effect, Talaat admitted that the "removal" of the Armenians was decided upon deliberately, as a "military, national, and historical necessity," and that it was carried out—in ways only too well known to all of us by now—on the direct orders of the Government. He also indicated that he resented blame for not making any distinction between the innocent and the guilty, pointing out that "the innocent of to-day might become the guilty of to-morrow." And he had the impertinence to say: "We are not savages." The world is a better judge of that than Talaat Bey, and it is not likely to endorse his verdict. Yet, to give the Devil his due, it is quite possible that the self-complacent Minister of the Interior really believes what he said. For he is intensely modern; a demagogue to his finger-tips, he believes implicitly in the power of words, words, words; and it is at least conceivable that he imagines that words, if only used in sufficient numbers, will serve to obliterate the memory of what he referred to as "these sad occurrences." It will, however, take a good many words to make the world forget the massacre of four-fifths of the Armenian population of Turkey. I am not surprised that Talaat has had "many sleepless nights" of late.

***

When last I referred to Greece in these pages, I intimated that it was becoming increasingly hard not to recognise a hard line of separation between the Greeks of ancient and modern days. That line, much as I wished to destroy it, is firmly established in my mind now, for there is something altogether wrong with the modern Greek. If he is greatly troubled now it is because supplies are running low, not because his rulers have torn his boasted dream of freedom into shreds. That a large number of Greeks remain who are still possessed of the ancient fire I do not doubt, but their lot is only agony and mortification as their beloved country plays the shuttlecock to the battledore of Wilhelm and Constantine. It does not seem humanly possible now that a single Greek of the present generation may live to see the vision of Venizelos matured to their country's good. Hesitancy and petty intrigue have done their work; the golden hour is past. Henceforward I can look upon affairs in Greece as I would look upon the affairs of any other Balkan state, relegating to an altogether different sphere the wonderful traditions of her past. When, full of enthusiasm for the past and future of the Hellenes, I last saw and, proud of the honour, conversed with King Constantine, I little imagined what Greece and the friends of Greece were to suffer by his will.

***

The events of the present month in Athens have contained all the elements of a successful comic opera. The spectacle of an unwashed herd of scallywags piloted round on their errand of destruction by the police was cheering to begin with, but the supreme moment of the farce was when the occupants of a pro-Ally newspaper office returned the fire of the mob. This contingency had evidently been unexpected, but the police appear to have acted quite promptly and, in accordance with their parts as buffoons, attempted to arrest, not the attackers, but the attacked. Again, further good comedy was provided by a paid agent of the police, who brandished a revolver — empty — somewhere in the proximity of the King, and was arrested with proper fuss and ceremony as a pro-Ally-anti-dynastic vagabond. But a silent house is a depressing place to play to, and it seems that the gallant actors of the crown are becoming a little disturbed by the silence of those whom they wished to impress so greatly. Even hisses were better than this death-like and ominous silence. They may, however, take heart of grace. The opinion of the audience will be given quite unmistakably at the fall of the curtain.

***

Some time ago I wrote on the subject of coincidence, and a coincidence in connection with one of my notes of last week is, I think, worth recording. In referring to the weather, I reproduced some lines which I had heard, not read, many years ago. I have never heard or read them since. These must have been in type on Thursday last. On the same day one of the London evening papers also quoted them! There was a very slight difference in the two versions, and the daily paper was a little ahead of me in the matter of length, but the coincidence was a remarkable one. While I am on the subject I may record another incident which occurred last autumn. I was spending the evening with friends, and in the course of conversation they referred to a fact which they thought must be unique in the history of the London Police. A few years before, my host, returning home late one evening, had found a policeman fast asleep on the door-step. The same evening, as I was going home through a darkened street, in quite a different part of London, I found a policeman prone on the steps of one of the houses. Thinking he might be injured, I stopped to investigate, only to find him fast asleep, but otherwise quite normal. In the East night *ghaffirs* are bound to yell one to another at stated intervals in order to show that they are awake, but a sleeping policeman in London is certainly a very uncommon sight.

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Under pressure from the Huns, the Turks, I am sorry to see, are going from bad to worse in the matter of their official *communiqués*. Their productions have never been remarkable for their strict adherence to the truth, though in this respect they were for a long while preferable to the German-made article; but their method of saying the-thing-that-was-not used to be artistic and amusing. To-day it is neither. The clumsy hand of the Hun is glaringly apparent in all recent productions of this kind, and it seems to me that to refer to them as "imaginative" is to pay them a compliment they by no means deserve. It is a pity; for the war is a dreary business, and any touch of humour that lightened its dreariness was welcome. But, on the other hand, it indicates that the Turco-Germs are beginning to feel that their backs are against the wall; and that is an encouraging symptom. If the Germans who write these things for their Turkish dupes find it necessary to describe barges as gunboats, and unsuccessful skirmishes as brilliant victories, it ought to mislead nobody—not even the Turks!

***

Busreh, I am pleased to see, has been receiving encomiums from the special correspondent of a news agency, who appears to have made acquaintance with the city quite lately. He seems to like the *bellums*, which he describes as being "propelled in the same way" as the gondolas of Venice, though this is surely not quite correct; and the lighting arrangements please him much. But, alas! he declares that the amusements of the place are "hardly worth mentioning," and adds: "One cinema and a native tea-house, at which one sees indifferent dancing and hears worse singing, for the excessive charge of one rupee." If this criticism be not too captious, it would seem that my fevered longing to be off to Busreh to gaze upon the charms of these "beauties of the Aleppo world," of whom I read in the *Busreh Times*, was hardly warranted by facts. Another of Love's young dreams gone wrong.

***

A friend tells me that he read recently in a paper—the name of which he forgets—that Bulgarian troops have been finding their way to Brussels of late, and that they have been cheered by the Belgians. Of course, I declined to believe the statement until my friend proceeded to explain that the cheers were due to a misconception, the Belgians mistaking the Bulgars for British prisoners. The explanation of the mistake lies in the fact that the Bulgarians are reported to be clad in khaki, exactly like our own troops. If this be so, it is indeed rough luck on our gallant soldiers. In any case, what are the Bulgarians there for? Are they destined eventually for further sacrifice at Verdun on the altar of the Crown Prince's vanity?

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A DISENCHANTED TRAVELLER IN PERSIA.*

Mr. Benjamin Burges Moore is a young American journalist who travelled through Persia on the eve of the Great War. Starting in midwinter from Moscow, he traversed Russian Turkestan, crossed the Persian frontier south of Askabad, and reached Bushire in the spring of 1914. Unlike Pierre Loti, in whose footsteps he followed, Mr. Moore is a confirmed pessimist, and his recorded impressions lack the glamour thrown over sordid surroundings in *Vers Isfahan*. During his transit through the Tsar's dominions he chafed under the restrictions on liberty of movement which met him at every turn. Russia, he writes, "resembles a prison, inasmuch as it can neither be entered nor left without due process of law." He apparently ignored the omnipresence of German spies, whose mischievous activity called for drastic precautions; and if he returned to England at the present day he would find similar "restrictions on personal liberty" in full force. But Mr. Moore is a strong partisan of the late Treasurer-General, whose suspicion of Russia he shares. We find him retailing every story of Muscovite "outrage" told him in Persia, and that without taking the trouble to sift truth from fiction. Thus the sight of fifty Russian soldiers riding down a street in Kushan stirred him to anger, as it was "a place where they had no right other than that of brute force." Yet, with singular illogism, Mr. Moore admits that the Persians are hopelessly decadent; that their spirit has been destroyed by perennial brigandage and the oppression of corrupt officials; that "Germany's incredible and all-reaching influence had probably been at work in subterraneous channels." On such premisses he bases an assertion that "Great Britain has been compelled by political necessity to violate her best traditions in bringing Southern Persia within her sphere of influence." In point of fact, the Shah's dominions were but a pawn in Germany's game of world-empire; and if Great Britain had permitted them to remain in a state of anarchy she would have "violated her best traditions" with a vengeance. Recent events have amply vindicated Anglo-Russian policy in Persia, and indeed have proved that the condominium was not carried far enough. Our stupid regard for German susceptibilities (!) led to the establishment of a Swedish gendarmerie, most of whom were in the Kaiser's pay. Mr. Moore relates an appalling instance of their cruelty, and the photograph which illustrates it positively makes one shudder.

Our author's Russophobism is not his only disqualification. He devotes page after page to descriptions of the manifold discomforts endured by travellers in Persia. His start from Meshed was made in the wreck of a brougham, and after its total collapse he was almost shaken to death in a springless vehicle which—to judge from photographs—was half horse-omnibus and half bathing-machine. Persian roads are either quagmires or knee-deep in fœtid dust, their purlieus a continuous shambles of dead and dying cattle; while every rest-house is a sink of abominations. Mr. Moore's insistence on that which Sir M. E. Grant-Duff aptly styled the "scaffolding of life" makes wearisome reading and lessens the value of his book. But he was received with sweet and heartfelt courtesy by Persian officials, nor were their henchmen at all behindhand in welcoming the stranger within their gates. Twice did his ragged and half-starved escort refuse proffered *bakshish* because "he was their master's guest." If the children of poor, worn-out Iran no longer lead the world in artistic skill, if the realm of Cyrus be a wreck almost beyond repair, they still retain traces of a consummate civilisation, and may revive under the ægis of a strong and equitable government. From British officers of every grade Mr. Moore received an equal measure of hospitality; it is pleasant to find him pronouncing their homes to be oases in a desert far more forbidding than the Sahara.

A word must be said, in conclusion, on our author's transliteration of Eastern place-names. It reminds one of the pranks played in Colonel Malleson's continuation of Kaye's "Indian Mutiny." Such pedantry as Moscov, Bukhara, Samarqand, and Tihran; such blunders as Turkomen (pl. of Turkoman), Ferdowsi, Mowroz (for Nauroz), and Dilgusha (for Dilkhusha) prove that Hunterian spelling has many pitfalls for an author who knows no language but his vernacular.

F. H. S.

* "From Moscow to the Persian Gulf." By Benjamin Burges Moore. (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London. Price 10s. 6d. net.)

SOME RARE GREEK BOOKS.

We are indebted to Archdeacon Beresford Potter for permission to publish the following Catalogue of Greek Books in the library which the late Mr. Cobham, C.M.G., presented to the Royal Colonial Institute. The list contains several rarities, and our readers will doubtless be glad to file it for reference, as, we understand, no other list of these volumes is yet available.

'Ιστορία χρονολογικὴ τῆς νήσου Κύπρου. By Kyprianos, Archimandrite. 4to. Venice, 1788.

Χρονικὸν Κύπρου. Greek Text, with French Introduction. Ed. C. Sathas, and E. Muller. An old Edition of the above, valuable when complete. (Ought to be 2 vols.)

Φιλολογικαὶ ἐπισκέψεις. By G. Louka. Vol. I. 8vo. Athens, 1874.

'Ιστορία τῆς νήσου Κύπρου. From the French. By Constantine Bonitzianou. Bound with the above. Athens, 1877.

Εἰδήσεις ἱστορικαὶ περὶ τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς Κύπρου. By Georgios Philippos. 8vo. Athens, 1875. Bound up with above.

Κυπρὶς: 'Η Κύπρος τῆς σήμερον. 'Ιστορία τῆς Κύπρου ἀπο τῶν μυθολογικῶν χρόνων μέχρι σήμερον. By George S. Francoudi. Athens, 1890.

Περιγραφὴ τῆς ἱερᾶς σεβασμίας καὶ βασιλικῆς μονῆς τοῦ Κύκκου. By Ephraim, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Venice, 1817. Rare.

'Αξῆμ πατησσὰχ μοναστὴρ Κυκκόνουν χερμετλοῦ βασιτοῦλλαχ εἰκόνα τασφειροῦν. (A Turkish version of the above printed in Greek character.) By Ephraim, Patriarch of Jerusalem. 4to. Venice, 1816. Rare.

Παρὰ Νικολάῳ Γλυκεῖ τῷ ἐξ 'Ιωαννίνων. By Ephraim, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Τουρκοκρατουμένη 'Ελλὰς 'Ιστορικὸν δοκίμιον περὶ τῶν προς 'Αποτίναξιν τοῦ ὀθωμανικοῦ 'Ζυγοῦ 'Επαστάσεων τοῦ 'Ελληνικοῦ ἔθνους (1453-1821). 'Υπὸ Κωνσταντίνου Ν. Σάθα, Αθηναισι, 1869.

Γενικὴ ἱστορία τῆς νήσου Κύπρου ἀπο τῶν ἀρχαιοτάτων χρόνων μέχρι τῆς 'Αγγλικῆς κατοχῆς. Τομος Α. Ι. Κ. Περιστιάνη. Λευκοσία, 1910.

Τὰ Κυπριακὰ: Vol. I.—Γεωγραφία 'Ιστορία καὶ γλῶσσα. By Ath. Sakellarios. Royal 8vo. Athens, 1890. Ditto. Vol. II.—Royal 8vo. Athens, 1891. (The new edition is in 3 vols.)

Τυπικὴ διάταξις καὶ λόγοι εἰς τὴν 'Εξαήμερον. By Neophytus. 4to. Venice, 1779. Rare.

Ditto, with addition of, bound in same volume, 'Ακολουθίαι τοῦ ὁσίου πατρὸς ἡμῶν Νεοφύτου τοῦ ἐγκλείστου. 4to. Nicosia, 1893.

Μεσαιωνικὴ βιβλιοθήκη. Τόμος β'. By K. N. Satha. Venice, 1073.

'Ακολουθίαι τῶν ὁσίων, 'Αναστασίου Χαρίτωνος, Αὐξεντίου καὶ Κενδέα, &c., &c., κ.τ.λ. By Chrysanthos, Archbishop of Cyprus. 8vo. Venice, 1779. Rare.

Herodotus, History: books 1-9.

Περιγραφὴ τῆς ἱερᾶς σεβασμίας καὶ βασιλικῆς μονῆς τοῦ Κύκκου. By Ephraim, Patriarch of Jerusalem. 1904.

'Ακολουθία τοῦ Αγίου ἱερομάρτυρος Θεράποντος τοῦ θαυματουργοῦ. By Michael, Archbishop of Cyprus. 8vo. Venice, 1801.

'Ακολουθία τοῦ ὁσίου πατρὸς ἡμῶν Κασσιανοῦ τοῦ Ρωμαίου. 'Ενετίησιν. 1787. Rare.

A Greek-English Dictionary, with an Appendix of Cypriote Words. By A. Kyriakides. Nicosia, Cyprus, 1892.

'Ιστορία τοῦ 'Αρχιεπισκοπικοῦ Ζητήματος Κύπρου 1900-1910. By George S. Francoudi. Alexandria, 1911.

'Ακολουθία τοῦ 'Αγίου ἱερομάρτυρος 'Ερμογένους τοῦ θαυματουργοῦ παρὰ 'Αντωνίῳ τῳ βάρτολι. Venice, 1771.

BOOK NOTES.

H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Serbia has given his photograph for reproduction in a book entitled "The Story of a Red Cross Unit in Serbia," and has also granted permission for the work to be dedicated to him. Written by Mr. and Mrs. Berry, Mr. Lyon Blease, and other members of the party whose experiences it narrates, the book is to be published very shortly by Messrs. J. and A. Churchill.

Messrs. Nelson have published a cheap reprint (1s.) of Mr. W. H. Mallock's "In an Enchanted Island; or, a Winter's Retreat in Cyprus."

The *British Australasian* has published "Crusading at Anzac, A.D 1915," by Signaller Ellis Silas, of the Australian Expeditionary Force.

Vol. 12 of "Nelson's History of the War" deals with the retreat from Baghdad and the evacuation of Gallipoli amongst other subjects.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Slavs of the War Zone. By the Right Hon. W. F. Bailey, C.B. Illustrated. (Chapman and Hall, 10s. 6d. net.)

With the Zionists in Gallipoli. By Lt.-Col. J. H. Patterson, D.S.O. With maps. (Hutchinson and Co., 6s. net.)

Serbia in Light and Darkness. By Fr. Nicholas Velimirovic, with a preface by the Archbishop of Canterbury. (Longmans, 3s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. June	1916. June.		1334. Shaban.	5676. Sivan.
23	10	Friday	21	22
24	11	Saturday.....	22	23
25	12	Sunday	23	24
26	13	Monday	24	25
27	14	Tuesday	25	26
28	15	Wednesday	26	27
29	16	Thursday	27	28

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier, left London for Paris, en route to Corfu, on Wednesday.

Lord Oranmore and Browne returned to London on Wednesday from Ireland.

H.E. the Hellenic Minister saw Sir Edward Grey at the Foreign Office on Monday afternoon.

Colonel Lazar Gueutchitch, Chief Medical Inspector of the Serbian Army, has arrived in London from Corfu.

Colonel M. J. Nicolaievitch, Military Attaché to the Serbian Legation, returned to London on Sunday from France, where he had been visiting the Western front.

Writing on May 30, our Bucharest Correspondent reports :—M. Emile Costinesco, the Minister of Finance, has returned from Constantza much improved in health. He now proceeds to Govora for his annual cure.

Captain Frank I. Mackinnon, R.A.M.C., has returned to this country from Malta, where he was in charge of the Military Hospital, Hamrun.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes :—M. Blondel, the French Minister in Bucharest, who attained the age-limit in 1914, is now, we are sorry to hear, about to withdraw from the Diplomatic Service, M. de Saint-Aulaire being designated as his successor. M. Blondel has spent thirty-eight years of his life in the service of French diplomacy, and his career has been rich in experience. Appointed an attaché to the French Embassy in London in 1878, he was next transferred to Berlin, then back to London, and subsequently to Madrid, Tangier, Rio, Tunis, Lisbon, Berne, and Rome. In 1910 he was sent to Mexico as Minister Plenipotentiary, and was appointed to Bucharest in a similar capacity in the spring of 1907. He has gained many sympathisers during his nine years' residence in the Roumanian capital, having proved himself, on many an occasion, a good friend to the country to which he was accredited. His daughter is married to a Roumanian, M. Camarashesco.

A requiem for Earl Kitchener and his personal staff and the officers and crew of H.M.S. Hampshire was celebrated at St. Matthew's, Great Peter Street, Westminster, on Wednesday. Among those present were Sir George Arthur (personal private secretary to Lord Kitchener), Lady Arthur, Sir William Garstin, and Viscount Halifax.

There was a Solemn Requiem at the Oratory on Tuesday morning for the late Mr. Hugh O'Beirne, C.V.O., C.B.

The Municipality of Rome has decided to place a bust of Lord Kitchener at the Capitol.

A message was received in London last Friday, stating that Mr. H. L. Hurst, H.M. Vice-Consul at Sofia, had arrived at Bucharest viâ Rustchuk and Giurgevo. On the arrest of enemy consuls at Salonika Mr. Hurst, who had remained in Sofia as Chargé des Archives, was about to be imprisoned by the Bulgarian authorities, but managed to escape and find an asylum with the United States Chargé d'Affaires. On news being received from Salonika of the release of the enemy consuls, the warrant for Mr. Hurst's arrest was cancelled.

For the relief of sick and suffering Serbian soldiers, the Wounded Allies Relief Committee, of Sardinia House, Kingsway, W.C., last week shipped to Corfu quantities of hospital stores of all kinds that are urgently needed both by the Committee's own hospital staff at Corfu and by the Serbian Red Cross Society. The goods despatched include 400 pairs of sheets, thousands of roller bandages, many-tailed bandages and swabs, quantities of wool, operating stockings, hundreds of splints, pillows, pneumonia jackets, six leg sets, and numerous packages of drugs and other hospital requisites, mosquito netting, clothing, lamps, candles, and so on. A motor-car has also been despatched, as an aid to relief work on the part of the Committee's Administrator.

Speaking in the House of Lords on Tuesday Lord Derby said that Lord Kitchener was a man who inspired the greatest possible affection amongst his friends. He then went on to refer to "one particular friendship which stands out in Lord Kitchener's life—the friendship of Colonel FitzGerald, his private secretary. If ever man gave up the whole of his life to the service of another, Colonel FitzGerald was a man who gave it up to Lord Kitchener. If we may doubt or question whether the end of Lord Kitchener was what he would himself have hoped, there is one thing that is absolutely certain, and that is, that Colonel FitzGerald met the death he would have asked for—side by side with the man he had served so faithfully throughout his military career. When I look back upon my friendship with Lord Kitchener, curiously enough, the days that come back best to my memory are two days in the last week of his life. Less than a week before he died I had been dining alone with him, and after dinner he talked, not of the war, but of all those matters which interested him so much in his private life—of Broome, of his china, of his life after the war, and of his trip to Russia, which he was looking forward to with the keenness of a schoolboy going for a holiday. That is a talk I shall never forget."

Colonel Sir Colin Campbell Scott-Moncrieff, the famous engineer, of Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, Under-Secretary of Public Works in Egypt 1883-1892, a director of the Bank of Egypt, Ltd., who died on April 6, aged eighty years, left unsettled estate of the value of £27,056.

Sir Gerard Augustus Lowther, Bt., G.C.M.G., C.B., of 23, Belgrave Square, W., formerly Ambassador at Constantinople, a younger brother of the Speaker of the House of Commons, died on April 5, at Whitehall, Sandwich, Kent, leaving estate of the value of £210,837, the net personalty being £99,971. Probate of the will is granted to the Speaker and Major-General H. C. Lowther, another brother. The testator left £1,000 to St. George's Hospital and £100 to the British Relief Fund. He also left £200 to Mr. G. A. Mounsey, "who acted laboriously and faithfully as my private secretary in Constantinople in recognition of his unflagging and devoted service."

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Lord Hardinge of Penshurst took up his duties as Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on Monday.

Lord Hardinge has appointed Mr. R. H. Campbell, of the Foreign Office, to be his Private Secretary.

The *London Gazette* announces :—The King has been graciously pleased to appoint Charles Murray Marling, Esq., C.B., C.M.G., to be his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to his Majesty the Shah of Persia, and also to be Consul-General for the Dominions of his said Majesty. The announcement is dated March 9.

The *Gazette* announces that the King has been graciously pleased to appoint Major David Lockhart Robertson Lorimer to be his Majesty's Consul for Kerman and Persian Baluchistan, to reside at Kerman.

The *Gazette* also announces that the King has granted authority to Mr. Gordon Cooper, A.M.I.C.E., and Mr. C. E. Lefroy, A.M.I.C.E., to wear the decoration of Chevalier of the Order of the Redeemer, conferred upon them by the King of the Hellenes.

Major Lorimer was appointed H.M. Vice-Consul at Ahwaz in 1904, and was given the local rank of Consul in 1908. That appointment terminated in 1909, and in 1911 he was appointed Political Agent at Bahrein. In October, 1912, he was appointed Consul at Kerman, and held the position till November, 1914. He became a captain in the Indian Army in 1905, and was recently promoted Major.

The following appointment was notified by the War Office in Saturday's *London Gazette* :—Attached to Headquarter Units : Commander—Lieutenant-General Sir B. T. Mahon, K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., vice Major-General W. E. Peyton, C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., May 10, 1916.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of May 31 reports :—Mr. Patterson, Director-General of State Accounts, left Cairo on Monday on two months' leave of absence, which he will spend in England.

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to grant authority to the following gentlemen to wear the decoration of the Order of the Nile, conferred upon them by the Sultan of Egypt :—

SECOND CLASS.—Bt. Col. E. E. Bernard, C.M.G., Financial Secretary, Sudan Government; Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) W. H. Drake, C.M.G., Adjt.-General, Egyptian Army; Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) E. S. Herbert, Officer Commanding the Cairo District, and Commandant, Military School, Egyptian Army; Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) L. O. FitzM. Stack, C.M.G., Civil Secretary, Sudan Govt.; Bt. Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) C. E. Wilson, Governor, Red Sea Province and Commandant of Troops; Maj. C. E. G. Blunt, Director of Supplies, Egyptian Army; Maj. W. S. R. May, Assistant Financial Secretary, Sudan Govt.; Mr. E. Bonham Carter, C.M.G., Legal Secretary, Sudan Govt.; Mr. Wasey Sterry, Chief Justice, Sudan Government.

THIRD CLASS.—Lt.-Col. H. G. A. Garsia, D.S.O., Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army; Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) G. F. Pridham, Welsh Regt.; Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) P. J. V. Kelly, 3rd (King's Own) Huss., Officer Commanding Cavalry and Mounted Infantry, Egyptian Army; Maj. R. M. Feilden, Governor, Bahr-el-Ghazal Province, and Commandant of Troops; Maj. F. U. Carr, A.V.C., Principal Veterinary Officer, Egyptian Army; Maj. J. P. Moir, D.S.O., R.E., Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Sudan Govt.; Maj. R. J. Rees-Mogg, R. Irish Regt., Military Secretary to the Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Governor-General of the Sudan; Maj. M. H. Logan, W. Yorks. Regt., Commandant, Sobat-Pibor District, Egyptian Army; Maj. G. S. Symes, D.S.O., Hampshire Regt., Private Secretary to the Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Governor-General of the Sudan; Maj. W. D. Kenny, Royal Inniskilling Fus., A.D.C. to the Sultan of Egypt; Capt. C. H. Townsend, Governor, Kassala Province, and Commandant of Troops; Capt. R. V. Savile, Governor, Kordofan Province, and Commander of Troops.

FOURTH CLASS.—Capt. A. G. Rainsford Hannay, R.E., Acting Director of Military Works, Egyptian Army; Capt. R. B. L. Bazley-White, West Kent Regt., attached to the Egyptian Army; Mr. F. C. C. Balfour, Sudan Civil Service, Nuba Mountains Province.

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OBITUARY.

SIR JOHN E. BLUNT, C.B.

Sir John Elijah Blunt, formerly British Consul-General for Salonika, died at Malta on Monday, aged eighty-three. He had resided at Malta since his retirement from the Consular Service in 1902. His last Consular appointment was at Boston, whither he was sent in 1899; but the rest of his long and active career had been spent in the Near East.

Born in October, 1832, he was the son of Mr. Charles Blunt, a former British Consul at Smyrna, and on completing his education he took up his father's profession. In 1854 he was Acting-Consul at Rhodes, and in April of that year he was appointed Chief Interpreter to the Cavalry Division in the Crimea, under Lord Lucan. He was present at the battles of Alma, Balaclava, and Inkerman, and received the Crimean medal with three clasps and the Turkish medal for services in the Crimea. In 1855 he was appointed Vice-Consul at Volo, where for some time he also acted as agent for H.M. Land Transport Corps. In March, 1857, he was transferred to Uskub, and that year and the next he was Acting-Consul at Monastir. Next he was employed on service in Bulgaria and in Northern Albania, with another period as Acting-Consul at Monastir. In 1860 he accompanied the Grand Vizier on a tour of inspection in European Turkey, journeying with him from Nish to Uskub. After this (1860) he was employed on special service in the province of Philippopolis. In 1862 he was again employed on special work at Philippopolis and Adrianople, investigating the circumstances attending the murder of an American missionary; and for his services he received the thanks of the President of the United States. At the end of 1862 he was appointed Vice-Consul at Adrianople, and in 1864-65 he was Acting Consul-General at Belgrade. In the winter of 1867-68 he was again employed, this time at Eski-Zaghra, in investigating an outrage on American citizens, and again received the thanks of the President.

In 1872 he was promoted Consul at Monastir, and the same year was appointed Consul for the Salonika and Monastir districts and for the vilayets of Salonika and Prizrend and the *sanjak* of Thessaly, and in 1879 he was promoted Consul-General at Salonika, where he remained for the next twenty years, his powers or his field of work being added to from time to time. In September, 1890, during the great fire at Salonika, he rendered much assistance, and received the thanks of the Sultan and the silver medal of the Nisham-i-Imtiaz; and in 1897 he received from the Sultan the gold medal of the Imtiaz for services he was able to render in the Greco-Turkish war.

From this brief outline of his activities it may be gathered that his experience of the Near East was extensive. Not only did he serve his own country well, but he was a wise adviser to many Turkish officials, and his influence was steadily, if unostentatiously, exerted to secure better government for the people amongst whom he lived.

In 1902, after two years' service in Boston, he retired on a pension, and shortly afterwards received the honour of knighthood. He married, in 1858, Miss Fanny Sandison, the daughter of a former British Consul at Brussa.

SIR A. HOUTUM-SCHINDLER.

General Sir Houtum-Schindler, K.C.I.E., whose death occurred on Thursday of last week at Petersfield, Fenstanton, Hants, joined the Indo-European Telegraph Department for service in Persia in April, 1868, and did excellent work under Colonel Sir John Champain, R.E., and other heads of the Department. He resigned about ten years later, and accepted an appointment as telegraph adviser to the Mukhbar i-Dowleh, Persian Minister of Telegraphs. He erected several lines for the Persian Government, and travelled all over the country to report on possible telegraph projects. He thus acquired a wide knowledge of Persia.

In 1893 he became the first manager of the newly established Imperial Bank of Persia, and of the Persian Mining Rights Corporation. He was with the bank about five years. He then again joined the Persian service, and became a sort of general adviser to the Persian Government, having charge of the Passport Office in Teheran. He was an unusually good linguist, and obtained a unique knowledge of Persian, and for his services to the British Government at various stages of his career he was given in recent years a K.C.I.E. He retired in 1911 with a pension from the Persian Government, and the rank of general in the Persian service. He was not a soldier by profession or training. Lord Curzon, in the preface to his book on Persia, refers to the great assistance given him by Schindler.

We regret to learn that Mr. B. North, of the Egyptian Ministry of Education, has been killed in action. Mr. North, who was educated at Cheltenham College and Caius College, Cambridge, had been in the service of the Egyptian Ministry of Education since 1906, and was a much respected member of the staff of the Ministry. At the beginning of the war he enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers, and was advanced to the rank of corporal.

Brigadier-General Hubert John Du Cane, C.B., M.V.O., who died on June 15 at Parham Hall, Wickham Market, was appointed Military Attaché (temporarily) at Sofia in March, 1904, and Military Attaché at Belgrade also in July, 1906. He vacated the appointment in August, 1909.

Brigadier-General William James St. John Harvey, the Black Watch, at one time D.A.A.G. with the Egyptian Army, adjutant of the 1st Black Watch during the South African War, who was killed in Mesopotamia on February 1, left property of the value of £8,920.

Colonel Warren Francis Trotter, Royal Marine Artillery, died at Briery Close, Windermere, on Monday. He joined the R.M.A. in 1876, and had seen service in China, Esquimault, and Egypt. He was awarded the Egyptian Medal, 1882, and the Khedive's Bronze Star. At the time of his death he was in command of a howitzer and anti-aircraft brigade.

Captain Henry Needham Knox, R.N., who took part in the Crimean War, died in Bournemouth last Sunday, aged eighty-five years.

Under date of June 15, *The Times'* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula reports from Bucharest:—The death of Sister Augustine, an English lady who, as sister of charity in the French convent at Salonika, carried out a great work of beneficence in Macedonia for many years, is deeply deplored throughout that country. Some years ago Sister Augustine received a decoration from the King of Bulgaria. She was greatly respected and beloved by all sections of the population at Salonika.

Deputy Surgeon-General Edward Malcolm Sinclair, who died last week at Kensington, aged eighty-four years, entered the Army Medical Service in 1854, and in the Crimean War he was at the siege and fall of Sebastopol, receiving the medal (with clasp) and the Turkish medal.

We learn from our Bucharest Correspondent that the Roumanian Flying Service has suffered a severe loss in the person of M. Campineano, a captain of the reserve, who on May 27 fell, with his machine, from a height of 200 metres, suffering injuries which caused almost instantaneous death. He was, adds our Correspondent, a refined, cultured man, much esteemed in his large circle of friends.

Egyptian papers received by this week's mail announce the death at Cairo, after a short illness, of the wife of Mr. H. Bunnell May, of the Egyptian State Railways. Mrs. May had been a very active worker on behalf of our soldiers in Egypt.

We regret to learn that Lance-Corporal J. Roberts, of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, London office, was killed in action in France on May 30.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

BOWDEN-SMITH.—On June 17, at 17, Merchiston Park, Edinburgh, the wife (*née* May Gladys Moncrieff) of Edward Cyril Bowden-Smith, Egyptian Civil Service—of a son.

DEATH.

NEW.—On June 12, at Birland, Persia, of enteric, Rowland Hill New, H.M.'s Vice-Consul, second son of Rowland Hill New, Fourth Avenue Mansions, Hove, Sussex, aged thirty-nine.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1916.

THE ISOLATION OF GREECE.

If the war seems to entail a severe test of character, not only in the case of the actual belligerents, but also on other countries which are brought in any way within the orbit of its ramifications, the reason must be found in the nature of the struggle. It is no mere quarrel between two or more nations, arising solely from envy or ambition. The fundamental principles of civilization are at stake; for, just as we understand in the term "a civilized State" a country where liberty and justice are guaranteed to all and wrongdoing is punished, so we ought to think of the civilized world as an aggregate of communities in whose relations one to another similar conditions of liberty and justice must prevail, and in which encroachment on these principles calls for immediate suppression. No State in Europe, therefore, can affect complete indifference to the course of the contest now being waged; for, according to the issue, whether liberty and justice among the nations are to be enforced or whether they are to be trodden under foot, each State stands to benefit or to suffer. There are reasons, however, why certain States should remain out of the war either temporarily or permanently, unless, indeed, it can be shown that their military co-operation is essential to the victory of the cause of right over might; and their attitude towards the conflict must be determined by a strict interpretation of the duties of neutrality or by their desire to stand in well with one or other of the contending groups. Greece, unfortunately for her, was not left entirely a free agent in regard to the war. Her alliance with Serbia placed her under the obligation of going to the help of the Serbians when they were attacked by Bulgaria. She refused to honour her treaty, and the Allies, recognizing that, even if a country could be made to fight against its will, its support would be worthless, ignored the breach of faith, and proceeded to give Serbia what assistance they could on the strength of a previous Greek invitation to land troops at Salonika for the protection of Greece. King Constantine and his advisers at once made it clear that they would not willingly accept a position which entailed a more benevolent neutrality to the Grand Alliance than to the Central Powers. The existence of a deep cleavage of opinion in the Greek nation made the Allies loth to take much notice of the Government's attempts to put spokes in their wheel, but they persisted in a line of action which had for its object the safeguarding of Greece's, as well as of the Allies', interests. With the best of intentions on both sides the situation would have proved a difficult one so long as Greece interpreted neutrality to mean that she must do for the Central Powers whatever the Allies expected her to do for them; it became impossible when the Greek Government let it be known that, either from deliberate hostility to the Allies or owing to a previous understanding with the Central Powers, it proposed to thwart the former and encourage the latter at every turn.

Opinions will differ as to whether the Allies were well advised to tolerate for so long an equivocal attitude on the part of Greece. Their leniency gave Germany her opportunity, and the conduct of the Greek Government has become more aggressively unfriendly. A climax was reached when the Bulgarians crossed the frontier and a fort was handed over to them by Greek troops. The prospect of the Bulgarian Army establishing itself in a district which the Greeks had strongly fortified at considerable cost was too much even for the Allies' tolerance. It was felt that from acquiescence in the Bulgarian invasion to active support of it might not prove an unbridgeable gulf in the hands of men who were evidently determined to play fast and loose with Hellenic interests. With a view to bringing the Athens Government to a sense of its responsibilities a blockade of Greek ports was enforced. For some days no formal demands were made by the Allies; it was significant of the relations between them and the Greek Cabinet that the first intimation of the blockade received by the latter was from its port inspectors. The Government, however, was sufficiently alarmed to declare at once its intention to demobilize the army in whole or in part. A slight relaxation of the blockade was observed, and the Greek Pharaoh at once hardened his heart, with the result that no order for demobilization was given. During the time that the Allies have been making up their minds what measures to adopt towards Greece they have held no communication with the Greek Government. On June 12 a disorderly demonstration directed against the Allies occurred in Athens, and there is strong ground for believing that the police authorities not only adopted no measures to stop the proceedings, but actually for a part of the time countenanced them. The Allies' patience became exhausted, and M. Skouloudis, who has probably been an unwilling instrument in the hands of the Court party, resolved to remain no longer in office. King Constantine will try to placate the Entente by appointing M. Zaimis Premier. It is to be hoped, however, that the Allied Powers, having gone so far, will not accept any nominal change which perpetuates existing conditions. They are less concerned with the personnel of the Greek Cabinet than with the necessity of seeing that an end is put once for all to a state of affairs which endangers the safety of the Allied troops in the Balkans. Greece can play the German game to the prejudice of the Entente in other ways than by actually moving her troops against the latter, and the first object of the French and British Governments is to ensure that she shall not play that game.

Nothing could be more striking than the way in which the friendly feeling of which Greece was always assured in Europe has been estranged. No country has espoused her part more resolutely in the past than France; yet the French to-day, if we may judge from the attitude of the Press, are unanimous in urging that strong measures should be taken against the Greek Government. Shortly before the war an Anglo-Hellenic League was formed in Great Britain to promote a more intimate knowledge of Greece and her affairs in this country. Its spokesman last week, Dr. R. M. Burrows, had to admit not only that Greece's isolation and friendlessness were a cause of anxiety to her friends, but that her actions had given rise to the suspicion that she was playing a double game. For his own part, he could not believe it; but he recognised that the alternative was to suppose that the Greeks had been so foolish as to have acquired merit with neither side. As we write, we learn that any divided counsels which might have prevented the Allies from adopting a firmer attitude towards Greece have been overcome. The latest phases of the war will have caused the early belief in the invincibility of the Central Powers to waver, and the realisation that the Allies at last mean business has predisposed even the Greek military clique to listen to reason. It is on this ground that the absence of the Liberal party from the Chamber, owing to the policy adopted by M. Venizelos in not taking part in the General Election, is to be regretted. Some of his supporters have possibly cooled in their allegiance under the impression that his tactical errors imply that he is losing grip of the situation. Only a General Election, however, could prove how far this theory is correct, and the Allies had ample justification for insisting upon this method of obtaining from the Greek nation a clear statement as to how it stands in regard to the war and the principles for which the Allies are fighting.

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KOSSOVO.

Wednesday next is Kossovo Day.

To many of us here in our navy-girt islands the bald statement as penned above causes little or no impression; we are so accustomed to "days" and little flags that one more or less, we argue, is of small moment. Yet, Kossovo Day is unlike any other; it is the Serbs' great day of joy in years of prosperity and peace; it is their deep day of mourning when oppressed, betrayed and—homeless. For them it is a symbol. Wherever the heart of a Jugo-Slav beats, there Kossovo Day is commemorated, with hymns of thankfulness for mercies received, with prayers of intercession in hours of need. Such an hour will be June 28, 1916.

Whence the origin of Kossovo Day? To seek it, we must wander back through Serbian history to the days of its greatest might, to the reign of the great Tsar Dushan, who brought the Serbian State to an unprecedented height of power and fame, and united beneath his sceptre practically all Southern Slavs. His death was a national disaster and coincided with the coming out of Asia into Europe of wild hordes of Turks. His empire crumbled: Thessaly, the Banat, Herzegovina, Bulgaria, and Albania were torn away, and these were followed by the loss, in 1371, of Southern Macedonia as far north as Skoplje. The Turk had come, and he pushed energetically westwards from Thrace and northwards from Salonika against what was left of Dushan's empire. Within three years of his arrival in Skoplje, he had pushed, under Sultan Murat, through the Katchanik Pass and threatened the Serbian capital of Prishtina. Knez Lazar, King of the Serbs at the time, decided to make a last stand here, in the plain of Kossovo, which runs north and south, as it were, past the old capital. The battle was fought on June 28; both Knez Lazar and Murat were killed; so were the flower of Serbian chivalry, and, infinitely worse, the Serbian Kingdom.

Centuries of oppression followed, but ever was the memory of Kossovo guarded as a sacred emblem by the downtrodden Jugo-Slavs. Their day should come! From village to village, from hamlet to hamlet, and from farmhouse to farmhouse strolled the blind, wandering minstrels with their ballads and legends, singing of the glorious deeds of yore, of chivalrous Marko Kraljevitch, of Dushan, of Lazarus and his consort, of Kossovo, the Field of Blackbirds, drenched with the blood of Serbian heroes. Men as they listened to these songs clenched their fists, and the light of battle shone in their eyes. Thus was a people's soul kept alive—by the music of its mighty past.

At last the day came. A New Serbia threw off the yoke of the Turks and erected a throne in Belgrade. That was in 1815. The old capital, Prishtina, with the historic plain of Kossovo, and Uskub on its hill overlooking the Vardar were still held by the Turk, but time would show, and it did show. The battle of Kumanovo, in 1912, wherein the Turks were routed and subsequently whipped out of Old Serbia, was the avenging hour, and it is believed by many that the Cid of Serbian lore, the peerless Marko, mounted on his piebald Sharatz, led the great charge at Kumanovo which destroyed the power of the Ottoman in Macedonia.

But the victory of Kumanovo did not—could not—wipe out the memory of Kossovo. True, the Southern Slavs of Macedonia were now freedmen, and the Plain of the Blackbirds was no longer in the hands of the enemy. But, on the other hand, were there not millions of Slavs still suffering under a despotic foreign yoke—in the Banat, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Croatia? They were pining to be freed from Austro-Hungarian tyranny, and until this should have been accomplished Kossovo still had a duty to perform—namely, that of acting as the emblem of Jugo-Slav freedom and unity.

Grass was not allowed to run to seed on Kossovo Polje pending the realization, under Serbian guidance, of the Jugo-Slav ideal. No sooner had Serbia emerged triumphant from the Balkan Wars than, on June 28, 1914, Kossovo Day was celebrated with great pomp and ceremony on the plain itself. Visitors who were there speak feelingly of that great national event. Pilgrims arrived from every village in Old and New Serbia and Montenegro; they came in flocks from the Banat, from Croatia, from Herzegovina; they knelt down on the plain and kissed its hardened soil; with subdued fervour and tear-dimmed eyes they entered the time-old monastery of Grechalnitza, where, mingling with the anthem of thankfulness for freed Kossovo, were to be heard prayers for the oppressed Slavs stamped under the feet of bullying Teutons and Magyars. Echoes of these prayers swept across the Kossovo Polje to beyond the Danube, the Save, and the Drin; they cheered the Jugo-Slavs in Austria-Hungary, they angered the despots in Berlin, Vienna, and Budapest, who, less than a month later, hurled their troops against the war-worn Serbian Kingdom.

To understand what followed and to realise the heroism of the Serbs, read the history of the first part of the Great War, up to and including the famous, heart-rending retreat of the indomitable Serbian Army through the vales of Albania. It is a glorious page. Twice did Austrian armies penetrate into Serbia, and twice were they routed and driven back; the third time they came accompanied by Huns and traitors—Bulgars who took the Serbs in the flank. Faithless Greece stood by and watched, and we—our help was late. In their terrible straits it might have been expected of a weaker people that they would surrender to the enemy. But that is not the way of the Serb. Pushed back from all sides, he fought his way stubbornly, inch by inch, from the Save, the Danube, the Morava, and the Vardar to where the Kossovo Polje spreads out between Mitrovitza and the Katchanik gorge. Here, as in 1389, a last, brave, desperate stand was to be made, not on the famous battlefield itself, but slightly to the south, near Giljane. But, at the last moment, when the Serbian Army was clamouring to be allowed to make its final stand on its most sacred ground, wiser counsels prevailed, and it was decided to commence that terrible exodus towards the Adriatic which will be for ever memorable. Perhaps the retreat cost the brave army more grief than if they had been allowed to die fighting on the Plain of the Blackbirds, but it was judged to be for the best. They had heroically held the breach against the common enemy as long as it had been humanly possible; invaluable time had been gained for the great cause, and now—better that the driven army should escape and recuperate for future action than be uselessly annihilated. So it retreated from the Kossovo westwards through Ipek into the inhospitable, snow-bound valleys of Albania.

That was in the last month of last year. Since then, in the island of Corfu, the Serbian Army has recuperated and has been re-equipped. In Salonika it stands eagerly awaiting the hour when it will again strike—for hearth and home, and the Great Cause. The latter, in its eyes, is Kossovo. The significance of undying Kossovo has grown again since that memorable day in June two years ago when the breath of Jugo-Slav independence swept across the *polje* to the north and west. For us, likewise, it has acquired a new meaning: we had heard about Kossovo, read about it, perhaps even seen it; but it needed the tragedy of 1915, in the course of which brave British women and men accompanied a starving, bleeding army through the

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HEART TONIC.
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KING OF SPAIN

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storm and tempest, to make us realise that inseparably linked up with our cause was that of the Serbs and the Jugo-Slavs, as symbolised by that one word, so magic and sacred to their ears—Kossovo.

Wednesday next is again Kossovo Day, a new day in our history, as it is an old one in that of Serbia. Remember it. You who know Serbia and the Jugo-Slavs, who have been charmed by its people, history, folklore and landscapes, and who realise the value of the aid which the brave little Ally gave us in the dark days of last October and November, tell your friends about them and their acts, and repeat the story of Kossovo. You will be doing King Peter's subjects a good turn, and, incidentally, you will be furthering the interests of peace, which are our interests.

C. R.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Lord Kitchener and Alexandretta.

In an article on Lord Kitchener and the Cabinet position left vacant by his death, the *New Statesman* (June 10) insists that as far as we have evidence of the late Field-Marshal's achievements at the War Office his soldiering was better than his administration. In the latter regard this paper considers that he was handicapped by the fact that he had had no previous experience of the Whitehall machine, and also by an Oriental predilection for doing everything himself. The article continues:—

Though not a tactical battle-fighter, he was a shrewd strategist. He is said to have insistently prophesied the main German advance through Brabant and Hainault during a critical week in August, 1914, when the French General Staff still expected it to come through the Ardennes. He is believed to have been quite against undertaking both the Antwerp and the Dardanelles Expeditions; though in both cases he was overborne in the Cabinet by the enthusiasm of Mr. Churchill, seconded as it was by political arguments. It is no secret that last autumn he was against the Salonika Expedition, and at the same time in favour of withdrawing from the Dardanelles. What is less known, but can now be stated harmlessly, is that his alternative policy was an expedition on a large scale to Alexandretta. Had this been then undertaken, we can see now, in the light of Erzeroum, Bitlis, and Trebizond, that it would probably have swept the Turks out of Asia. Indeed, it is not easy among all these large questions of military policy to find one on which his judgment was wrong

Picturesque Czernovitz.

An article which appeared over the initial "H." in the *Evening Standard* (June 19) gives a very good idea of life in Czernovitz, which, for the third time, has fallen to a Russian assault. The writer stayed at this town early in the war:—

I soon discovered that this pretty little semi-Oriental hillside town was not a real health-resort. Ruthenians, Poles, Roumanians, Jews, Vlachs, and Germans all had their "clubs"—mansions used by the various nationalities as meeting-places, restaurants, and dancing rooms—where members of rival nationalities were not allowed to enter. One evening I was invited to a dance at the Polish club, and henceforth was "cut" by all the other races.

As towns go in that part of the world, Czernovitz is clean and bright and busy. There are not quite so many "American bars" as in Lemberg, nor is there much night-life. A large proportion of the inhabitants are Jews, many of them exceedingly wealthy. The land in the neighbourhood is fertile; there is an enormous grain business, and the boom in Galician oil lands turned Czernovitz into quite a little breeding house for millionaires.

Probably the greatest feature of Czernovitz is the wide-spread practice of the "boycott," carried out in a way that would have made the Irish originators green with envy. The markets are held in the open air, and the peasants who come up with goods to sell make it a point of honour only to speak in their own dialect or language. Thus, a woman who wanted to buy a fowl, some eggs, vegetables and fruit would probably have to make inquiries in four different languages. The only people who have no language prejudice are the Jews.

English is largely spoken; in 1913 more than half the students at the University could speak our language:—

Everybody knows Dickens, sometimes to an embarrassing extent. One afternoon I was drinking a cup of coffee when a man sitting opposite asked me whether I was English, and on my nodding, said, "I, too, speak English. I will tell you of Dickens." He immediately began to recite with the quaintest accent in the world the first couple of pages of the "Christmas Carol."

English as a language is popular, as far as I could judge, on account of its commercial value. Nobody will willingly speak German, and the oil boom made a knowledge of Anglo-American imperative. Talking of oil, I am afraid many of the financial promoters who came to Czernovitz did not find the people as primitive and simple as they had hoped.

The writer goes on to refer to the place as a stronghold of witchcraft, and it still retains some of the excitements with which we were familiar in the "good old days," for robber clans abound in the vicinity. The principal tribe of these is known as the Hozule—which word signifies "robber chief"—and the people "are proud of their title, taking great care to live up to it."

The writer concludes with the following reference to the capture of the city:—

Few people will bother about the fate of Czernovitz. Germany will be more or less indifferent, and Austria is by now resigned to defeats. One country, however, may be upset about it. This is Roumania. For years she has set her heart on possessing the Bukovina and Transylvania. Had she thrown in her lot with the Allies when Bulgaria came into the war, she would surely have had generous recompense.

But Roumania preferred to play the canny game of waiting to see what would happen, and the Allies are now doing for themselves what they could always have done but for Bulgarian treachery.

Whatever Roumania may do in the future, the capture of Czernovitz will help to transform the war in that part of the world. With the Bukovina cleared of the enemy we shall yet see that march into Hungary which will force a decision from Austria.

An American at Bucharest.

Mr. Percival Gibbon, writing from Bucharest to the *Daily Chronicle* (June 17) contributes a vivid article on the condition of life at Bucharest, and pays high tribute to the energy and resourcefulness of the United States Ministers. This article should be read in its original form, as the reader may judge from the quotation which we give below:—

Each nationality has its own place of accustomed resort, and none trespasses upon that of another. The Germans go striding in their large German way into the Athens Palace, where there is enough of gilding and enamel to make a fit frame for a Prussian officer. The Frenchmen are more at their ease in the faintly Bohemian atmosphere of the Moderne; two or three lean and easy English have colonised the establishment known as Capsa. Not even on that battle-line which extends from the Baltic to the Bukovina are the hostile races more definitely and abruptly sundered than here, in this neutral capital which is the political storm-centre of the Balkans.

Yet a few days ago Bucharest beheld the spectacle of most of those young men gathered together in the same ball-room—somewhat stiff and formal in their politeness, with perhaps a spice of refined venom in their punctilious civility, yet going so far upon the road to peace as to acknowledge each other's existence as human beings, and to leave each other's throats alone. It was in the nature of a small miracle; Bucharest, which has watched them for months, saw it with amaze; and the worker of that wonder, the big, bland alchemist whose compounding of good nature with shrewd American common sense makes it possible, was the Hon. Charles J. Vopicka, United States Minister to Roumania, Bulgaria, and Serbia.

There are, apparently, few occasions when Mr. Vopicka fails to assist an inquirer—he is at all times ready to help.

Possibly one of the reasons why he generally succeeds in getting what he goes after is that for the Balkans he is a new and rather astonishing diplomatic type. The good old stage-property kind of Ambassador, who moved in any matter with the massive dignity and strictly moderate speed of—shall we say—a glacier, was familiar enough in these latitudes; the local Slav or Armenian was on to his curves. But a man with nothing to learn about mere ordinary human business, who could not be short-circuited in his activities by mere diplomatic precedent and the outworn shibboleths which make intercourse between different nations as difficult and uncertain as communication with the dead—who smiled, moreover, through all the stages of an affair, and the more he smiled the less he yielded—well, the Slav and the Armenian thoughtfully withdrew from their sleeves the cards which were concealed there and retired from the game.

The following reference to America's future in the Balkans concludes an interesting article:—

The Minister looks forward to a time when American interests in the Balkans shall play an important part in the development and civilisation of those countries. Their wealth, agricultural and mineral, is incontestable; Serbia and Roumania, to mention no others, are potential treasuries of wealth, needing only brains and capital for their realisation. Those who bring them will find one thing already waiting for them on the spot, in the shape of the good will and confidence of the native populations and officials, who have formed their estimate of the American character and American energy from their experience of his Excellency, Charles J. Vopicka, of Chicago.

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Dr. Kramarzh.

The *New Statesman* (June 17) publishes a long article, by "L. B. N.," on Dr. Kramarzh, the leader of the young Czechs, who was sentenced to death by an Austrian court-martial on June 3 following a charge of high treason.

The political career of Dr. Kramarzh has been an inner tragedy. One of the finest thinkers on subjects of international politics, one of the truest prophets in those matters, he has spent his life in the pursuit of a chimera. He attempted the impossible and tried to make contradictions meet. He took from Palacky the inheritance of the Austrian idea. Like Palacky he was a Pan-Slav, and like Palacky he was a fervent Austrian. After fifty years he upheld the position which Palacky had taken up in 1848, and for the same reason: he wished for a strong Austria which, whilst Russia still remained in an understanding with Berlin, could alone have safeguarded the Western Slavs from German aggression. But naturally, that Austria had to be internally free and just, and externally independent of Germany. Dr. Kramarzh, therefore, throughout his political career, worked for a *rapprochement* between Austria and the Franco-Russian allies, and always strongly opposed the German alliance. But there was one flaw in his reasoning. It considered the problem of Austria and the Slav world almost exclusively from the point of view of the Czech nation, the whole of which is included in the Hapsburg Monarchy, and blinked the fact that even a reconstruction of that State on a Slav basis cannot solve either the Polish or the Jugo-Slav national problems. These problems were bound to lead to an international crisis, in which the two articles of Palacky's creed could no longer be reconciled.

He was accustomed to refer to the policy of the Triple Alliance as "diplomatic archæology," and fifteen years before the present war broke out he wrote:—

The Sultan is no longer master in the Balkans, but he is still in Asia Minor, and he thereby holds the road to India. If Austria no longer takes an interest in Constantinople, the same is not true of Germany; Germany has replaced Austria in her rivalry with Russia, and she has done it with a force and an *élan* which ought to supply matter for thought in London and St. Petersburg. Austria lies between Germany and Turkey; her nationalities must be on their guard lest she should become a vassal of Germany and a bridge for German expansion into Asia. The Austrian Germans wish to see Austria subordinated to German policy. With the help of a subordinated Austria, the sphere of German political and economic activity would extend from Hamburg to Asia Minor. . . Naturally, those from among the Austrian nationalities which wish to see the Monarchy sovereign and independent will fight to the last against that idea which for Austria would be equivalent to the ruin of her independence.

In 1906 Dr. Kramarzh wrote that "many people speak light-heartedly about the coming struggle of the Slav and Teuton worlds; yet no one can guarantee its immediate outcome. The position of the Czechs in it would be by no means enviable."

"L. B. N." continues:—

In 1909 the shadows of the coming Balkan conflict of the World War fell upon Europe. The shadow alone of approaching events was enough to shatter Dr. Kramarzh's Austrian-Slav dream. The claims of the Jugo-Slav nation were brought to the consciousness of Europe, and Europe became divided into two camps. The Hapsburg Monarchy threw itself upon German support and became in fact Germany's vassal. It may be that the aggressive and dishonest diplomacy of Count Ahrenthal and of his associates prematurely provoked a crisis; but as a matter of fact that crisis was inevitable sooner or later from the essence of things. Jugo-Slav unity could not be realised without the disruption of Turkey and Austria-Hungary, or such an aggrandisement of the latter as could not have been admitted by any of the Great Powers now included in the Quadruple Entente. Against the Jugo-Slavs Austria-Hungary could count on support only from Germany, but by no means from Russia.

"On November 10, 1911, in the Austrian Delegation, Dr. Kramarzh delivered the funeral speech over the work and ideas of his political life:—

. . . I had an aim in life and a leading idea. The events of the Annexation Crisis have proved calamitous for the policy which I followed all my life. I wished to do everything which lay within the compass of my small powers to render my own nation happy and great in a free, powerful, and generally respected Austria. . . . I have always resented the facts that when they talked about Austria people really meant only the Germans and Magyars, as if the great majority of Slavs, upon whom rest the biggest burdens, did not exist. But now—and no beautiful words can make me change my opinion on that point—an entirely independent policy has become unthinkable, because the only path which remains open to us leads by way of Berlin. Berlin will direct our policy, not we ourselves, because Berlin has preserved its traditional relations to St. Petersburg and we have reverted to our traditional enmity to Russia. Germany's hostility against the Western Powers closes to us that road, and our relations to them are nothing more than a harmless, unmeaning flirtation with kindly ambassadors. . . . But a foreign policy focussed in Berlin leaves no room for the Austrian Slavs. We shall remain in the shadow, taking no part in the game; our foreign policy will be conducted by Germans and Magyars. Consider, gentlemen, what the knowledge signifies for the Slavs, that they will never be citizens in the full meaning of the term, that they will never have a share in determining the future of the State . . ."

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Greek Tribute to Lord Kitchener. June 20.

The LORD CHANCELLOR announced that he had received the following telegram from the President of the Greek Chamber of Deputies:—"On behalf of the Greek Chamber of Deputies I have the honour to request your lordship to express to the House of Lords their deep regret at the grievous loss of one of their most eminent members, and to assure their lordships of the very real share which they take in the sorrow of the British nation at the loss in the person of Lord Kitchener, not only of one of the most glorious of her sons, but also one of the greatest figures of our time, whose name will remain enshrined in the memory of the Greek people as a true friend of Greece."

Mesopotamia Papers. June 21.

Viscount MIDLETON asked the Under-Secretary for India when the Mesopotamia papers would be issued.

Lord ISLINGTON said the Government were fully aware when they undertook to present the papers that the work of collecting them and putting them into a suitable form would be a laborious business. For that reason they issued papers regarding the opinions of generals in the field as to the advance on Ctesiphon in anticipation of the mass of papers and correspondence in connection with the Mesopotamia campaign. The Government's desire to comply as far as possible with Lord Midleton's request to include in the correspondence certain private communications between the Secretary of State and the Viceroy had added to the task no inconsiderable amount of labour. It had been necessary to consult the late Viceroy and also the late Secretary for India. In matters of this delicacy it was necessary to confer with the War Office, Foreign Office, and the Admiralty regarding the inclusion of documents for which they were responsible, and also to consider, in respect of the character of the information to be given, whether it would be prejudicial to the public welfare. The necessary paraphrasing of the telegrams had been by no means a light task, and at present he could not say that it was by any means complete. Much of the information contained in the papers was still of a private character, and in order to avoid disclosing information that might be of service to the enemy the most meticulous revision of the papers was found necessary. No effort was being spared to expedite the publication of the documents, and he hoped it might be possible to have the papers laid in the course of the early days of next month, but this must depend to a large extent on the action of the other Departments concerned, and the expedition with which the difficulties of paraphrasing were carried out.

Lord MIDLETON thought the noble Lord somewhat overstrained the point as to the correspondence of the late Viceroy in view of the fact that he was in this country. He (the speaker) pressed for the presentation of the papers because it was necessary in the interest of the Government to say that the continued reports which, as individuals, some of them were receiving from Mesopotamia made it highly desirable that they should not merely have a debate, but hold an inquiry into this question at the earliest possible moment.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Empire's Loss. June 20.

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that during the recess I have received certain resolutions from foreign Chambers. The first, from the President of the Chamber of Deputies of Greece, is to this effect:—"In the name of the Chamber of Deputies of Greece, I have the honour to beg your Excellency to convey to the House of Commons the lively sympathy felt by the Hellenic Parliament in the mourning of the British nation. By the death of Lord Kitchener Britain losses not only one of her most famous sons, but one of the most striking figures of our age, whose name will be held in grateful remembrance by Hellenes as that of a true friend of their country."

Memorial to Lord Kitchener. June 21.

Mr. ASQUITH moved: "That this House will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee to consider an humble Address to his Majesty, praying that his Majesty will give directions that a monument be erected at the public charge to the memory of the late Field-Marshal Earl Kitchener, with an inscription expressing the admiration of this House for his illustrious military career and its gratitude for his devoted services to the State."

In the course of an eloquent tribute to the late Field-Marshal the PRIME MINISTER said: "His name is inseparably associated with that of Lord Cromer in one of the greatest achievements of our race and time—the emancipation and regeneration of Egypt. To his genius we owe the conquest of the Sudan, and to his organising initiative the process which has ever since gone on of substituting over a vast, to a large extent devastated, area civilisation for barbarism, justice for caprice and cruelty, a humane and equitable rule for a desolating and sterilising tyranny . . . Recalled to Egypt, he was displaying the same gifts in civil administration, which he had already illustrated in the military sphere, when at the outbreak of the war he obeyed, with the alacrity of a man who has become the willing servant of duty, the summons to direct and to recreate our Imperial forces in the supreme crisis of our national history. He brought to his new task the same sleepless energy, the same rare resourcefulness, the same masterful personality which never failed him in any of the fields of action in which he was, during nearly fifty years, called on behalf of his country to play his part."

Mr. Bonar Law, Sir George Reid, Mr. Wardle, and General Sir Ivor Herbert supported the resolution, and the motion was carried unanimously.

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GREECE AND THE ENTENTE.

Speaking at a meeting of the Anglo-Hellenic League held at the Æolian Hall, New Bond Street, on Thursday of last week, Dr. R. M. Burrows said the Greek people were pro-Entente, and had the people's will not been thwarted Greece would to-day be fighting with the Allies. If M. Venizelos' party had not abstained from the elections last December, he would have succeeded in maintaining his majority in spite of the German terror that stared the nation in the face at that time, just after the invasion of Serbia; and if there were a general election now Venizelos' majority would probably be as sweeping as in 1912. Popular feeling was undoubtedly with M. Venizelos, and it was the supreme wish of phil-Hellenes that this feeling should be translated into action, but not for the sake of the Entente, for the Entente had now no serious need of Greek assistance. There were two occasions—at the beginning of the attack on the Dardanelles and again when Bulgaria invaded Serbia—when Greece, because of her geographical position and because of the unpreparedness of the Entente, could have given help utterly out of proportion to her military strength. But the friends of Greece and the Greek colonies all over the world were not now thinking of the Entente, but of Greece. The nightmare that haunted them was the utter isolation of Greece—her lack of any backers in the peace congress and the doubtful years that would follow it. Trying to make the best of both worlds, she had got the advantage of neither. To the Central Powers she could only plead that she was a neutral friendly to the Entente, while the Entente Powers would disclaim any such friendship.

Of late the Governments of the Entente had been asking themselves whether the Greek Government had made an agreement with Germany, and would be able to point to such signal services to the cause of the Central Powers that it would be these, and not the Entente, who would come forward as the friends of Greece. He did not believe there was any such agreement, but how was the suspicion to be dispelled? If it were not dispelled it might breed a state of things which at present could only be imagined, for distrust bred distrust; and the Greek people, with their present complete lack of control over the executive, might some day find themselves committed by that executive to direct hostilities against their natural friends and protectors. To dispel that suspicion the friends of Greece should use their influence to see that any pressure put on the Greek Government should be exercised, not punitively against the people, but protectively to restore to the people their rights. It would be necessary for phil-Hellenes to concern themselves indirectly with Greek internal politics, and to support the demand of the Greeks of the dispersion for the restoration of constitutional government. The demand of the Entente for demobilisation was no doubt prompted immediately by strategic considerations, but it happened that the same demand had been consistently urged for the last few months by M. Venizelos and the Liberal Party. The one condition precedent for the re-establishment of constitutional government in Greece was that the manhood of the nation should no longer be retained under military discipline, but should be enabled to express its will by vote and public meeting. He believed that another general election would result in the return of M. Venizelos to power. If so, he must remain in power. When the protecting powers gave Greece her free constitution, modelled on the limited monarchy of Great Britain, they assumed that that original pattern would be followed not only in the letter but in the spirit.

The Hon. W. P. Reeves, who presided, said that the overwhelming majority of the Greek people wished to take part in the European struggle and to throw in their weight on the side of the Entente. He appealed to the Entente Governments, if pressure had to be applied, that it should be applied to the Greek Government, and should not be an interference with the business, the daily life, or the prosperity of the Greek people.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The finances of Greece, through the fault of her own maladministrators, are in a helpless muddle. The Budget for 1916, introduced in the Chamber last week, shows an estimated deficit of 265,000,000 drachmæ, mainly brought about by the expensive and superfluous mobilization policy of the late Government. This was to have been partly covered by a loan, an agreement for the issue of which was signed with the National Bank. According to this agreement, the loan was to be for 115,000,000 drs., at 5 per cent., in bearer bonds of 100 drs. As compensation for this operation, the bank was granted the right to increase the circulation of bank notes by 30,000,000 drs., and its other privileges were to be extended for a further period of twenty years. Unfortunately for the Greek Government—but not for the country's foreign creditors—the International Financial Commission refused to sanction the issue of bank notes, stating that it was unjustified, inasmuch as it was not necessitated by the needs of commerce, and threatened that if they were issued, England and France would refuse Greece any financial support and forbid the quotation of the new loan on the London and Paris Stock Exchanges. This strong attitude on the part of the Commission has, I am pleased to see, had the desired effect, and it is also more than likely that it has had something to do with the fall of the Skouloudis Ministry.

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We reproduce elsewhere the balance-sheet of the Bank of Abyssinia for 1915, together with extracts from the chairman's speech. As was to have been expected, the year was not a favourable one for the institution, which seems to have lost rather heavily, though not irretrievably, by the great drop in the value of the thaler towards the latter part of 1914. Gross profits dropped from £22,721 in 1914 to £13,615, whereas expenditure amounted to £12,866, leaving a balance of £748 from which had to be deducted £10,503 representing certain amortisations and depreciation in dollars, francs, and lire. The net result is a debit of £9,760, to which must be added last year's debit balance of £21,189, giving us a total debit of £30,949. However, the position of the bank is a unique one, and when peace has been declared and trade with Abyssinia develops, as it is bound to do, it will gradually recover lost ground. In the meantime it is doing valuable spade work helping to improve trade relations between Abyssinia, Egypt, and the Sudan. Incidentally, I read that during the past year a first issue of bank-notes was made, to the amount of $214,765, covered by a reserve of dollars (thalers, presumably) for the same amount.

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Since the country was overrun by the Austrians, reliable news from Serbia has been meagre and not very cheering, but the interesting statement has got through that the Austrians have taken the silk industry in hand, and have established a central market at Belgrade for the sale of cocoons. It will probably be impossible to discover much about this piratical venture. At first I was inclined to hope that the project would prove a failure, but on reflection it appeared to me that to do so would be unkind to our Serbian friends. For, after all, the enemy occupation of their country can only be temporary, and anything that is done in the meantime to develope home industries, even if only partly, will be so much to the good.

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It is reported from Amsterdam that the s.s. "Prinses Juliana," of the Nederland Company, which left on Wednesday for the Dutch East Indies, will resume the customary route through the Suez Canal. It will be remembered that some months ago the Nederland Company decided, in view of Turkish hostilities near the Canal, to send its ships round the Cape, and the return now to the old route shows that neutrals have begun to realise that in spite of Germany's much vaunted "victory" (*sic*) off Jutland we "hold the seas" more firmly than ever. The Nederland Company's decision is, therefore, a welcome sign of the times.

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A fortnight ago I referred in these columns to a "domestic dispute" about the appointment of a director to the Board of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, and uttered a pious hope that, in the interests of the company, the dispute would be quickly settled. From the directors' report for the year ended December 31, 1915, issued last week and reproduced elsewhere, I see that the Board have adopted a most sensible attitude and one that ought to recommend itself to shareholders at the forthcoming meeting

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The situation, in a nutshell, is as follows: On the death in 1915 of one of the directors, Mr. Allan F. Joseph (by an obvious slip of the pen I stated in my recent notes that General McKenna, V.C., was the deceased director), and in view of the imminent retirement of Major Le Breton, the directors appointed Mr. P. W. Le Breton to the Board. Unfortunately the appointment did not meet with the general approval of the shareholders, with the result that the dissentients decided to propose a second nominee, Mr. George Herbert Redwood, to the vacant post. This was the situation a fortnight ago, and now, by the directors' report referred to above, I see that in the meantime Mr. Le Breton, "believing it to be in the interests of the company," has generously resigned his appointment, thus leaving the whole question of Mr. Joseph's successor for decision at next week's meeting. On the other hand, the retiring director, Major Le Breton, has, "at the request of some of the larger shareholders," consented to offer himself for re-election—a decision that will be welcomed by all shareholders who realise that not a little of the company's past success is due to the energy and zeal of the retiring chairman. And, finally—by way of licit compromise, I take it—a resolution is to be proposed by the Board at the shareholders' meeting, to increase the maximum number of directors to six; if it is passed, the Board "hope to be in a position to submit the name of a sixth gentleman who should be acceptable to the shareholders."

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[Since writing the above, I see that the directors of the Egyptian Markets have issued a supplementary circular to their report to the effect that Sir John P. Hewett, G.C.S.I., C.I.E., "has consented to allow his name to be put forward as a director," and that "he will accordingly be proposed at the annual meeting." I am exceedingly pleased to see that the Board are to propose a man of such sterling administrative abilities as Sir John Hewett, whose administrative career in India has been so singularly successful, and I feel convinced that his election to the vacant post will be a great asset to the company. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the directors also announce that they will propose an increase of the remuneration of the directors by a "lump sum" of £600 per annum, such sum to be divided between them as the Board may determine, and to commence as from January 1, 1915.]

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Turning from the company's domestic affairs to the report for the year ended December 31, 1915, we find that results show a decided improvement over the previous year, in spite of the fact that in 1914 there were only five months of war. Cattle markets, slaughter-houses, general markets, and sales of chemical manure show increased takings, whilst there has been an economy in expenditure. As regards the future, it promises well, several new working arrangements having been concluded, as, for instance, a Government contract for the supply of fodder for the Army. Besides, the agency for the sale of basic phosphate for the Egyptian Phosphate Company "bids fair to develop into a considerable success when its agricultural value is properly realised." So that shareholders have little to grumble about in this, the second year of the Great War.

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Speaking of phosphates in Egypt reminds me of a recent incident illustrating the past tremendous lack of organisation and cohesion within our Empire. The incident is as follows: When the New Zealanders came to Egypt the farmers among them were surprised to find that the country possessed enormous and important phosphate layers, of the existence of which they had been unaware. The fault naturally lies with those who should have advertised these deposits in the Dominion, but there have been so many cases of such blatant negligence that further emphasis is superfluous. Let us hope that in future we will be more thorough and practical. As for the New Zealanders, having "discovered" these layers, they lost no time in getting their people at home to buy some Egyptian phosphates, with the result that a first shipment has now reached New Zealand and is proving most acceptable to the farmers. It is a happy beginning, and I trust that at no distant date orders will be received from many parts of the Empire for Egyptian phosphates.

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The Consulting-Agriculturist to the Egyptian Government desires to make known the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture at Cairo furnishes information connected with Egyptian agricultural produce for export and also with reference to markets in Egypt for imported produce, acting as intermediary between the producer and consumer. Samples of produce are prepared for submission to any enquirers, and information is supplied to producers to enable them to prepare their produce in a manner suitable for foreign markets. Communications in this connection should be addressed to the Bureau of Commercial Intelligence, Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo.

COMMENTATOR.

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Fuel in Turkey.

Analysis of Coal and ron Deposits.

(SPECIAL TO "THE NEAR EAST.")

The following extracts are from a paper to be read at the Arizona meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers in September next. The lecturer, Mr. Leon Dominian, of New York, well known as an authority on mining questions in the Ottoman Empire, has kindly favoured us with an advance proof of his lecture.

Apart from local needs (says the paper in question), the interest attached to Turkish fuels grows chiefly out of the importance of the railway industry in Asiatic Turkey. Geographical conditions make of the tracks in this region the most essential link in a chain of world-girdling lines. By its position Asia Minor can be likened to a bridge in the through routes destined to connect European factories with Asiatic and African markets. The occurrence of fuel within an area of such significance from the standpoint of world traffic, therefore deserves investigation. Unfortunately our knowledge of the fuel resources of the Turkish Empire is still in a very immature stage. The occurrence of coal and oil has been reported from a large number of localities. In only one instance has mining been carried on in any manner compatible with the demands of modern consumption. Aside from this, work has been confined to desultory attempts that were scarcely adequate to meet even the limited local requirements. In no case can technical data regarding the extent, depth, or persistence of seams be had.

I.—COAL.

Western Asia Minor.

The north-western projection of Asia Minor, immediately south-east of the Dardanelles, forms part of a district wherein lignite deposits have been worked in a number of localities. The formations of this region can also be traced to the north on the adjoining European coast of the Marmora. The lignite beds occur mostly in Tertiary lacustrine deposits, and appear to belong to a zone of transition between the Miocene and the Pliocene.

The lignites thus formed may have industrial value. Dr. Launay cites occurrences in the vicinity of Ghemlik where seams of the fuel are found sometimes in a remarkable state of freedom from impurities. Here sandstone and conglomerate strata contain small masses of lignite mixed with pyritic sands. Occasionally, however, lignites acquire considerable value in connection with local industries. A deposit of this kind is worked at Manjilik by the owners of the near-by Balia lead mines. The product is used in an electric power station feeding the smelters and workings.

The coal-bearing strata are found at a distance of about 5 km. north of Manjilik, in the valley of the Deirmen Dere. Their total thickness attains 10 m., and their dip varies between 30 deg. and 70 deg. W. Coal outcrops can be traced over a length of 10 km. The lignite contains on an average 30 per cent ash. A small mine railway connects the coal workings with the mines in the vicinity of Balia, and extends thence southward to Osmanlar. Some lignite is also found near Lampsacus, but it has not yet been mined. In the Troad, lignite is extracted near Edremid. The fuel is transported to the seaport of Akchai, where it is stacked along the water front and sold in small quantities. Farther south, at a short distance from Soma, the terminal of a branch line from Manissa, a good quantity of this coal has been mined on a small scale. Near Panderma, at about 4 km. from Tchamakdagh, some exploration work was undertaken about twenty years ago in the Mesepsif Valley. West of this region, lignite outcrops are known at Demirtash, 20 km. north of Brusa. Mining was also carried on formerly at Chaidere, near Bilejik, and at Gueve, near Sugud. The product from the last-named locality was used in the silk factories of Bilejik and Keupli. The most westerly extension of this Tertiary lignite is found in the mountains environing Chai, near Afiunkarahissar. Seams having an occasional thickness of 2 m. have been discovered here at an altitude of 1,840 m. lying over calcareous conglomerates, and capped by clay beds. In the quaternary alluvial plain of the Mendere River, south of Smyrna, lignite with a dip of 34 to 45 deg. N. has been mined near Sokia station. The seams are interbedded with schistose strata, and can be detected along a line of 10 km. in length.

The south-western coast of Asia Minor, with its hinterland, does not appear to be devoid of coal. Seams are known near Makri in the foothills of the Eljikdagh Mountain. In the Province of Smyrna, lignite beds exist at Milas, Aidin, Kiosk, Nazili, Scalanova, and Keramos. The Nazili beds have been developed for local use. Practically every one of the other deposits is susceptible of development to supply local requirements.

Heraclea.

The presence of coal-producing measures has been recognised along the Black Sea coast between Heraclea and Ineboli, a distance of about 175 km. An economic province can be outlined in this district on the basis of the presence of a number of long and narrow parallel bands of carboniferous rocks, which comprise culm, lower carboniferous limestone, and upper carboniferous coal measures. The Heraclea coalfield is at present the best developed in the region, as well as in Turkey. It occupies a belt about 60 km. in length along the Asiatic coast of the Black Sea, between the seaports of Heraclea and Filios. The town of Heraclea itself lies at a distance of 135 nautical miles from Constantinople. The coal-beds outcrop near the coast, and are not known to extend farther than 8 km. inland. It is believed, however, that they strike south-easterly from the eastern boundary of the district to which mining operations have been confined, and that they may be re-encountered at a greater distance from the seashore beyond. The coast facing this section of the Black Sea is precipitous. Narrow valleys and ridges parallel each other at right angles to the shore line. The elevation of the land immediately fronting the water does not exceed 60 m. The altitude increases gradually southward until a maximum of 500 m. is attained at a distance of about 3 km. from the coast. Here long chains of hills with a general E.-W. trend are met.

The western boundary of the basin is determined by a long fault-line occurring at Kiosseaghzi, at a distance of about 10 km. east of Heraclea. The entire measures appear to have sunk in depth at this point. The valleys of Kiretchlik, Chaushaghzy, and Ilisu appear immediately beyond. The Cozlu depression lies about 20 km. farther east, and is the seat of the widest and most actively exploited veins of the entire district. From this last point the coal measures are detected about 2 km. farther east, to Domuz, where they assume a gradual southerly strike inland. Cutting across the Zunguldak Valley, where their width attains 5 km., they extend beyond Chatalaghzy Valley to Suksu. Mining ceases at this locality, but coal is known to occur as far east as Djide. The reserves of the Cozlu mines are estimated at 50,000,000 metric tons.

The coal mined at Heraclea belongs to the bituminous variety. It is slightly higher in ash than the corresponding average type from European basins. It may be divided into two classes—(1) that obtained from the veins of middle series, containing from 30 to 40 per cent. volatile matter; (2) that mined from the lowest stage, containing from 40 to 45 per cent. volatile matter. The first is excellent for coking purposes, while the second product is used chiefly in the manufacture of illuminating gas and for steam generation.

The following table shows the annual output for the entire region since 1911:—

1911	750,000
1912	646,281
1913	566,118

Bituminous coal of excellent quality is known in the foothills of the mountains surrounding the seaport of Kidros, on the Black Sea. This occurrence may be taken as forming the easterly end of the Black Sea coal basin. It cannot be doubted that this economic province is the seat of an important coal supply. The fuel has also been found in the vicinity of Changry, south of this bituminous field. Inferior grades are reported from Cassabaibala, in the vilayet of Angora, where the discoveries consist mainly of lignites.

Eastern Asia Minor.

A large number of coal seams of all grades are known to occur in the region extending east of the 34th meridian east of Greenwich to the Russian and Persian boundaries. Lignite was reported by Cuinet from Tavshandagh Mountain in the vicinity of Mersivan. The same observer noted coal outcrops in the immediate neighbourhood of Tokat, as well as in a district lying 60 m. south-east of that town. Outcrops have also been detected at Cardashlar at 2 hr. distance from Sivas. Lignite is known at Ghemerek and at Tonus in the same district. Farther south lignites have been observed by travellers in the vicinity of the Argana copper mines. In the northern portion of Mamuretualziz, coal is known in a band, which practically extends from its eastern to its western boundary. The localities are Chemishguedsek, where the coal is stated to be of good quality, Zafranik, Dersim, and Derstek. At Shengyah also, near Baibourt, lignite occurs, as well as in the Myriam Dagh. The Chemishguedsek seams are conveniently situated close to the banks of the Menzurchai, an affluent of the Karasu or eastern Euphrates. They lie at about 60 km. north-east of the Keban silver-lead deposits south of the last-named town. In the Erzerum province some lignite has been mined to supply local requirements. The seams are generally imbedded in the Upper Eocene. They are well developed at Kheneke, near Migri in the valley of the Arax, as well as east, in the Kashkaldagh Mountain. Beds are known at Kasachan, Hortukderessi, Serishli, near Bayazid Road, Lezghiaf, and Ercovan.

Coal has been mined at Rizeh, north of Erzerum. Proceeding southward from Erzerum the occurrence of a deposit of bituminous coal is reported from the mountains lying west of the Mush plain. South-east of the last-named locality a hard variety of coal resembling anthracite is found near Eruh, in the province of Bitlis. The coal is stated to occur in abundance in this region between the villages of Chemak and Dergal. The village of Komurhan, between Harput and Malatia, owes its name to the coal seams worked by the natives.

The same variety of coal is found farther east, near Palu. The meagre reports obtainable from this relatively inaccessible town lack definiteness, and merely suggest the possible existence of an anthracite basin in this district. The Palu coal outcrops at 25 km. from the Murad Su in the bottom of a valley. The fuel is used by blacksmiths of the region. It will probably acquire importance owing to its proximity to the copper mines at Argana.

West of the Persian boundary, the province of Van seems to have been favoured by nature with ample reserves of fuel. At Bashkale, in the Hekiari district, a number of lignite seams 0.15 m. in width are known. At about two day's horseback ride from Nordooz, the same coal occurs again. The coal-bearing strata attain here a thickness of about 14 m. At Akchai, about 24 km. from the harbour of Cheraker on Lake Van, a bituminous variety was discovered. Coal is also known at Sivan near Archek, 27 km. east of Van, where a number of seams have been brought to light. At Chahmanis, in the district of Chatak, a number of seams occur. Their width occasionally attains 1 m.

The occurrence of the fuel is also reported from Beirutdagh Mountain, where iron has been mined since times immemorial by the natives of the town of Zeitun. This region has been, perhaps, least visited of all by travellers in Asia Minor. North of Sis, toward Hajin, anthracite float has been detected in the valley of the Seihun.

Syria.

Two deposits of lignite are worked in the province of Beyrout. One is the Ainamade

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mine, which lies near the village of Kermael and yields about 1,000 tons annually. The other occurs at Haitura, near Jezzim, and produces about 500 tons per year. Outcrops have also been traced in the valley of the Nahrelkalb. Both deposits are capable of yielding larger outputs. In the Lebanon, coal that is probably lignitic is reported from Faluga, near Hamana, as well as at Abdin, near Bekfaya and Mreyjatt. The first-named locality was the seat of a native exploitation which was undertaken on a small scale to supply the silk factories of the district with fuel. Other Syrian localities from which coal is reported are Meshgara, in the Beka's Mountains and Huleh, in the province of Damascus. The environs of Tyre and Safed are similarly credited. At about 80 km. south-east of Aleppo, coal outcrops have been noticed by various explorers. The accounts relative to their importance are conflicting. Two other localities regarding which very little is known, are Suedieh, on the Mediterranean coast, and the Ajilun province in Palestine.

Mesopotamia.

Coal was mined about half a century ago in the northern section of this ancient province at Harput, about 45 km. east of Gezireh. The product was used for a while on river boats plying on the navigable sections of the Tigris. The fluvial transportation industry appears to have stimulated research for the fuel, since a little mining was also undertaken for the same purpose in the Jebel Hamrin 90 km. north-east of Bagdad. Coal has also been found in the vicinity of Mosul, but the deposit has not been worked. At about 160 km. north-east of Bagdad a small amount of coal has been mined by the natives since 1890. Mining is confined to the low hills lying east of Kifri, near the Nasalah village. The coal is won from open cuts and shallow workings. Its quality was found to be poor at that level, and deeper digging has not yet been undertaken.

Turkey in Europe.

The environs of Keshan in the province of Adrianople have been prospected for coal somewhat more thoroughly than other districts of European Turkey. The coal mined here is bituminous. One of the seams worked was about 1 m. thick and had the characteristics of cannel coal, burning with a long flame and emitting little smoke. Its specific gravity was 1.37 and it yielded about 2 per cent. in ash. At Bosztepe, 9.6 km. west of Keshan, the same variety of hard cannel was discovered. In the opposite direction several seams are known along the Marmora coast between Sarkeui and Ganos, at a distance of about 48 km. south east of Keshan. The thickness of these veins varies between 0.30 and 0.45 m.

The outcrops of another deposit, which contains seams about 0.70 m. thick, are known. The coal seams are here interbedded with oil-bearing formations, with which they have a common southerly dip into the hill forming the southern slope of the Kavak River valley at about 130 m. above sea-level.

The prolongation of the Marmora-Ægean lignites can be followed in the vicinity of the seaport of Rodosto in the Sea of Marmora. Deposits of lignite are also known near the villages of Athunar, Chiflik, and Agatchly at a short distance from Constantinople.

(To be continued.)

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paints, mainly for the scavenging and watering service. Date, July 15.

The Physical Service Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of weighing machines, balances and weights required for Government during 1916-17. Date, July 15.

The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of agendas required for Government Departments. Date, July 12.

The superintendent of Stores, Ministry of Education, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 3,600 table serviettes required for the school year 1916-17. Date, July 5.

The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of globes, bees-wax, and mats necessary for the Hedjaz. Date, July 1.

Malta.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade is in receipt of copies of transcripts of the official shorthand writer's notes on the proceedings before the Prize Court at Malta regarding (1) the sailing ship Alexandros, (2) the sailing ship Anna and cargo ex the same, (3) the cargo ex the s.s. Taiyabi, and (4) part cargoes ex the vessels Scrivia, Byzantion, Erissos, Eretria, and Agamemnon. The above-mentioned copies of the notes may be consulted by British firms at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Greece.

H.M. Consul at the Piræus has forwarded a copy of the Greek Government *Gazette* (No. 79) of April 22-May 5, containing the text of an agreement, in the French language, made between the Greek Government and the American Steel Products Company of New York, concerning the supply of six revolving tables for locomotives for the Papapouli-Topsin railway, now in course of construction.

ENEMY FIRMS IN EGYPT.

A recent issue of the *Official Journal* contains the following notice:—

The following firms have been granted a licence to trade in Egypt with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain, in accordance with the terms stated in Section B (*vide* THE NEAR EAST, February 4):—

Dian, Nicolas, 11, Rue du Commerce, Port Said;

Vascotto, Alfred, 23, Boulevard de Ramleh, Alexandria; and

Cernic Stefano, Rue Abou Dardaa, Alexandria.

The following further notices appeared in a recent issue of the *Official Journal*:—

The firm of Stern Frères, G.m.b.H., Cairo and Alexandria, has been granted a licence to carry on business for the purpose of liquidation only, the affairs of the firm having been placed under the supervision of Mr. J. W. Eady, P.O. Box 1078, Cairo, as controller. Mr. W. B. Delany, of Standard Buildings, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo, has been appointed Receiver of the property in Egypt of Messrs. Leo and Harry Stern, partners in the firm of Stern Frères, of Cairo, believed to be at present residing in enemy territory. Mr. E. C. Widdows, of Gresham House, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo, has been appointed Receiver of the property in Egypt of Frederick Trinklein, partner in the firm of Stern Frères, of Cairo, believed to be at present in enemy territory.

Mr. A. J. Lowe, P.O. Box 955, Alexandria, has been appointed Receiver of the business and assets of the Cinema Moderne, Alexandria, with instructions to close the business and liquidate the assets thereof with as little delay as possible.

LIABILITIES OF ENEMY SUBJECTS.

The Civil Tribunal of Alexandria has delivered an important judgment in a case relating to the liabilities of enemy subjects in respect of losses sustained by others in consequence of the liquidation of their affairs by order of the military authorities. The case in question was brought by Mr. Parachimona against Messrs. R. and O. Lindemann, between whom a partnership had been formed for the purpose of engaging in the commercial development of a new variety of "Brown" cotton. When Lindemanns' firm was ordered to be liquidated difficulties ensued, and Mr. Parachimona claimed £E10.915 as damages in respect of breach of agreement, as affecting the cotton season of 1916.

At the hearing of the case Messrs. Lindemanns pleaded *force majeure*, which prevented them, to their regret, from carrying out the contract; but the Tribunal decided, in the negative, the question whether the acts of the authority ordering enemy subjects to liquidate their affairs, and to put an end to contracts in course of execution had to be considered as cases of *force majeure*, so that the debtors could not be sued for damages by non-enemy subjects with whom they had contracts that had thus been broken.

The further hearing was adjourned until after the summer vacation, when the amount of damages will be assessed.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

At a court of directors of the Royal Exchange Assurance, held on June 14, Sir David Yule was appointed a Director of the Corporation.

The death is announced of Mr. Raphael Eid, the representative at Alexandria of the Société Anonyme Agricole et Industrielle d'Egypte.

A further list of foreign firms with whom persons in the United Kingdom are forbidden to trade was published in the *London Gazette* of June 18. The list contains nine firms in Greece.

Regular postal and telegraphic communication with Trebizond has been opened by the Russian authorities.

The Alexandria Water Works, Egypt, has recently been equipped with an oil-burning installation which shows considerable economies over coal.

Alexandria is officially declared to be infected with bubonic plague and Mohammerah (Southern Persia) with cholera.

Lieut. Georges Oppermann, of the French Artillery, who had already been decorated with the Croix de Guerre, has been made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. Lieut. Oppermann is the son of M. Alfred Oppermann, a director on the International Board of the Suez Canal, who has been serving as Lieut.-Colonel of Artillery at Lyons since the outbreak of war.

The Cunard Steamship Company, Ltd., have removed from their old quarters at the corner of Rumford Street and Water Street, Liverpool, to their magnificent new head offices, which henceforward will be known as Cunard Building. The length of the building from the front façade on the pierhead to the city façade is 330 ft., the width of the former being 170 ft. and the latter 200 ft. The height from the basement is 125 ft., and from the foundations in the bed of the old George's Dock 170 ft. The structure combines, both in general outline and decorative detail, the best features of the Italian Renaissance, as represented by the Farnese Palace at Rome. It, however, secures to a greater degree and on a much vaster scale than the Farnese Palace the primitive simplicity and dignity aimed at by the architectural [illegible] whose notions and aspirations it [illegible]

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Near East Markets.

SNOW AND FROST IN ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 27.

The farmer has had some cause for complaint recently, for there have been heavy downfalls of rain, especially about Bucharest, which have done considerable damage in some parts. Large tracts of country were more or less under water as I approached Bucharest a few days ago on a return journey from Moldavia. Following on the rain, snow fell in the mountains, and this caused the thermometer to fall below zero in the interior, with harmful results.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, June 22.

Currants.

The market has been very active this past week, with a good demand for all qualities. At the same time a good amount of speculation is going on, and prices are hardening for the reasons mentioned in last week's report. The same condition prevails in the Liverpool market.

Sultanas.

The demand is moderate, with business done mostly in Afghan and North Indian fruit at steady prices.

Figs.

There has been little enquiry, but prices are well maintained, especially for good sound fruit, which apparently is mostly wanted.

Dates

The market has been fairly active, and prices are firmer with some tendency for advance.

Seeds.

Linseed has been easier: London-Calcutta spot afloat, June-July, July-August, August-September was sold at 66s. 9d. Bombay for shipment 68s. 6d. Rapeseed is rather quiet; Toria, June-July, 64s.; and brown Cawnpore, 63s. Cotton-seed is easier: London-Egyptian, June, is quoted at £13, and Sakelarides at £12 10s. per ton. Mustard-seed is in restricted supply, and is dearer. Rangoon beans are in quiet demand, and with fairly heavy arrivals prices have favoured buyers during this past week, but a steadier tendency is now noticeable.

Oils.

Linseed oil is easier, spot pipes landed are offered at £33 5s., barrels ditto at £34 5s. Rape oil is rather weak, ordinary brown naked spot nominal, while English refined barrels is quoted £48 to £50. Cotton-oil is dull, crude spot in pipes offered at £43 10s., refined pipes, pale, £47; barrels, sweet, £52 to £54.

Oilcakes.

Cotton-cakes: Egyptian are now more plentiful in supply, and, consequently, quotations are somewhat lower. Spot parcels are quoted at £10, and afloat at £9 15s. to £9 17s. 6d. English makes are also cheaper at £10; and for Bombay at £9 15s. Linseed-cakes are very quiet, with only small retail consumptive demand at more or less firm prices.

MELON SEEDS FROM THE SUDAN.

The following report on a sample of watermelon seeds (*Citrullus vulgaris*) submitted to the Imperial Institute of the Sudan Government has been published:—

The sample weighed 40 lbs., and consisted of small flat seeds, varying in colour from pale yellowish-brown to very dark brown. A small proportion of extraneous matter was present.

The seeds contained 7.4 per cent. of moisture, and yielded 23.6 per cent. of a brownish-yellow liquid oil, equivalent to a yield of 25.5 per cent. from the dry seeds.

The oil yielded by these seeds appears to be very similar to that of the "Senat" seed (*Cucumis* sp.) from the Sudan previously examined at the Imperial Institute, and to other oils derived from Cucurbitaceous seeds.

The residual meal left after the extraction of the oil was a brownish-white material with a pleasant taste, and analysis showed that the seeds have a composition somewhat similar to that recorded for sunflower seeds, but the percentage of oil is lower. The residual meal has a low food value, and contains a very high percentage of fibre.

Samples of the seeds were submitted for valuation to two firms of oil-seed crushers, who reported on them as follows:—(1) One firm stated that the value of the seeds would be determined largely by the use which could be made of the oil. In their opinion the properties of the oil are very similar to those of maize or soya oils, for which there is only a comparatively limited market, whilst the residual meal is of relatively low feeding value, and would, therefore, realise a lower price

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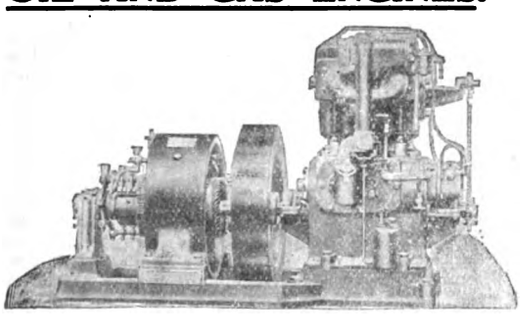

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than palm kernel meal or cake. In view of these facts and the low yield of oil, the firm were doubtful whether these seeds could be sold in the United Kingdom under present conditions at more than £7 per ton (September, 1915). (2) The second firm stated that the oil from these seeds comes within the group of oils similar to cotton-seed oil, and would be very suitable for soap-making. They were also of opinion that experiments with various methods of refining would probably result in rendering the oil suitable for edible purposes, and in that case it would, of course, command a much higher price than if it could only be used in soapmaking. The firm did not consider, however, that under present conditions the oil would be worth more than about £28 per ton (October, 1915).

The residual cake was regarded as practically valueless, the percentage of fibre being so high as to make it inadvisable to use it for feeding purposes, except possibly as a constituent in a mixture. The percentage of nitrogen is also low, and the value of the cake as a manure would probably not be more than 30s. per ton. In these circumstances the firm valued the seed at only about £5 10s. per ton delivered in England (October, 1915), and added that at the high rates for freight now ruling the export of the seeds from the Sudan did not seem likely to be remunerative.

LORD KITCHENER AND THE B.C.G.A.

Speaking last week at the monthly meeting of the Council of the British Cotton-Growing Association, Mr. J. Arthur Hutton remarked upon the great interest which Lord Kitchener had always taken in the development of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. He carefully studied all the details of the scheme for growing cotton in the Gezireh Plain, and it was largely due to his representations that the Government decided to assist the Sudan Government in raising the necessary capital. One of the last acts of Lord Kitchener in connection with this great project, said Mr. Hutton, was drawing up an arrangement which would ensure that the native farmer should not be left at the mercy of the capitalist, but should receive a fair reward for his labours.

Mr. Hutton added that one of the best and most enduring monuments they could raise to the memory of Lord Kitchener was to use their best efforts to make a success of the Gezira scheme, and so to bring prosperity to the inhabitants of the country in which Lord Kitchener had taken the deepest interest, and from which he took his title.

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Engineering Notes.

British Engineers' Association.

The British Engineers' Association is making a strong appeal to all engineering firms to combine for the better organisation of the industry after the war, and urging them to become members of the Association, which already includes over 300 firms, with a combined capital of over £100,000,000. The appeal claims, among other objects attained by the Association during the war, that the difficulty of knowing which firms in England are under enemy control (owing to the absence of a Government black list) has been met to some extent by a carefully prepared list, available for members of the Association, of firms so tainted. It is pointed out that the war has revealed enemy-controlled trade situations which were never even guessed at in peace times, and that if the industry is to prosper after the war, more particularly in relation to exports, co-operation and co-ordination are absolutely necessary. All the members of the Association must be entirely British in their interests. One of the main objects on the immediate programme of the Association is to urge the Government to place the industry in a position to compete successfully with enemy countries after the war, and not hamper it with legislation or handicap it with conditions. It also desires to discourage the existence of enemy manufacturing and agency concerns in Great Britain, and to encourage technical education and an appreciation of scientific investigation.

The Anglo-Irish Tunnel.

The war and the recent troubles in Ireland have once more demonstrated the necessity for the construction of an Irish Channel tunnel. The late Lord Wolseley once said: "Let us try the effect of a tunnel on the Irish question, and see whether such a description of union might not be more successful in binding together the people of the two countries than was the political union of 1800." The view of the famous soldier was perhaps based on the remarkable fact that a diversity of character with a more or less controversial disposition very often exist between neighbouring people who happen to be separated by water, a strip of sea, or even a big river; whereas a similar diversity is not so evident where there are territorial boundaries and communication is effected by land. The construction of an Anglo-Irish tunnel would restore, in some measure, the primitive geographical union that existed between Great Britain and Ireland in the Pleistocene Age, when a valley ran between the two countries where now roll the waters of the Irish Sea. Between the coasts of Wigtownshire on the one side and those of Antrim and Down on the other there lay a loch about twenty-five miles long, and varying from six hundred to nine hundred feet in depth, and this loch, known to geologists as Beaufort's Dyke, still lies beneath the waters of the North Channel. It is beneath this loch that it is proposed to run the tunnel, alternative routes suggested being from Whitehead, in county Antrim, to Port Mora, in Wigtownshire, and from Great Copeland (County Down) and Donaghadee to Port Mora and Portpatrick respectively. The greatest submarine length involved in these schemes is estimated at about twenty-four miles, and the cost at anything between £10,000.000 and £20,000.000. The tunnel would shorten the Atlantic route by at least forty-eight hours.

Utilization of Tin Refuse.

Nothing is wasted nowadays that science has discovered how to utilize. Things which yesterday were thrown away are now proving a source of wealth; and there is wealth even in the abhorred market-places and street refuse. The scales of fish, for instance, are transformed into imitation pearls; gelatine, glue, and a substitute for isinglass are made from useless fish and fish offal. Broken pottery and white or coloured glass are utilized for making mosaic pavements; wool is extracted from generation after generation of garments, and used until it is worn practically into thin air. Scrap iron and waste tin are also used over and over again with very satisfactory economic results. It is, therefore, gratifying that one of the London municipal authorities, the Southwark Borough Council, in its efforts for practical economy decided on the utilization of waste products which incidentally will conduce to the promotion of a new British industry. The Council has made a working agreement with the British Tinning Company whereby the whole of the waste tin and refuse of the borough will be dealt with. It will create an entirely new industry in the district, and give employment to a large number of hands. The company has agreed to erect a building and plant at the Manor Place depot at a cost of £3,000. When finished, this is to be handed over, in working order, to the Council, who, in consideration, is to pay the company 50 per cent. of the profits arising from its use. The Council is practically taking no risk, as the company is finding customers for the metal produced, which is to be paid for at pre-war rates. The chief merit, however, of the scheme lies in the fact that by a simple process the waste metal will be turned into useful, readily saleable articles of every-day household use, by which means a British firm will be enabled to snatch part of an industry which, prior to the war, was entirely in the hands of Germany.

OIL IN NORTHERN PERSIA.

Petroleum Review translates from the Russian *Neftavnoic Dielo* an article from which the following are extracts:—

During March of this current year Mr. A. M. Khoshtaria succeeded in obtaining, on very advantageous terms, a concession from the Persian Government for the exclusive rights for exploration and exportation of petroleum and petroleum products, and also gas, asphalt, and ozokorite.

***Concessions for petroleum exploration in Northern Persia were obtained by Mr. Sapekhdar in 1895 to 1896, by which concession he was granted the exclusive rights for ninety-nine years of exploitation of all petroleum deposits in the districts Tunekabun, Kujur, and Kalalestag, and these concessions have now been transferred by Mr. Sapekhdar to Mr. A. M. Khoshtaria. The latter has taken over all responsibility as regards conforming to the conditions granted to Mr. Sapekhdar by the late Shah Nasr-Eddin, according to which he has to complete all necessary exploration not later than one year after the conclusion of the present war. Mr. Khoshtaria has to pay Mr. Sapekhdar for the transfer of the exploration and exploitation rights a sum of 50,000 roubles, and also an advance of 100,000 roubles on account of the per pood royalty, the latter being fixed at 1 kopek per pood of the production to be obtained in the above-named districts. Mr. Khoshtaria has the right to transfer these concessions to other persons or companies for a term of not over ninety-nine years, but with the right of renewing the grant on the same conditions for a further long period.

Besides the above petroleum concessions, Mr. Khoshtaria has also obtained direct concessions from the Persian Government for all other lands situated in the above provinces, and owned by the State as well as by private individuals. According to this second grant, the concessionaire obtains the monopoly for petroleum exploration and exploitation for a period of seventy years, and has the right to form subsidiary companies. He is also granted the right to erect petroleum installations, tanks, reservoirs, pumps, etc., and also refineries, and every kind of building necessary for purposes of exploration, exploitation, refining, and transport of petroleum and petroleum products, for which purpose the Persian Government grants him land and forest plots.

In return for these concessions Mr. Khoshtaria has to pay the Persian Government 16 per cent. on all profits, and to pay a State controller, specially appointed for this purpose, a yearly salary of 6,000 roubles. Mr. Khoshtaria and his companies will also have the privilege of importing, free of duty, all necessary machinery, tools, instruments, materials, etc.

Private letters received from Jerusalem, says *The Times*, state that in consequence of the rapid spread of spotted typhus, whooping-cough, and smallpox, the Turkish Government has closed all the schools in Jerusalem. In Jaffa the plague is spreading so fast that all the schools have been closed.

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COMPANY REPORTS.

Egyptian Markets.

The directors report for the year ended December 31, 1915, that the number of market days lost for horned cattle, other than buffaloes, during the year was 680, as compared with 2,398 during the year 1914, an improvement of 1,718 in the number of market days held. All negotiations for the acquisition of additional markets outside the Government concessions have necessarily been suspended during the war. Gross receipts from the markets during the year were £53,736, as against £48,406 in 1914. Notwithstanding the increased period of war conditions, the gross receipts from the cattle markets show an increase of £4,588 as compared with the year 1914, which only included five months of the war period, being £33,660, against £29,072. The net receipts from the fifty slaughter-houses worked during the year were £2,290, as compared with £2,261 in the year 1914. The attendance of the public at the general markets has been satisfactory, the gross receipts from that source being £17,785, against £17,072 in 1914. The expenses in the trading account show a net decrease of £694, the principal economies being under the head of "Wages and Expenses of Market Keepers." This was occasioned by the reduction of the European staff who have joined the armies of their respective countries. Against this decrease the principal increases were in the Cairo and local offices rent, salaries and expenses. The net profit derived from the sale of nitrate of soda was £7,028, as compared with £3,371 in the year 1914, an increase of £3,657. The greatest difficulty was experienced in securing stocks in consequence of the scarcity of ships and the high freight and insurance charges from the coast of Chili. The agency for the sale of basic phosphate for the Egyptian Phosphate Company, Limited, which was referred to in the last annual report, bids fair to develop into a considerable business as soon as its agricultural value is realised by the cultivators. In December, 1915, an agency was entered into on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture (Egypt) for the purchase and supply of fodder for the army in Egypt. It is anticipated that a considerable business will be done under this arrangement during the current year. The provision of £950 made in the revenue account for the year 1914 for Government participation in profits, under the terms of the concession, was £47 in excess of the actual amount to which Government was entitled. The dividend which was declared on the deferred shares, subject to settlement with Government, was accordingly increased by £15 13s. 4d.—i.e., one-third of £47, equal to, say, 1s. 0½d. per share, making the dividend actually paid on the deferred shares for the year 1914, say, 13s. 9 21-32d. per share instead of 12s. 9d. per share as estimated. The net revenue for the year 1915 from all sources amounted to £31,585 9s. 7d., an increase of £9,661 3s. 8d. over the year 1914. After deduction of the Government's share of the profits for 1915, estimated at £3,200, a balance of £28,385 9s. 7d. remains, which, with the balance of £4,500 1s. 7d. brought forward from 1914, makes a total of £32,885 11s. 2d. to be dealt with. After carrying the sum of £1,500 to reserve for general purposes, and after meeting the fixed charges of the annual premia for the amortisation of the share capital and debentures, £3,645 12s. 3d., and debenture interest, £2,840, a balance of £24,899 18s. 11d. remains available for distribution. The directors recommend the payment of a final dividend (No. 23) on the ordinary shares for the year ended December 31, 1915, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, making, with the interim dividend of 4 per cent. paid on January 31, 1916, a total of 10 per cent. for the year, absorbing in all £17,470; and in accordance with the terms of the memorandum of association of the company, and subject to the settlement of the proportion of profits due to the Government, the payment of a dividend (No. 6) on the deferred shares, at the rate of £6 2s. 5d. per share for the year 1915, which will absorb £1,836 5s. 9d., leaving a balance of £5,593 13s. 2d. to be carried forward.

The directors appointed Mr. P. W. F. le Breton to fill the vacancy on the board created by the death of Mr. Allan F. Joseph, but, believing it to be in the interests of the company, he has resigned his appointment. Mr. M. Llewellyn Evans, of Brook House, 10-11, Walbrook, E.C., has given notice that it is his intention to propose that Mr. George Herbert Redwood be appointed as a director to the vacancy above referred to. An extraordinary resolution will be proposed increasing the maximum number of directors to six. Should this resolution be duly passed, the board hope to be in a position to submit to the meeting the name of a sixth gentleman who should be acceptable to the shareholders. In conformity with the company's articles of association, Major W. I. le Breton will retire by rotation, and, though he did not desire to offer himself for re-election, yet at the request of some of the larger shareholders and of the board he has consented to do so.

Egyptian Agricultural.

The report for the year ended March 31 shows that the receipts were £3,305, while interest and expenses were £5,234, leaving a deficit for the year of £2,029, which increases the debit balance brought forward to £69,735. The temporary advances, which stood in last year's balance-sheet at £12,654, have now been placed on a more permanent basis, and are secured by a mortgage on the Dekerness estate. The loan which stood in last year's balance-sheet at £41,982 has also been rearranged, and its repayment spread over a longer period. Rather heavy legal expenses and fees have been involved, but these are not likely to recur. The profit and loss account shows a small improvement over the previous year, but is as yet distinctly disappointing. The prices obtained for the cotton crop were good, and largely in excess of those of the previous year, but the quantity and quality of the crop on this occasion proved very inferior and far below expectations, owing to the serious ravages of the insect pests.

Messageries Maritimes.

The report for 1915 states that the revenue from the working of the "Domaine Privé" (free ships, shipbuilding yard, ships used by the navy and chartered vessels) amounted to 26,151,745 frs., as compared with 20,168,697 frs. for 1914, while the working expenses were 17,360,992 frs., against 20,936,407 frs. The receipts coming from the "Domaine Contractuel" (including 16,907,116 frs. to be recovered from the State) were 71,690,086 frs., as compared with 75,903,097 frs. for the previous year, which comprised a period of eight months under the convention with the Government, and four months of the war. On the other hand, the working expenses were 70,079,086 frs., as compared with 70,290,092 frs. The excess of receipts over expenditure is 8,790,752 frs. for the "Domaine Privé" and 1,620,000 frs. for the "Domaine Contractuel." It has been decided to write off 1,226,721 frs. for depreciation of the ships of the "Domaine Privé" and to establish a reserve of 2,000,000 frs. for large repairs. The balance of 7,184,030 frs. is carried forward no decision as to its distribution being taken pending the recovery of the amounts due from the State.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURAL. — The annual meeting of shareholders will be held on the 26th inst., at 12.30 p.m., at 57, Old Broad Street, E.C.

EUROPEAN OILFIELDS.—Production for week ended June 11, 109,700 poods.

KHEDIVIAL MAIL STEAMSHIP AND GRAVING DOCK COMPANY.—Interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, for the year ended June 30, on the ordinary shares, Coupon No. 8. The dividend will be payable on July 15, at Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., London, and at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Alexandria.

LAKE COPAIS.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held at Winchester House on the 27th inst., at 12.30 p.m.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Production for the week ended June 10, 613 tons.

SUEZ CANAL.—Receipts for the 16th, 17th, and 18th inst. amounted to 640,000 fr., as compared with 720,000 fr. for the corresponding days last year.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

NEW EGYPTIAN.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the New Egyptian Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Arthur A. Baumann, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—To take the balance-sheet first, you will see that the amount of our assets is £681,524 odd. The most important items in that total are 8,676 feddans, at an average cost of £49 17s. per feddan, which amounted to £432,551, and the unmatured instalments for lands sold, carrying interest, less reserve, which stand for £183,830 odd. Against that total of our assets, the total of our liabilities is £618,609 odd. If you compare those two figures together—the total assets and the total liabilities—you will find that the assets exceed the liabilities by a sum of £62,914 odd, which is equal to an excess value of assets over liabilities of 2s. 10d. per share. But that excess is based upon the cost price of land as it stands in the books. According to the valuation which was made at the end of 1914 by Mr. Bonar, our technical adviser, there was an appreciation of £115,000 over the cost, so that if you add that appreciation to the £62,000 odd which I have just mentioned, you will find that there is a total appreciation of our assets over cost of £178,000, which means that if we were to sell all our lands to-morrow—which, of course, we could not do—our shares would realise something like 22s. each. I will refer to that figure again, but it is an important figure as showing that on capital value our shares are worth more than the par price. I will now turn to the profit and loss account. The profit, before charging debenture interest and reserve, amounts to £12,514 odd, as compared with £17,776 odd for the preceding year. That shows a decrease of £5,262 odd, which is accounted for by the reduced revenue from the company's lands, and the reduced profit on sales of land. The net profit for the year, after charging debenture interest and reserves, amounts to £2,626 odd, as compared with £3,829 odd in the previous year, and, with the carry-forward of £4,705 odd, the balance to the credit of the profit and loss account amounts to £7,332 odd at the end of December last, and this, with your sanction, we propose to carry forward.

The revenue from the company's lands appears at £8,443, as compared with £11,785 for the previous year, a decrease of £3,341. This decrease is not, as might be thought, entirely a diminution in the rentals, but it is due to a very large extent to a larger percentage of expenses being charged to revenue, owing to the fact that the cultivated area is larger than in the previous year. The increase in the price of coal and other materials is also responsible for the increased expenses. That means that, being unable to lease as much land as we are in the habit of doing, we have had to directly cultivate ourselves a greater proportion of land than usual, and that has led to a larger charge being made to revenue. I will give it to you exactly. The gross revenue before reserve for the year is £23,155. From that you have got to take the revenue expenditure, which includes irrigation, drainage, taxes, maintenance, depreciation, salaries, and general expenses, which amount to £14,712, leaving the balance, which I have just mentioned, of £8,443. The administration expenses, including a proportion of depreciation, bad debts, etc., amount to £10,651 odd, as compared with £10,792 odd. During the current year, since January 1, the Board have made very substantial, if not drastic, reductions in their administration expenses. The directors have agreed to draw no percentage on any available profit, and their fees have been considerably reduced. The chairman's fees for this year are £250,

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as against £375; the ordinary directors draw £150 each; the managing director in Egypt, Mr. Suares, has agreed to draw £500 less than his full salary; the secretary's salary has been reduced by £100; and the London office rent has been reduced by 50 per cent., from £600 to £300 a year. These reductions, if I am not mistaken, amount to about £1,200, which I think you will admit is a considerable economy in administration. With regard to arrears of annuities, these are higher than formerly, the principal reason being that, owing to the inferior cotton season of 1914, and the low price of cotton at that time, the fellaheen have suffered severely and had to meet their engagements by means of a crop which they were only able to sell at a low figure in 1914 and a short crop in 1915. Several of the largest purchasers of our Upper Egypt estates have suffered severely owing to the abnormal rise in the price of coal, which has been between £7 and £8 per ton in Cairo, and other commodities necessary for irrigation, and as some of the estates are entirely dependent on pumping for their irrigation they have been unable to meet their obligations, and consequently in some instances we have had to extend the annuities. The present high prices for cotton augur well, and it is hoped that the outstanding arrears will be collected, especially if the cotton crop is good. With regard to the profits on the sales of land, they appear at £12,763, as compared with £14,504, or a decrease of £1,740, which, considering the abnormal times through which we have passed, does not appear to us to be unsatisfactory. The cash in hand shows an increase of nearly £3,000, in spite of the fact that we reduced our loan during 1915 by £7,000, and since the beginning of the year we have reduced our indebtedness by a further £8,100. We have purchased during the year £5,000 of debentures at 70½. If you have listened to the figures that I have given you, I think you will have seen for yourselves that the position of this company is a peculiar one, and, financially speaking, is almost a paradox, because the amount of your assets very considerably exceeds your liabilities—as I have told you, if we could sell our land tomorrow or next week or next month you ought to get 4s. or 5s. premium on your shares—but we cannot pay you any dividend. Now, the explanation of that apparent paradox is simply this: that in order to pay dividends we must sell land We cannot make enough money to pay you a dividend by leasing land, and still less by direct cultivation. By doing that we can only just make our expenses and something more. But in order to pay you dividends we must sell land. That is our business. Our business is to buy land and to prepare it for sale, which we do in Upper Egypt by irrigation and in Lower Egypt by drainage, levelling, and ploughing, and then to sell it; and as our cost price averages about £49, and our sale price averages between £92 and £95 per feddan, you can see that the business of selling land is a very profitable one. But it is necessary for carrying on our business that we should have an active land market. Now, during the time of war buyers for land will not come forward, and we can do nothing in a stagnant land market. . . . I now beg to move: "That the directors' report, together with the annexed statement of accounts, duly audited, be received, approved, and adopted." The resolution was put to the meeting and unanimously adopted.

BANK OF ABYSSINIA.

The ninth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Abyssinia was held at Cairo on May 31, the President (Mr. F. T. Rowlatt) presiding. The directors presented the balance-sheet, which was as follows:—

BILAN, au 31 Decembre, 1915.

Actif.

Caisse	£163,701	7	4
Avances garanties	44,179	0	3
Avances sur Marchandises, etc.	54,039	17	9
Comptes Courants sur Titres...	6,664	15	4
Comptes Courants	42,635	8	9
Effets sur l'Etranger	4,794	1	3
Effets escomptés	13,964	10	10
Correspondants	18,859	17	10
Dépôt en Thalers perçu en garantie	25,999	19	7
Débiteurs divers et autres comptes	3,860	7	6
Mobilier (moins l'amortissement)	657	0	0
Immeubles (moins l'amortissement)	19,470	3	2
Frais de Premier Etablissement (moins l'amortissement)	2,030	12	0
Compte Profits et Pertes	30,949	18	9
Dépôts en Thalers, contrevaleur métallique des Billets de Banque en circulation, per contra $214,765			
	£431,807	0	4

Passif.

Capital souscrit £500,000 (en 100,000 Actions au Porteur de £5). £500,000			
Capital versé £125,000, soit £1 5s. par action	£125,000	0	0
Comptes Courants et Dépôts	144,833	0	11
Correspondants (y compris la National Bank of Egypt)	135,567	16	11
Créanciers Divers et autres comptes	25,792	14	6
Réserve Statutaire	613	8	0
Billets de Banque en circulation, $214,765.			
	£431,807	0	4

Compte de Profits et Pertes de l'Exercice, 1915.

Doit.

Dépenses Ordinaires:—			
Appointements	£7381	17	3
Loyer	555	1	3
Frais Généraux	4,729	19	1
Allocation au Conseil d'Administration £1,000			
A déduire: Le montant remboursé £800	200	0	0
	£12,866	17	7
Solde à reporter	748	8	2
	£13,615	5	9
Amortissements:			
Frais de Premier Etablissement	£507	12	6
Bâtiments	1,500	0	0
Divers	172	8	8
	£2,180	1	2
Moins valeur au 31 Décembre, 1915, du surplus actif du Thaler Marie Thérèse, soit $1,615,961,46	777	10	8
Provision pour moins valeurs à la même date des monnaies étrangères	7,550	17	9
	£10,508	9	7

Avoir.

Montant du Bénéfice brut	£14,615	5	9
	£13,615	5	9
Solde reporté	£748	8	2
Solde reporté au Bilan	9,760	1	5
	£10,508	9	7

RAPPORT DES CENSEURS.

Nous avons comparé le Bilan ci-haut avec les extraits de comptes reçus du Siège Principal de la Banque à Adis-Abeba et des Agences en Abyssinie, et nous sommes d'avis que le dit Bilan est correctement établi et représente bien la situation réelle de la Bank of Abyssinia au 31 Décembre, 1915, telle qu'elle ressort des dits extraits de comptes.

RUSSELL, HARRIS, AND CO.,
Experts Comptables.

Le Caire, le 30 Mai, 1916.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—Before opening the meeting, we desire to offer our respectful homage to his Royal Highness Ledgi Yassou, Regent of the Ethiopian Empire, and to express to him, as well as to his high officials, our thanks for the kindly disposition which they have shown towards the Bank during the past year.

We have the honour to submit to you the balance-sheet for the year which ended December 31, 1915, as also the profit and loss account for that year.

The political situation abroad has had a very strong effect upon the trade of Abyssinia, the conveyance of the export products to the European market having been, at certain periods in 1915, almost entirely prevented.

You must not, therefore, be surprised to find that the amount of our gross profits, which was £22,721 1s. 11d. in 1914, was reduced in 1915 to £13,615 5 9

Deducting from this figure the ordinary expenses—namely..					12,866	17 7
There remains a balance of.....					£748	8 2
We have deemed it necessary to debit the profit and loss account with the various amortisations, of the same nature as those in the previous years amounting to ...	£2,180	1	2			
The valuation of our net assets in dollars, made on December 31, 1915, at a rate rather lower than that of December 31, 1914, involves a debit of	777	10	8			
While the depreciation on December 31, 1915, of our assets in francs and lire represents a debit of	7,550	17	9		10,508	9 7
Leaving a final balance of.....					£9,760	1 5
Adding to this figure the debit balance on December 31, 1914, namely.....					21,189	17 4
We get, to the debit of the profit and loss account, a total of					£30,949	18 9

In 1915 no increase was made to our reserve for bad or doubtful debts, inasmuch as we

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might consider ourselves as covered by reason of the provision previously made.

As we have stated in the report for the year 1914 the rate of the dollar at the end of that year had dropped in an abnormal manner.

This state of affairs became further aggravated in the course of the year 1915. But towards the end of that year an upward tendency began to develop, which permitted us to see again, on December 31, 1915, a rate approximating to that of December 31, 1914 (130⅛ rupees per $100, as against 130⅜). After the close of the year 1915 the value of the dollar, by reason of the rise in bar silver abroad, continued to improve in a very appreciable manner, and we were preparing to take advantage of the opportunity to liquidate our free stock in dollars, when the export of the dollar from Abyssinia was suddenly prohibited. This had the result of bringing the exchange back to a rate near to that which had preceded the rise. Our net assets in dollars on December 31, 1915, being $1,615,961.46, the dollar market (the rate being calculated in amounts of $100) would normally have the effect of increasing the valuation of our assets by more than £1,000. If we could, therefore, proceed to make a valuation of our assets based on the present market in bar silver, we should not only make up for the debit balance of the profit and loss account, but we should show a considerable balance to the credit of that account.

This shows the great importance which attaches to the question of the free disposal of our stock of dollars, and that question forms, at the present time, the subject of our most active endeavours.

The market in silver contracts having remained closed during the whole of the year 1915, we were prevented from effecting sales of this kind as cover, as we had done in the past.

With regard to the provision of £7,550 17s. 9d., which we were obliged to place to the debit of the profit and loss account in order to meet the depreciation in the value of our assets in francs and lire, we have found means to employ the greater part of these funds in a remunerative manner. This enables us to await a more favourable time for the conversion of these currencies into pounds sterling.

It is interesting to observe that in 1915 the expenses of the bank were brought down to £12,866 17s. 7d., showing an appreciable decrease as compared with the year 1914. We consider that the present figure of our expenses represents approximately the minimum compatible with the proper working of the bank.

During the course of 1915 we took very great care to maintain as liquid as possible a position for the bank. The balance-sheet which we lay before you shows that we succeeded in doing so. The dollars which we hold in our offices in Abyssinia appreciably exceed in point of fact the sum requisite for the settlement of the whole of our liabilities in that country.

We have proceeded this year to make the first issue of our bank-notes, and this innovation, which permits of a reduction in the use of heavy and cumbersome coinage, has received a favourable acceptance from the population. As is shown by the balance-sheet, these notes are covered by a reserve of dollars for the same amount.

In 1915 our sales of exchange were $3,458,322
As against ..... $5,571,835 in 1914

In 1915 our purchases of exchange were $3,335,158
As against ..... $5,451,559 in 1914

The result of these figures has been an increase of $123,164 in the amount of our net assets in dollars.

It has not been possible for us to obtain, for 1915, the complete statistics of the trade of Abyssinia with abroad, but the statistics published by the Government of the Sudan show that the imports into Abyssinia from or through the Sudan for the year 1915 have been estimated at the sum of £E52,407, as against £E37,575 in 1914; while the exports from Abyssinia to or through the Sudan were £E57,217, as against £E80,208 in 1914. The decrease in these exports may be attributed to the bad coffee crop last year, for this article represents the principal export product of Western Abyssinia. The National Bank of Egypt has continued, during the year 1915, to hold at our disposal, without interest, a sum of £40,000, and your directors in Egypt have again decided not to draw the £800 to which they are entitled in virtue of Article 25 of the statutes.

We are happy to have amongst us at the present moment Mr. Collier, the governor of the bank in Abyssinia, and we beg to express to him, as well as to his staff, our thanks for the devotion which they have displayed on every occasion.

The name of no candidate has been submitted to us for the vacant post of Ethiopian director, to comply with Article 15 of the statutes.

Baron Jacques de Menasce, having retired from the National Bank of Egypt, which he had represented on our board since the foundation of our bank, has thereby also ceased to be a member of our board. We desire to express to him our gratitude for his valuable co-operation. We have appointed in his place Mr. Léon Suarès, whose election we beg you to ratify.

The retiring directors are his Excellency Boghos Pacha Nubar and Mr. Aldo Ambron, who offer themselves for re-election. We shall be glad if you will be good enough to renew their appointment.

The following statistics show the changes and the volume of the various transactions of the Bank of Abyssinia in the course of the last three years:—

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE ACCOUNTS DURING THE YEARS

	1913.		1914.		1915.	
	Debit.	Credit.	Debit.	Credit.	Debit.	Credit.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash	1,006,969	1,007,288	1,094,988	984,148	1,119,997	1,161,071
Advances guaranteed	153,597	169,077	60,915	51,242	45,298	48,598
Abyssinian advances	30,238	38,341	11,132	9,269	14,979	15,806
Current accounts	882,644	864,318	797,382	792,041	758,488	775,567
Advances on goods	186,997	212.769	138,285	132,522	150,251	160,108
Bills discounted	215,397	195,816	133,799	169,688	98,784	95,673
Current accounts on securities	209	612	83	65	198	188
Bills on abroad	362,791	358,989	114,826	113,139	111,098	108,607
Local bills	—	—	20,155	20,530	19,519	20,566
Deposits	696,097	686,036	675,919	737,195	529,546	547,032
Fixed Deposits	50,077	74,309	61,892	62,695	102,170	111,910
Ethiopian Governm'nt	27,784	21,157	21,621	22,232	17,608	25,716
	£3,612,740	£3,627,707	£3,130,997	£3,094,716	£3,087,936	£3,070,842

(N.B.—The conversion of the dollars is effected at the rate of $10 per £ sterling.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	—	80
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93⅜	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	79
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	69
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82⅛	73½	64
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80⅛	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	56
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	54
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	50
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	42½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	52½xd
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	49
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	66
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	75½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82⅛	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94⅛	—	76½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	68½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82⅛	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65⅛	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅛	—	4⅞
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	—	6⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69xd
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	11⅛
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	—	3½xd
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	5
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	12⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	—
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87⅛
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89⅛	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅛	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13¾
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	⅛	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2½
Do. Do. Def.	⅛	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	6
Do. Pref.	4⅛	—	3⅛
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	8/3
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	85½xd
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	⅛
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅛
" Founders	⅛	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	72½
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	8/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	—	⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1⅛	—	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	24/6
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99⅛	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	18/6
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	—	24/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3⅛
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2⅛	—	1½

OIL.	Price on June 6.	June 14.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	6/3	7/3
Anglo-Persian	20/-	21/9
European Oilfields	3/9	3/9
Roumanian	13/-	14/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	June 6.	June 13.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	442	442
Canal de Suez	4500	4470
Credit Foncier Egyptien	620	627
Turkish Unified 4%	61	60.10
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.20	87.20
Serbian, 1895	—	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 269.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The text of the Allied Note to the Greek Government had not been published when THE NEAR EAST went to press last week. Its terms were more exacting than we could have ventured to hope that the Allied Powers would insist upon, but not a whit stronger than the situation demanded. "The Protecting Powers of Greece," ran this memorable document, "see themselves compelled to exact immediate application of the following measures:—

"1. Real and complete demobilization of the Greek Army, which shall revert as speedily as possible to a peace footing.

"2. Immediate replacement of the existing Ministry by a business Cabinet, without political bias, and providing all the guarantees necessary for the application of the benevolent neutrality which Greece has undertaken to observe towards the Allied Powers, and for a fresh appeal in good faith to the nation.

"3. Immediate dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies, followed by fresh elections within the time limits provided by the Constitution, and as soon as the general demobilization shall have restored the electoral body to its normal conditions.

"4. Dismissal, in agreement with the Allied Powers, of certain police functionaries whose attitude, inspired by foreign instructions, has facilitated the perpetration of crimes against peaceable citizens, together with insults directed against the Allied Legations and their members."

These terms are worthy of record, not for the humiliation of Greece, who has it now in her power to regain her prestige in Europe, but as a beacon marking the beginning of a new and happier era in Balkan history. We have to go back a long way to find a precedent for the British Government, either alone or with other Powers, addressing itself to a Balkan problem in the only language that the Balkan States understand. The innovation is doubly welcome, both on account of its bearing on the war, and because it is likely to have a permanent effect on the welfare of the Near East. This view has nothing in common with any love for sabre-rattling, a trick that will ever remain foreign to British ideas; it is based solely on an appreciation of the one thing lacking in recent years in the dealings of the Entente Powers with the Balkans. The presentation of the Allied Note to Greece synchronizes with Lord Hardinge's entry upon his duties as Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign Office. It may be only a coincidence, but we hope that it will not be lost sight of, in order that the nation may not have to suffer again from the blunders which allowed Bulgaria to drift leisurely into the net of the Central Powers.

The view repeatedly advanced in these pages that a firm attitude with Greece's rulers would at once bring them into line with the country's interests has been abundantly confirmed by the course of events. The Powers left to the Hellenic Government "entire responsibility for the events which might supervene if their just demands were not immediately accepted." As M. Skouloudis and his Cabinet had already resigned and M. Zaimis had not actually taken office, King Constantine was in name what he has been in fact during the whole period of the Gounaris and Skouloudis régimes—the Hellenic Government. The time that he allowed to elapse between the receipt of the Allies' Note and his authorisation to the Prime Minister-Designate to accept in his name all the demands of the Allies could be measured in minutes rather than in hours. This hasty and wise compliance on King Constantine's part disposes of the fiction that he ever contemplated extreme action against the Allies, which would have exposed the Palace at Athens to the risk of a shell from an Allied Fleet in Phaleron Bay.

The presentation of the Allied Note to Greece, which, in other circumstances, would have entailed a painful humiliation, was received with a general sense of relief by the bulk of the Greek people. As the Protectors of Hellenic liberty, as affirmed in the Treaties of 1863, the Entente Powers were able to point out that they had not only the right but the imperative duty of protesting against violations of the liberties of which they are the guardians in the eyes of the Greek people. This point of view was confirmed by the way in which the events of June 21 were taken by the nation. The Skouloudis-Gounaris Cabinet passed away unwept and unhonoured. For the moment M. Zaimis does not identify himself with the Venizelist party; but, as he is known to be a genuine patriot and not enamoured of office, he will probably be well content to hand over the reins of government to M. Venizelos if the latter is returned with a majority in the forthcoming elections. The Powers have acted wisely in insisting upon the fact that they do not ask Greece to emerge from her neutrality. The Gounaris party, if still unrepentant, can be relied upon to raise the bogey of intervention in the war—the ex-Premier seems to regard his fellow-countrymen as a race of conscientious objectors—but the Allies'

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statement and the fact of demobilization should enable M. Venizelos to remind the nation that his contention that Greece, by failing to throw in her lot with the Allies, had lost her opportunity in this war has been proved only too true.

A message from Cairo to an Italian newspaper states that Medina has been occupied by the troops of the Shereef of Mecca. If this report should prove correct, it will mean that the only prospect the Turks have of quelling the Arab revolt will be at the cost of a formidable campaign. It is no longer a question of throwing in reinforcements to beleaguered garrisons. Some hundred miles of the Hejaz Railway have been destroyed, and in every respect the revolt shows signs of being well organised and skilfully conducted. The Shereef disposes at present of three armies, which are under the command of his three eldest sons. If the revolt continues to be managed on the lines which have secured these first successes, it will mark out the Shereef of Mecca as a likely candidate for the headship of the Arab world. Hitherto, while the Arabs have never taken kindly to Turkish domination, their tribal rivalries and the absence of any outstanding figure among them have militated against any successful attempt to declare their independence of Turkey.

The attitude of the Moslem world to the Mecca revolt illustrates in an unmistakable way the extent to which Turkey is held to have forfeited her position as the head of Islam. Everywhere outside Turkey the movement is being followed sympathetically. It is too soon, however, for any discussion of possible developments arising from this aspect of the incident. There can be little doubt that the Turkish Government will at once appreciate the seriousness of its position, for in many ways the declaration of Arab independence will affect its prestige far more seriously than would defeat at the hands of the Entente Powers. In course of time it will become known to the Turks themselves that the policy and administrative methods of the Committee of Union and Progress are directly responsible for the revolt. Enver Pasha's visit to the Hejaz five months ago was neither a health trip nor a triumphal procession. The danger of the situation had probably already been recognised in Constantinople, and the object of his mission seems to have been to overawe the Arabs into submission. He is said to have found the Shereef of Mecca embarrassingly outspoken. Enver retaliated by ordering some of the prominent Arabs to be executed, and to such acts and a general anti-Arab policy may be attributed the signal success of the revolt in its early stages.

News has been received that the Shia Mohammedans of Kerbellah and Nejef, in the Baghdad vilayet, have also risen against the Turkish garrisons, and that the Turks have shelled the sacred shrines at Kerbellah. It is naturally difficult to gauge the accuracy of these reports regarding a district entirely in the enemy's hands. We must, therefore, await confirmation of this intelligence before placing too much reliance upon the details. The latent antagonism between the Sunni sect of Mohammedans, to which the Turks belong, and the Shia Mohammedans, to whom Kerbellah and Nejef are sacred, might easily result in a conflict, particularly if the Turks, under the general pressure of the war, have felt obliged to levy heavy exactions on the native population. Turkey's embarrassments should prove the Allies' opportunity. In the Hejaz Great Britain can do little more than inform the Shereef of Mecca that all his wants in the matter of material will be supplied as far as possible. But in Mesopotamia, if weather conditions allow, the moment would seem to have come for a very determined resumption of the offensive.

In answer to a question in the House of Lords, the Marquess of Crewe confirmed the reports that have been reaching this country for some time past regarding the deplorable condition of Syria. The Turks appear to have acted in a characteristic manner, which shows what little difference there is between the methods of the Committee of Union and Progress and those of Abdul Hamid. As is well known, the Syrians have been endeavouring for some time past to secure an amelioration of their lot under Ottoman rule. In the face of Turkish promises agitation was dropped, and some of the chief movers returned to the country. An unfortunate chance placed the Turkish Government in possession of the names of these people, and their fates were at once sealed. At least twenty were condemned to death, and a number of others were imprisoned and exiled. In the case of Lebanon, the Turks proceeded more systematically. In the early days of the war an attempt was made to disarm the Lebanese. It was not successful, and the Turks changed their tactics. As was pointed out in these columns a few weeks ago, there seems to have been a German element in Palestine which did not take too kindly to extreme measures against a prosperous people who were doubtless good customers. By pretending that they were now prepared to guarantee Lebanon a continuance of its autonomy under friendly supervision, the Turks disarmed Lebanese suspicion until they were in a position to draw a military cordon round the country. In Lord Crewe's words, they now appear to be practically starving the population inside the cordon, depriving them of the necessaries of life. As the Christian inhabitants are suffering more than Moslems, it may be supposed that Turkish action is based on a definite policy having for its object the Turkification of all Ottoman territories.

In connection with the sufferings of the Syrians, it is satisfactory to learn from a Cairo correspondent, whose letter is published in this issue, that Syrian relief committees in Egypt are now bestirring themselves. It seems to have been a grievance in some Syrian circles that more should not have been done by the prosperous Syrian community. Whether this reproach was justified at the time or not, it evidently holds good no longer. Hopes are expressed that the funds being raised will reach a million francs. Whatever the amount, the good offices of Americans will have to be solicited to insure the satisfactory distribution of relief to the suffering Syrians. Were it not for German domination there would be some hope that American representations would have the effect of making the Turkish Government mend its ways. As things are, the quickest way of improving the lot of the Syrians and other subject peoples of Turkey will be for the Allies to "get on" with the war, particularly in the Balkans, with a view to cutting the communications between Germany and Turkey.

For the time being the Turks are in a position to hold and even attack the Russians near Trebizond and also on the Persian border north-east of Baghdad. Discrepancies between the Turkish and Russian reports, however, point to our Allies receiving reinforcements more regularly than the Turks. With further demands on the enemy's resources, coming this time from the Hejaz, the pressure he has been able to exercise on so many fronts must sooner or later be relaxed. There is, therefore, the greater need for the co-ordination of the Allies' efforts, and it should not be difficult to discover a weak spot in the Turkish armour.

An echo of the leading article entitled "Peace in the Sudan" in our issue of June 16 was heard in the House of Lords last Tuesday, when Lord Cromer, Lord Grenfell, and Lord Crewe paid well-earned tribute to Sir Reginald Wingate and his subordinates. The state of affairs in the Sudan, Lord Cromer said, was one of the greatest indirect compliments that had ever been paid to the wisdom and beneficence of English administration. Moreover, it afforded the most ample justification for the lines of our general Imperial policy. The main credit for the success achieved, he added, was unquestionably due to Sir Reginald Wingate and the officers under his command. Lord Crewe drew attention to the fact that the Darfur campaign had special difficulties to overcome. Sir Reginald Wingate showed sound judgment throughout, and especially in not refusing to take a certain amount of risk which undoubtedly existed in making the move forward at the time when it was undertaken. The plans were most carefully drawn, and the execution was rapid and prompt.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 7.

King's Birthday Review.

On the occasion of the King's birthday a review of the British garrison was held by Lieut.-General Altham. The ceremony took place as usual on Abdin Palace Square, and was watched by a large crowd of Egyptians and foreigners. The High Commissioner was at the saluting point, where also were assembled the Ministers, Sir Milne Cheetham, the Advisers, Under Secretaries of State, and senior Government officials. The day was kept as a public holiday by the administrations and principal commercial establishments.

Yesterday the Residency moved down to Alexandria, where it will occupy the same summer quarters, at Beicos, as last year. A guard of honour of British troops and of cadets from the military school was in attendance at Cairo station, where all the British and senior Egyptian officials had gathered to see the High Commissioner off, and his Excellency was accorded a similar official reception on his arrival at Alexandria.

Birthday Honours.

The Birthday Honours bestowed on officials in Egypt have, on the whole, been well received. The promotion of Sir Ronald Graham in the Diplomatic Service, and the bestowal of the C.M.G. on Mr. Ronald Storrs are considered to be well-deserved recognition of the really valuable services which both the recipients have been, and are still, rendering the British Government in this part of the world, whilst the honour conferred on M. Rocca Serra has been earned by the important work done by that able Corsican in his capacity of Counsellor to the Council of Ministers. The knighthood bestowed on Dr. Armand Ruffer and his promotion in the Order of St. Michael and St. George is warmly welcomed as an acknowledgment of the extraordinary success that has crowned the efforts of the International Quarantine Board, of which he has been the President for the past ten years, to keep Egypt, and, incidentally, Europe free from plague and other epidemics, which are always threatening to invade the West through the channel of the Levant. But, while pleasure is expressed at these honours, I find that there is a certain feeling of disappointment that the list should have been so meagre, when there are several Anglo-Egyptian officials of long service, whose work entitles them to more public recognition than they have received up to now, and some of whom have of late years done yeoman service in connection with the internal administration and economic development of the country. I do not intend to mention any names, but your Anglo-Egyptian readers, and those who are in touch with Egyptian affairs, will doubtless know the men to whom I particularly refer, and it is to be hoped that an early opportunity will be taken to remove this just grievance to which I have before now called attention.

The Bomb Outrage.

The commutation of the sentence of death passed on Helbawi and Shems ed-Din, the two men accused of complicity in the attempt on the Sultan's life last July, was not altogether unexpected. As I wrote you last week, everywhere one meets with acknowledgment of the fairness shown by the military court presided over by Major-General Watson; but at the same time it was thought by a good many that the great delay that had taken place in bringing these men to trial—they had lain in prison for nearly ten months—set up in a measure circumstances that justified the non-execution of the extreme penalty. The military authorities evidently came to the same conclusion, and so agreed, on the personal intervention of the Sultan, to commute the sentence to penal servitude for life. This decision has been extremely well received, and there is no doubt that the Sultan's action has considerably added to his Highness's growing popularity.

The Situation in Greece.

The recent events in Greece have not been without their effect on the local Hellenic communities. The Greek Press, including even one or two anti-Venizelist organs, has been most outspoken in its criticism of the action of the Government in allowing the Bulgarians to re-occupy the forts previously won by Greek blood; and indignation meetings have been held in Cairo and Alexandria, at which telegrams of protest calling upon him to resist this affront to Hellenic *amour propre* were addressed to King Constantine. There is no disguising the fact that the local community is very anxious as to the present situation and its possible consequences.

Judicial Changes.

Following on the farewell speeches made at the last sitting of the Native Court of Cassation by representatives of the Parquet and Egyptian Bar, a reception and *thé d'honneur* were given last Thursday in honour of Judge Bond by his colleagues of the Native Court of Appeal. A very handsome souvenir was presented to the retiring Vice-President, who expressed his acknowledgments in Arabic. It consisted of a miniature reproduction of a fifteenth-century Arab work of art, the original of which is in the Arab Museum, and it had a little drawer in which the farewell address signed by all the Appeal Court officials was placed.

Subscriptions are being collected for a souvenir which is to be presented to Sir Malcolm McIlwraith on the occasion of his forthcoming retirement from the post of Judicial Adviser, and also for the foundation of two Law School Scholarships in his memory. It has been definitely decided that his successor will be Sir William Brunyate, who has proceeded to England on a special mission believed to be connected with the question of the future judicial reforms to be introduced in this country. Sir Malcolm McIlwraith proceeds on leave at the end of this month, and Sir William Brunyate will not return to Egypt until late in the summer. As at present arranged, however, no one will act as Judicial Adviser p.i.

It is understood that no successor will be appointed to Judge Bond until the autumn, when it is highly probable that some radical changes will be made in the personnel of the Native Courts.

June 14.

The Death of Lord Kitchener.

The news of Lord Kitchener's death created consternation throughout the country, especially amongst the Egyptian masses. The expression of horror and grief has been as sincere as it has been universal. At the same time the circumstances of his death have fired the native imagination and have served to place him on a pedestal even higher than that on which he already stood. Few people outside Egypt can perhaps understand or realize the position which Lord Kitchener had acquired in the popular estimation. The prestige which he had enjoyed amongst the Egyptians prior to his assumption of the duties of H.B.M.'s representative at Cairo had been born mainly of fear and respect for his masterful qualities; but by the time he left the country that fear was no longer the dominant note of the relations between him and the people. They had found that behind his stern manner and iron will there was a fund of human sympathy, and that the dreaded ex-Sirdar

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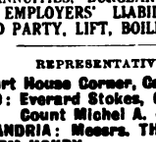

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was their sincere friend and well-wisher, who concerned himself with their smallest wants, and was accessible to all and sundry, no matter what their condition in life might be. The telegrams and letters which have poured in from the most distant parts to the Residency, the Interior, and the leading papers all tell the same tale of affection and gratitude, while wherever one goes one hears the recital of incidents, occurring either at the Agency or in the course of one of K. of K.'s many provincial tours, which reveal the softer side of the man's character and explain the hold he had acquired over the Egyptian masses. Even the "harems" are loud in their protestation of grief. "Kichner" was the panacea for every trouble and every ill in the country, and ever since his appointment as Secretary for War the people have frequently gone to the trouble either of cabling him or of sending him petitions whenever they felt they wanted redress. Their grief at his death is intensified by the fact that they were all firmly convinced that as soon as the war was over he would return once more to the country, which, he admitted, had a foremost place in his affections; and so would continue the good work which he had initiated. Lord Kitchener had attained in the thoughts and affection of the Egyptians a place which no other European had ever been vouchsafed, and which it will be difficult for anyone to attain in the future. His name had become more than a household word amongst the Egyptian masses, and it will be handed down by them to the coming generations as that of their greatest benefactor and friend.

Memorial Services.

An illustration of the popular feeling was afforded by the circumstances attendant on the memorial service held on Tuesday afternoon in Cairo. It had at first been arranged that it should take place at All Saints' Church, but the applications for tickets were so numerous and the Egyptians were so keen on participating that it was decided to hold it at Kasr-el-Nil Barracks, as was done on the occasion of the death of King Edward VII. Even then, owing to the restricted space and the necessity for providing for the other communities, it was impossible to satisfy all the applications, and many more Egyptians would have come up from the provinces to attend had it been possible to accommodate them.

The ceremony took place in the inner quadrangle, which was lined with troops, and was packed with representatives of every element of the local and foreign population. Even the galleries and the roof of the barracks were crowded with spectators of every nationality. As soon as Sir Henry McMahon, General Murray, Prince Fuad (representing H.H. the Sultan), the Ministers, and Colonel the Hon. M. G. Talbot and Brigadier-General G. F. Clayton (representing the Sirdar and the Governor-General of the Sudan respectively) had taken up their positions, the procession of clergy started from the officers' mess. It was a most memorable sight as the procession, which included the heads of the Western and Eastern Churches, the Grand Rabbi, and Grand Mufti, and was closed by the Bishop in Jerusalem and his own and the Army chaplains, wound its way through the congregation and took up its position on the raised platform. The Right Rev. Dr. MacInnes, assisted by the Rev. E. Horan, chaplain of All Saints', and the Rev. J. H. Little, senior Army chaplain, conducted the service, which was very impressive, and which closed with the sounding of the "Last Post" and the National Anthem. During the service most of the shops closed as a sign of respect. A memorial service was also held on Friday at St. Mark's, in Alexandria, whilst the various other local religious communities have announced their intention of holding similar services in memory of the late British Agent.

The Proposed Anglican Cathedral.

Following on the recent decision taken by the Anglican community of Cairo to rebuild All Saints' Church as an Anglican cathedral a meeting of the Alexandria community was held on Friday last at the Residency at Ramleh. The High Commissioner, who was in the chair, and the Bishop in Jerusalem explained the position and the scheme in detail, and the meeting unanimously approved the resolutions passed in Cairo last month, and elected Admiral Robinson and Messrs. A. S. Preston, P. W. Carter, W. Booth, K. P. Birley, and W. R. C. Blagden as representatives of the Alexandria community on the Building Committee. In view of the fact that the question of an Anglican bishopric was first taken up seriously during Lord Kitchener's tenure of office, and that he always took a lively and practical interest in the affairs of the Church, one wonders whether it would not be possible to associate the appeal for funds, when it is made, with his name and to have the new cathedral erected as a memorial to the work he did for the Empire in Egypt. This is a suggestion that might well be taken into consideration by the promoters of the cathedral scheme and those of the British community who are talking about raising a subscription for a memorial in his honour.

Sultan Hussein's Tact.

The British community has just had afforded to it a striking illustration of the tact and kind-heartedness for which Sultan Hussein has by now become quite renowned. When Judge Sandars died recently his Highness sent one of his chamberlains to represent him at the funeral. But the Sultan, who greatly respected the ability of the President of the Mixed Court of Appeal, and who had an affectionate regard for his personal qualities, did not consider this a sufficient tribute to the memory of the man whose death he had felt so much. Accordingly on Thursday last his Highness drove out to the British cemetery, and, attended only by his Grand Master of Ceremonies, quietly deposited a wreath on the grave. But he went still further. Remembering what an ardent horticulturist Judge Sandars was, he, with his own hands, planted at the graveside a cutting of his favourite plant and gave the cemetery-keeper a handsome present to encourage him to tend it properly. Needless to say, the British community has been profoundly touched at this characteristic action of the ruler of Egypt.

The British Rifle Club.

On Saturday Major-General Watson held an inspection of the British Rifle Club at Kasr-el-Nil Barracks. The members of the club—all men whose services cannot be spared by their employers—have volunteered to act as guides, patrols, etc., to assist the military authorities in case of an emergency. They have been drilling and shooting for the past eighteen months, and as they are for the most part men who know Cairo and the natives thoroughly they should, in the unfortunate event of their services being required, prove an invaluable adjunct to the local forces. There was a very full muster of members, and General Watson, after he had watched the different companies carry out various movements on the ground, expressed his great satisfaction with the parade, and thanked the members for their public spirit and their co-operation.

LORD KITCHENER AND THE P.E.F.

Presiding at the annual meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund last week, Dr. Leonard King said that among members of their general committee whose loss by death the society had to deplore was the late Lord Kitchener. It was well known that Lord Kitchener made his mark as a geographer when working as a young Lieutenant of Engineers in the service of the Fund, and the great survey of Western Palestine owed much to his energy and resource. A few years later, again working for the Fund, Lieutenant Kitchener made the very difficult survey of Sinai and the Wady Arabah, and since that time he had continued to take a keen interest in the society's researches. They had a right to be proud of the fact that his work as surveyor in Palestine had laid the foundation of that marvellous knowledge of the East on which he built his career.

Mr. Birch said that he was travelling with his brother in Palestine in 1875, and had met Lieutenant Kitchener then. He remembered him as being very tall, very agreeable, somewhat silent, and very much absorbed in his work. The Palestine Exploration Fund might claim to have "discovered" Kitchener. They had given him his first chance in life, his first chance of showing what he was worth; and he had shown in a sterling manner what wonderful application and what wonderful energy he could throw into everything he touched.

JUSTICE IN EGYPT.

We regret that, owing to pressure on our space, we are compelled to hold over the second instalment of our Cairo Correspondent's article dealing with the Judicial Adviser's Report.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, June 10.

The King's Birthday.

In accordance with custom, on the occasion of the King's birthday a Te Deum was sung in the Greek Church of Phaneroméni, in Nicosia, the Abbot of Kykkou officiating, in the absence of the Greek Archbishop. A telegram was despatched by the Greek members of the Legislative Council to his Majesty, conveying hearty congratulations, and a letter was sent by the Mayor, M. A. Liassides, on behalf of the Municipal Council, to the High Commissioner, Sir John Clauson, transmitting their congratulations, and expressing their hopes of a victorious issue of the war by land and sea for Great Britain and her Allies. June 3 being also the name day of King Constantine of Greece, the service included prayers for the King. Similarly a telegram was sent to Athens and a letter to the Greek Consul for transmission. In the letters and telegrams referred to mention was, as usual, made to the hopes of the Greeks that victory would bring about the realization of their political aspirations.

The Death of Lord Kitchener.

The sad news of Lord Kitchener's death was received with genuine grief in Cyprus. The Greek members of the Legislative Council sent the following telegram to the High Commissioner at Mt. Troodos on June 9:—"The Greek members of the Legislative Council pray your Excellency to convey to the English Government the expression of their sincere and deep condolence on account of the great loss which the Empire has sustained by the death of Lord Kitchener." The local Greek papers give sympathetic accounts of the life of Lord Kitchener and of his services to the Empire, and of the years he spent in Cyprus during his early military career, referring to his Government service and to the excellent map of Cyprus which was so important a part of his work in the island.

More Godchildren for King Constantine.

The Greek Consul, M. P. Pareskevopoulos, has been busy in the different districts, generally in company of the Abbot of Kykkou, in carrying out the baptismal formalities in the case of children who have received the honour of becoming godchildren (*Koumpároi*) of King Constantine. Meantime many fresh applications for the honour continue to be received from parents blessed with large families; and as these are favourably entertained the number of the King's spiritual children is being steadily increased in the island of Venus.

VICTORIA DEACONESSES' HOSPITAL.

There are not many English residents in Egypt who have not become acquainted with the beneficent work carried on for many years past at the Victoria Deaconesses' Hospital in Cairo, and few will grudge their meed of praise for the devoted services of those Sisters whose continued residence in Egypt has been rendered undesirable by the outbreak of war. The report of the committee of the hospital, which has just reached us, shows that the committee has been able to carry on its good work during the second year of war undisturbed by the trouble and turmoil which have affected the social life of almost all countries. The number of patients treated during the past year was 1,141, of whom 646 were men, 333 women, and 162 children. The patients were under treatment during a total of 28,348 days, showing that, on an average, seventy-eight beds were occupied per day. These figures indicate an increase on those of the previous year, and are quite equal to those of a normal year. The majority of the patients (700) were of Egyptian nationality, but eighty-nine English patients were treated during the year. The report states that the financial position of the hospital is satisfactory, and adds that, although the satisfactory result of the year's work reflects the general peaceful condition of the country, yet it would have been unattainable if it were not for the sound organisation of the hospital, which has stood the test of the abnormal conditions under which the work has been carried on. The hospital, too, is fortunate in its medical staff and in its Sister Superior, "who have shown never-failing devotion and inexhaustible resource in dealing with and overcoming the many difficulties as they arose." In the month of December last the deaconesses of German nationality had to leave Egypt and return to their country. The loss of the services of these devoted women (continues the report) seemed for the moment irremediable, and it looked as though the hospital must close its doors. However, the staff was equal to the occasion; an appeal was made to the heads of the Central African Mission, with the result that a certain number of Italian Sisters of that Mission who had been trained as nurses most kindly gave their services to the hospital, and with this help the work of the hospital has been carried on.

The temperature at Salonika has undergone an agreeable improvement owing to the rains in the mountain regions. This change is a source of much relief after a spell of tropical heat.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, June 17.

The Government and the Entente.

The situation has become extremely grave in the past few days. After a short and slight relaxation, the restrictions imposed upon Greek shipping have been made still more rigorous. Consequently the country is in a state of consternation, wondering what is going to come of the situation, and whether, in a few days, there will be any bread and any coal—that is to say, any light. The shipowners have met, and have addressed a memorial to the Government, pointing out the catastrophes that may be brought about by the prolongation of the present measures.

In Ministerial circles it is represented that the coercive measures of the Entente are designed chiefly to drive the Government into a corner and compel it to resign. Ministers, however, appear to have no intention of doing anything of the kind; and, affecting to be ignorant of the causes of the coercive measures, they ask through their Press why the Entente does not say what it wants. They also declare their readiness to give every possible proof of their sincerity, to begin with, by a general demobilization. In spite of these assertions and of the declaration made to-day that a new decree will very shortly be published ordering a general demobilization, Entente circles remain sceptical.

A Policy of Procrastination.

As a matter of fact, the authorities are moving in a most leisurely fashion, pretending that by preventing the movements of the boats that carry on the coasting service, the Entente Powers are making demobilization impossible; and the *Nea Himera* goes so far as to say that those Powers do not seriously wish for the demobilization, since they are hindering its realization. Obviously such pretexts as this are put forward only in the hope of gaining time, and it is hoped that the Powers, seeing that they will not gain their end by such measures, will finish up by abandoning them. The Minister of the Interior, M. Gounaris, has said as much openly in the Chamber, thus throwing down a fresh challenge to the Entente—an indiscretion which has only increased the difficulties of the situation. Thus, at the moment when yielding in a humiliating way to the demands of the Powers in demobilizing the Army—after having proclaimed repeatedly both in the Chamber and in the Press that the maintenance of the mobilization was an indispensable measure—at the moment when they seek, through their official organs, to soften the Western Powers the Government provokes them afresh and accuses them of hindering the very demobilization that they desire! This truly is a foolish policy, which can only have sad results for this unhappy country. The fact is that with the exception of M. Rallis, the present Cabinet is composed of men who are unequal to coping with the situation, who employ against the Powers the same petty shifts and tricks that they are accustomed to employ against their political adversaries in this country.

The Entente's Demands.

According to rumours that are current here, the Powers will demand, besides the general demobilization, the removal of the Chief of the Staff and the resignation of the Government, the dissolution of the Chamber, and the replacing of the principal Police prefects. I send you these rumours for what they are worth. In Ententist circles best able to forecast the result of the exchange of views now taking place between London and Paris, it is held that the Entente Powers will oblige Greece to define her attitude quite clearly, so as to dispel all their uneasiness regarding the situation of their forces in Macedonia.

A deputation of Austrian gum-diggers in North Island (New Zealand) informed Mr. Massey, the Premier, that 90 per cent. of their number are Dalmatians or Croatians, they sympathise with Russia absolutely, and are loyal to Great Britain.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 6.

Roumania and the Naval Battle.

The first impression created by the announcement that the Germans had inflicted a crushing defeat on the British naval forces was one of general consternation. This feeling was soon modified by the recollection that some two months ago Vienna was decorated and beflagged in celebration of the fall of Verdun! The next day appeared the British *communiqué* admitting the loss of a number of naval units, and this once more caused a sense of depression; for, though Quadruplists judged the general situation unchanged, yet they deplored the effect which the news would cause in neutral countries. I fear it is not recognized in England that premature admission of losses does not create a favourable impression among peoples who are unfamiliar with the Anglo-Saxon temperament, and who in consequence fail to realize that such admissions are prompted by a spirit of pride, of indomitable resolution, and by the consciousness of invincible power.

The *Journal des Balkans* exhorted its readers to await further news in patience, pointing out that one would expect a victorious fleet to pursue the enemy, not to turn tail and scurry back ignominiously into its ports. (It is pleasant to note this journal's unwavering confidence in the cause of the Allies.) Recent *communiqués* have shown that this was the fitting attitude to adopt, for they have made it clear that the German losses are if anything heavier than the British. "What is the situation of Germany," inquires the journal, "after the recent fruitless exploit? The same as before, but for the loss of several vessels and many illusions. The Germans, having refused to measure themselves with the main bulk of the British naval forces . . . had the shamelessness to cry victory. But this is glory of a very cheap type indeed, only a fresh sample, in fact, of 'camelotte allemande.' Read the British *communiqués*, with all their brutal frankness and their loyal recognition of losses sustained, and you will not only learn where sincerity is to be found, but also with whom lies the real victory."

The *Viitorul* gathers that the battle is a draw, that both sides have to register heavy losses in ships and men, but that the naval situation as a whole has remained unaltered.

The Explosion at the "Pyrotechnic."

In the evening of May 29 I was sitting at about eleven o'clock on a verandah facing south, when the sky before me was suddenly lit up by a red luminosity, immediately followed by darkness and the sound of a violent explosion, followed by a couple of minor ones. Presently a white cloud seemed to form some miles away, and this became gradually brighter as an ominous redness spread over the starlit sky. The telephone soon brought the news that an explosion had occurred at the "Pyrotechnic," which lies a couple of miles beyond the Palace of Cotroceni. A little over half an hour saw us on the scene of the fire, though cordons of soldiers held back an anxious crowd at all points of access, and our car circulated with the greatest difficulty. Reaching the military depôts, we found ourselves in the midst of a tremendous commotion. A huge mound of waste materials and residual substances resulting from the manufacture of munitions was on fire, and next to this was a depôt of shells, which strings of soldiers were carrying out in sacks and baskets, struggling through the dark and stumbling over miscellaneous obstacles scattered about their path. At a short distance a depôt of two or three million cartridges had caught fire, and these were incessantly exploding with a sound that reminded one of prolonged maxim fire. Adjacent to this was a depôt of powder, stored in small sacks, which were being removed in feverish haste, while firemen were breaking in the roof to souse the remains with water.

At three in the morning I left behind one of the most dismal spots I had ever seen, but all trace of fire had been extinguished.

The explosion occurred on Sunday night—that is to say, at the end of a day during which no work had been done—so that the theory of an accident does not seem plausible. Nor does the nature of the locality in which the fire started support this view. The authorities on the spot seemed to have little doubt that they were dealing with the work of foreign agents, and the public at large fully endorsed this opinion. Several arrests are said to have been made. A strict inquiry has been ordered, the results of which will not be divulged.

A few million cartridges, some residual materials, and slight damage to machines used in the manufacture of cartridges seems to represent the sum total of the losses sustained, to which, however, we must add a thousand pounds' worth of window-panes, which were shattered by the explosion.

I cannot close my account of the event without reference to the gallant attitude of King Ferdinand, who was one of the first persons to arrive on the scene, and who directed the work of salvage not only with great skill, but with exemplary coolness and disregard for personal danger. No less conspicuous by their bravery were the humble soldiers, who carried out the arduous task of removing the explosives at evident risk of their lives.

Austro-Hungarian "Ingenuity."

The following incident is reported to have taken place on the Austro-Italian front. Seeing that all their attempts to capture the Italian position of Col di Zigua were unavailing, the Austro-Hungarian command decided to send to the assault a Transylvanian battalion composed largely of Roumanians. The valley in which they found themselves being swept by the enemy fire, this battalion was also forced to fall back. Thereupon the Austro-Hungarians turned their artillery and Maxims upon them. The Transylvanians retaliated, the consequence being a furious battle, which raged for four hours, and ended, as we should expect, in the complete extermination of the Roumanians.

It is not the first time that such affairs have been reported, and they are all interesting from the sidelight they throw upon the relations existing between the Austro-Hungarians and their subject peoples. Transylvanian regiments have had the honour of being sent to accomplish tasks representing some of the most dangerous features of modern warfare, on the Italian as well as on the Russian front. Their disregard of danger and death has caused them to be used as "Sturmregimente" wherever furious assaults were called for, and this served the double end of accomplishing a dangerous mission and of avoiding the extermination of Austrian and Hungarian troops at the expense of a foreign element capable of proving dangerous in days to come. Such incidents are further evidence of the feelings of hatred and fear entertained by the Austro-Magyars towards the foreign nationalities, especially the Roumanians, and indicate what value we are justified in placing on declarations such as those recently made by Count Tisza to the representative of the *Berliner Tageblatt*, of which I give the following sample for the sake of comparison with actual facts:—

The greatest joy that we have had in the course of this war has been caused by the devotion with which the different nationalities have fought for the Hungarian fatherland. I do not speak of the Germans: they have always proved loyal sons of Hungary, and have ever inspired themselves with the political intentions of the Hungarian State. But the Roumanians, Slovaks, and Ruthenians have been equally eager to carry out to the limit their duty towards the country. Their attitude proves that the policy observed by us with regard to the foreign nationalities has been the right one.

THE NEW GREEK CABINET.

Under date of June 22, Reuter's Athens correspondent telegraphs:—It is officially announced here that the composition of the new Greek Cabinet is as follows:—

M. Zaimis, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.
General Callaris, Minister of War and temporarily Minister of Marine.
M. G. P. Rallis, Minister of Finance.
M. Negris, Minister of Communications.
Colonel Haralambis, Minister of the Interior.
Professor Momferratos, Minister of Justice.
M. Lidourkis, Minister of Public Instruction.
M. Calligas, Minister of National Economy.

The new Cabinet was sworn in at seven o'clock this evening.

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FOR THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 15.

The representations on behalf of their unhappy fellow-countrymen made by the Syrians abroad to the United States Government and to the Pope seem to have produced some good effect already. According to a new informant, who left Syria in the latter part of May, the Maronite Patriarch, on the occasion of his last visit to the Turkish military headquarters at Aley, was not only received and sent off with honours, but was also presented with twenty tons of corn for distribution among the poor. Diplomatic pressure from Washington and Rome on the one hand, and an awakening of conscience and reason, on the other, may have led the Turks to relax the criminal measures applied with especial severity against the Lebanese.

To have disarmed the population and sent out of The Mountain the male population of military age, as a precautionary measure, would have been an act for which the Turks could hardly have been condemned; but to try and exterminate a whole population through starvation is an inconceivable act of suicidal folly. What is the value of a land without a people, and where are the taxes and imposts to be collected in a deserted country? Surely the decimated Turks cannot hope to colonize the Lebanon and neighbourhood with men of their own race, when their own provinces are likely to be seriously depopulated at the end of the war. But the prolific Hun may have been casting a covetous eye on a land so greatly favoured by Nature, if equally disfavoured by Fate.

Meantime, the Syrian relief committees are working with unabated energy. At the first meeting of the Cairo Committee, not less than £6,500 was subscribed there and then, some of the wealthier members subscribing £1,500 and £2,000 each. It is expected that between the Cairo, Alexandria, and provincial committees a million francs, at the very least, will be collected. The Central Committee has been favoured by the patronage of the various spiritual chiefs—viz., the Sheikh-ul-Islam, the Coptic Patriarch, the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem and Cairo, the head of the American Mission for Egypt, the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, the Grand Rabbi, and the delegates of the Maronite and Greek Catholic Patriarchs. The civil and military authorities of the Powers concerned have also promised their support, and licensed the eventual shipment of the relief cargo to Syria, provided a neutral Government, such as the U.S.A., undertakes to see to the distribution thereof through a commission appointed by it. The U.S. Diplomatic Agent here has, as already mentioned, sent a long cable message to his Government and has supported the appeal by personal recommendations.

One of the fundamental conditions of the Central Committee's programme is the strict avoidance of political questions, and the emphasizing of the fact that the aim and field of action of the committee and its branches is purely humanitarian.

Appeals are to be made to all countries, outside the Germanic Alliance, for saving the poor Syrians from further ruin.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND.

The report of the British Refugees from Turkey Fund for the period covered from January 15, 1915 (when the fund was established) to May 31 last shows that the executive committee have made successful efforts to relieve our unfortunate fellow-countrymen, in spite of very adverse circumstances. Detailed reports of the work done in Constantinople are not available, owing to the lack of postal facilities. In February last, however, the Constantinople committee wired urgently for more funds, and these were remitted in due course. In Athens, where so many refugees are to be found, a large amount of relief has been afforded, but, writing on March 9 last, the local committee pointed to the fact that the question of clothing was becoming serious, as most of the refugees have hitherto been wearing the clothes they brought with them from Turkey. "These they have not been able to renew. Matters will probably soon reach a crisis. Hence I would ask you to give your earnest attention to this matter." In Athens the committee is presided over by H.E. Sir Francis Elliot, and now consists of Mr. Rendel, Third Secretary at H.M. Legation; Don Giovanni Mamos, Roman Catholic priest; and Mr. A. J. C. Wace, British Legation. In Constantinople the committee consists of Miss Eveline Whitaker, the Rev. Dr. Wigram, and the Rev. Dr. Frew, assisted by members of the American Embassy. Many refugees have found employment, but in Turkey the cases are the hardest, and in Constantinople, where the financial situation is very difficult, people, formerly well-to-do, are dependent on the fund for their daily bread. Three or four pounds a month to a family will barely keep them in lodging and food. The executive committee pay tribute to the unfailing kindness and courtesy of the American Embassy in Constantinople, "without whose generous assistance our efforts would be fruitless." Approximately 110 families have been helped, at the average rate of about £26 a year.

In Athens the committee has been able to help 38 families. In England assistance has been granted to 27 families, while in Turkey, although the figures are not by any means accurate, for reasons set forth above, the executive committee estimate that support has been provided for 45 to 50 British families. An examination of the balance-sheet given below will show that the funds are rapidly diminishing while the calls on it are increasing. The present balance will be completely exhausted by August, and the committee will be obliged to abandon those dependent upon them unless their present appeal meets with the response for which they hope.

General Balance Sheet (January 15, 1915, to May 31, 1916).

	£	s.	d.
Collections	3,610	17	8
Loans returned	323	1	8
	£3,939	19	4

	£	s.	d
Remittances to Athens	1,150	0	0
,, to Constantinople	1,050	0	0
,, to Dedeagatch	30	0	0
,, to Smyrna	50	0	0
Relief granted in London	1,108	12	7
Expenses in London	18	8	6
Cash at Bankers	532	18	3
	£3,939	19	4

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In appealing for the British refugees from Turkey, we will only beg you to reflect that it is for *British refugees* we are pleading; compatriots now in great penury, helplessly stranded through no fault of their own, many with valuable property confiscated by Germans and Turks within the Ottoman Empire.

Must British refugees go without while Allied refugees are being splendidly helped with British money?

The funds of the British Refugees from Turkey Fund are expended with rigorous care. We have no administration expenses except stationery and printing. Much of our money is given in the form of loans, part of which has already been repaid, but, small as the sum is which we need, we find that by August our resources will be exhausted and our work must be abandoned unless kind hearts are touched and generous hands are opened.

It is desired that a fund of £5,000 be raised for this purpose.

May we hope that you will hear our prayer and help your countrymen in their distress.—I am, etc.,

Alice Lowther,
Chairman of Executive Committee.

Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, Belgrave Square.

THE TRANSLITERATION OF PROPER NAMES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Your reviewer ("F. H. S.") of the book "From Moscow to the Persian Gulf" goes on to criticise the "author's transliteration of Eastern place-names," and accuses him of pedantry in this respect.

I hold no brief for the author, but I do take some interest in the question of transliteration, and I would ask "F. H. S.," as an act of courtesy and instruction, to be good enough to tell your readers how the names of the places he quotes *ought* to be transliterated so that "the man in the street" would be enabled to pronounce them correctly.

"M" for "N" in "Nowroz" is clearly a clerical or printers' error, but the correction (?) "F. H. S." gives us makes it into "Nauroz—"not secret," a very different thing to "now rooz"—"New Year's Day."

It would also be instructive if he would tell us from whence he obtained his rendering (Dilkhusha) of Del-gush-au, and its meaning.—I am, etc.,

B. W. S.

[Our reviewer writes:—"Your correspondent 'B. W. S.' takes exception to my criticisms of certain transliterations in Mr. B. B. Moore's 'From Moscow to the Persian Gulf.' In common with the vast majority of readers, I hold that it is sheer pedantry to meddle with the spelling of proper names which have become household words, *e.g.*, Moscow, Delhi, Cawnpore, Teheran, Samarkand, etc. Furthermore, I venture to suggest that the author of a book on Eastern travel who confesses his ignorance of Oriental languages should ask some competent person to correct his transliterations of well-known words, *e.g.*, *Nau-roz*, literally 'New Day,' for 'New Year's Day,' and *dil-khusha*, literally 'heart-rejoicing,' for 'pleasant.'"—Ed.]

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The news that the Shereef of Mecca had proclaimed Arab independence of Turkey and of Ottoman rule, and that he had the support of the Arab tribes of West and Central Arabia reached me too late for any comment upon it last week. It hardly came as a surprise to anyone, I suppose. The Turk has never been an altogether welcome guest in Arabia, where, as a matter of fact, he has been able to hang on only by playing one tribe off against another, and to a less extent by the real grit of the troops he sent there—and kept there, as a rule, far longer than he had any shadow of right to keep them in common fairness. The Yemen especially has been a veritable cemetery for thousands and thousands of unhappy Anatolian soldiers of all ranks, and it was a constant wonder to outsiders that the poor fellows did not mutiny rather than suffer themselves to be sent there. If the Arab rising puts an end to the scandalous state of affairs that existed in this respect before the war, it will do much good to a long-suffering body of men who put up with their lot in a way that extorted admiration from all who gave the matter a thought.

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There is, of course, another aspect of the case: the effect which this casting-off of the Turkish yoke will have upon the Moslem world. That, naturally and rightly, is a question for Moslems alone; and I am glad that the fact appears to have been generally recognized by the West. It is, however, permissible to surmise that the revolt was very largely due to the Arabs realizing, in spite of all attempts to throw dust in their eyes, that Enver, Talaat, and the rest of the so-called "Young Turks" are not, and never have been, at heart good Moslems. Those gentry have, when it suited their purpose, posed as devoted followers of the great Prophet of Arabia; and, of course, they have likewise sought to represent their "friend" and "ally," Wilhelm II., and his Potsdam gang, in a similar light. But they forgot that the Arab is, after all, an intelligent person, and that, though he is perhaps more susceptible to oratory than most people, there comes a time when he weighs up deeds against words. That time seems to have come at last. Enver, Talaat, and the Kaiser have overreached themselves, as ultra-clever people have a way of doing.

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As to the report that the Turks have shelled Meshed Ali and Meshed Hussein, the sacred shrines at Nejef and Kerbellah, I can only express the hope that it is not true. For, apart altogether from their sanctity, these great shrines are wonderful examples of architecture, decorated with some of the most glorious tile-work it has ever been my good fortune to see; and their destruction, or serious damage, would be a tragedy not unworthy to rank with any that has taken place in Belgium or France. But I must admit that my hopes are not very high. The Turks have never shown any reluctance to insult and annoy the Shiahs of Nejef and Kerbellah, and if they have actually perpetrated the outrage reported, they are only repeating what they did in the middle of the last century, when Turkish troops, under Daoud Pasha, of Baghdad, besieged and battered both places. Kerbellah, on that occasion, stood a longish siege, the marks of which were still visible in various parts of the town when Loftus visited it. When it fell, "the soldiers entered, and the place was given over to pillage, when the most dreadful scenes took place," as Loftus tells us, apparently on the authority of an officer who took part in the operations, "and received his promotion in consequence." As the victors celebrated their triumph by, amongst other things, shooting a party of seventy defenceless women on the spot, we may conclude that Loftus is within the mark when he writes that "most dreadful scenes took place." He adds that the mosques "suffered seriously, and the ravages of the cannon balls are distinctly traceable on their domes." When I visited the shrines I could detect no signs of this damage, but that, no doubt, was due either to the softening effect of Time or to repairs having been effected. Now if the Turks really have bombarded the shrines, I fear they will have made a "thorough" job of it.

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According to an American journalist who has recently visited Sofia, the Huns are making use of their time of occupation by as far as possible foisting their own guttural and abominable language upon the unfortunate Bulgarian people. I have no longer any great sympathy with the Bulgarians, for they are a people in whom all gratitude is presumably dead, but they are indeed suffering heavily for their "alliance." One of the funniest things recorded by the said American journalist relates to the poetical brother of General Vazoff, formerly an ardent Russophile. Under the changed conditions of to-day, the General's house is bedecked with German and Austrian flags, while his brother, who is a well-known Bulgarian poet, is endeavouring to prove that the Bulgars are really more closely related to the Turks than they are to the Slavs. After this we may be surprised at no lunacy on the part of those who fall under German influence. Possibly the Greeks have picked up a missing link of hereditary sympathy and relationship with the Bulgars, in which case, if we follow the laws of Euclid, Turk, Bulgar, and Greek are really all members of one family.

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I do not question the soundness of the German plans which inflict the harshness of the Teutonic tongue upon its victims and friends. In German ears "ja" is a beautiful and euphonic affirmative, and probably in this regard they do not realise the measure of their cruelty. But all the same, I sincerely hope that they are wasting their time. I do not want the wild beauty of place and sound marred by German consonants when next I visit the Balkans. It used to be quite bad enough in the old days when one met the Hun disguised as a human tourist at odd corners; it would be intolerable to hear Balkan children lisping in broken Boche.

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Sometimes I permit myself the luxury of thoughts of peace, knowing that, the Hun strafed into docility and impotence, it must come to us at last. And in these times my imagination tempts me to the far jungles of the Sudan, where game has wandered more or less undisturbed while our hunters were engaged in a more important chase. I do not know what steps the Government has taken to prevent the "lion, leopard, and other vermin" of the game laws from encroaching in increased numbers upon the preserves, but I do not doubt that adequate precautions have been taken in this regard. If I am right in this, the sportsman may look for a wonderfully well-stocked field by the time that the war is over. During recent years before the war the Sudan had become a very popular resort for the big-game hunter, and, although protective laws were made and strictly enforced by the Government, the large number of sportsmen who annually entered the country naturally had its effect upon the stock of game. Now, however, it has been given a respite, for the shooting of Government officials alone will have interfered with its development. As a matter of fact, these officials are usually good shots, and consequently the amount of game which they account for is comparatively small.

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It is the uncertain shot, the man who kills by luck, and who leaves a trail of wounded in his wake, that is the terror of the jungle and of the plains. And the Sudan, because it lies within such easy reach of England and offers so great a variety of game, suffers rather heavily at the hands of the novice. However, by a merciful dispensation of Providence, the really enthusiastic hunter is rarely an altogether bad shot, and the others do not care to go far from their bases in search of game, so that the evil is not so great as it might be. Perhaps also many of these gentlemen may have learned much in the way of shooting during the past two years. Anyhow, I envy the man who is able to leave England for the plains and jungles of the Sudan when peace is declared. They are always well stocked with game, but the first season which follows war should be a record.

***

It is good to learn from the *Egyptian Mail* that the police of Cairo are actively engaged in the suppression of certain features of "native life" which are, to put it bluntly, simply beastly. The *danse du ventre*, an exhibition which had absolutely nothing to recommend it, has, I read, "already been suppressed, and the police are now exercising their activities in the suppression of the *khawals*, or dancing men." These creatures must not, of course, be confused with the "dancing men" to whom the heart of the hostess warms so kindly in this country when she is wondering what on earth to do with the wallflowers. The *khawal* is an unsexed kind of creature who wears female attire and "makes up" in the most flagrant manner. As the *Egyptian Mail* says, he is in much demand at native weddings; but the weddings can get along very well without his assistance, and the sooner they do so entirely the better. For he is an utterly unwholesome, loathly being, and personally I should like to see him "suppressed" in the same way as the jurors in "Alice in Wonderland" were. You remember? They were put in a sack, and the mouth was tied up. No great harm would be done if all the *khawals* in Egypt were similarly treated, and then—dropped in the Nile.

CORSAIR.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE FUTURE OF POLAND.*

A useful series of handbooks dealing with Poland, past and present, is in course of publication by the Polish Information Committee. The most noteworthy treats that unfortunate country from an economic standpoint. Its author, M. Stanislaw Posner, labours with success to prove that, despite the disintegrating influence of "high diplomacy," the Poles are still a united nation, and that the three Partitions were crimes against the laws of Nature. In the days of her independence Poland stretched from the Baltic to the Carpathians, but her eastern and western boundaries were by no means so clearly defined. Thrust as a wedge between three powerful military states, and cursed with a constitution which plunged them in perennial anarchy, the Poles were foredoomed to be victims of unscrupulous aggression. According to M. Posner, the mineral resources of his country defy calculation. Its deposits of coal, iron ore, zinc, potash, petroleum, and salt offer potentialities of wealth beyond the dream of avarice; but, owing to international jealousy, they have been very inadequately exploited. In the mighty Vistula Poland has more than three thousand miles of navigable water which, for the same reason, is all but a silent highway. The Polish race is eminently fitted for industrial achievement. Energetic, progressive, and endowed with the artistic faculties, they need but a strong central government to take foremost rank among the producers of wealth. The development of Lodz, for instance, can be paralleled only in America. Before the outbreak of war it had a population of 800,000, whose textile and other products led the markets in Eastern Europe. And its progress was effected in the teeth of German competition, which, in Prussian Poland,

holds the whole province as in a vice. The authorities support German industry against the new-born activity of the Poles; the Polish business man is boycotted as much as the artizan, and German banks refuse to give them credit. In spite of all these obstacles, Polish manufacturers of agricultural machinery compete with those of Germany, and gain the first prize at international exhibitions.

In the Constantinople markets they had to struggle with German competitors, who were aided by unscrupulous diplomacy; in the Balkans they met and overcame their Austrian rivals. Although the trunk of Polish independence has been rent into three fragments, the time for reuniting them is at hand. M. Posner sums up the case for Poland in an eloquent peroration:—

A consideration of the Polish provinces united in their mineral wealth and their economic future, and by the great artery of the Vistula, forces one to believe in the possibility of their free and united existence. Surely the words which Strabo applied to France may apply here:—"This land is one and indivisible, not by chance, but by the action of some great and far-seeing Mind."

BOOK NOTES.

We have received from Messrs. Stanford a copy of their "War Map No. 18: Stanford's Half-Inch Map of the Battle Front Between the Somme and Soissons." The topographical details, being based upon the French Government survey, may be accepted as absolutely accurate, and the map, which is extremely well produced, shows the contours by a system of colour layers. The sheet is 27 ins. by 22½ ins., and may be obtained mounted to fold in case, or on a board at 5s., or unmounted for 2s. 6d.

Messrs. Smith, Elder and Co. have just published "Travels in the Middle East," by Captain C. T. Fowle. The book gives the impressions gathered by the author, who is an officer of the Indian Army, during a couple of "language-leaves." On the first journey he travelled from Busreh to Damascus; on the second, from Quetta to Askabad, by way of Nasirabad and Meshed, then across the Caspian to Baku, on to Resht, and so, by Ispahan, to Mohammerah. He writes with unaffected pleasure of the delights of caravan travel, and the volume is distinctly entertaining, if not very instructive.

Ten Austrian officers and 300 soldiers who took refuge in Roumanian territory as the result of fighting to the north of Moldavia have been disarmed.

Bucharest newspapers report that in a collision on Monday between a procession of workmen on strike, at the instigation of a Germano-Bulgarian agent, and soldiers, at Galatz, nine workmen were killed and twenty-five wounded.

At a meeting on Sunday of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French Chamber of Deputies a resolution was adopted urging the Government to take the necessary steps to put an end to the reign of terror inaugurated in Syria by the Turks.

* "Poland as an Independent Economic Unit," "The Polish Question as an International Problem," "Landmarks of Polish History," "An Outline of the History of Polish Literature," and "The National Music of Poland." (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 4A, Museum Street, E.C. Price 6d. each.)

THE MARTYRDOM OF SERBIA.

In connection with the celebration of Kossovo Day last Wednesday, a meeting was held in the evening at the National Liberal Club. Lord Swaythling, who presided, said that a country was not to be esteemed according to the amount of square miles it occupied nor by the number of its inhabitants, but by the greatness of its soul; and, judged by this criterion, Serbia, like Belgium, would rank among the great nations of the world. At the moment she was suffering at the hands of her enemies, as those enemies knew only too well how to make a people suffer; but Serbia had risen from defeat before, and would arise from this one

Monsieur Grgich read an interesting paper on the "Spirit of Serbia." He said that many people in England still supposed that the aspirations of the Serbian people were something modern, born of the present war, but, as a fact, those aspirations were of very ancient date, and were wrought into the soul of the Serbian nation. Since the beginning of the nineteenth century Serbian and Croatian literature had been identical, except for the fact that Croat was written in Roman characters and Serbian in the Cyrillic script. Serbs and Croats were one people, and the other southern Slav communities were all branches of one race, and ought to be united in one nation.

Mr. H. J. Fynes-Clinton said that one object of the meeting was that Englishmen might join with Serbs in celebrating Kossovo Day; a second object was to express our determination that the national rights and aspirations of the Serbs should be forwarded by the strong arm of Great Britain; a third object had been to bring to English people a better knowledge of the history, the art, and the aspirations of the Serbs.

Replying to some discussion which took place,

Monsieur Grgich said that when the Serbs had to retreat last winter they tried to bring with them the boys of from thirteen to seventeen years of age, bringing them over the Albanian mountains to Corfu, Italy, and France. They had brought with them from Serbia 63,000 of these boys, but only 7,500 arrived at Corfu. All the others were left somewhere in Albania or Montenegro among the mountains.

THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

The first meeting of the Governing Body of the School of Oriental Studies took place at the Board of Education on Thursday last week, when Mr. Arthur Henderson, President of the Board, delivered the Charter of Incorporation to the Governors.

Mr. Henderson, after referring to the services rendered by Lord Cromer, Sir Alfred Lyall, and others, in securing the establishment of the school, congratulated those present on the successful issue of their efforts. It was not inappropriate that the first meeting of the Governing Body should be held in the middle of the war. On the commercial side the school would play an important part in the reconstruction of commerce and industry by assisting this country to secure and control sources of raw material, and also to open new markets in Africa and the East. It was to be hoped that the school would become the chief centre of research, to which the learned classes among the natives in India and Egypt might turn for guidance in their studies. He had always considered it most undesirable that for these purposes they should have been obliged to have recourse to Continental schools. In these ways he hoped that the school would at once extend our commerce and influence and also strengthen the ties between the various races in the Empire. The Government as a whole—and the Secretary of State for India in particular—took a deep interest in the future of the school, and it was their desire to see it take its place at the head of all similar institutions in Europe and be the recognised centre of Oriental studies throughout the world.

Sir John Hewett, Chairman of the Governing Body, expressed the thanks of the Governing Body to the President for receiving them.

Mr. S. J. Hartog, of the University of London, a member of the Governing Body was subsequently appointed Honorary Secretary of the School. A further appeal for funds will shortly be issued. All communications should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary.

MORE ARAB WEATHER WISDOM.

In his pamphlet, "Some Arabic Weather Sayings," from which we have quoted before, Mohammed Bey Kiazim, F.R.Met.Soc., writes as follows:—

"There are some curious sayings about thunder, which most Egyptians believe to be the voice of an angel. On the other hand, the Anzarees, or the Shiites, of the sect of the Caliph Ali (cousin of the Prophet) think that thunder is the voice of Ali, who, they believe, resides among the clouds. A more reasonable belief, however, is that thunder is due to a current of air called *dukhán* (smoke or vapour) rising from the ground and passing rapidly between the interstices of the clouds.

"As to lightning, those who believe that thunder is the voice of an angel believe also that lightning is his laughter. The Shiites believe that it is the laughter of the Caliph Ali. Some Arabs hold the same theory as that applied to thunder, i.e., that *dukhán* ascended from the surface of the earth until it got amongst the clouds, where it was very rapidly moved about by the wind, and lightning resulted."

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Events in Arabia and the Sudan. June 27.

The EARL OF CROMER asked whether his Majesty's Government could give any further information as to the events which had recently taken place in the Arabian Peninsula, and whether it was proposed to publish any papers as regards the recent operations undertaken against the Sultan of Darfur. The reports which had appeared in the newspapers about events in Arabia were extremely important, also very satisfactory. They were, he thought, all the more welcome because they were rather unexpected. They were important because anything which affected the Holy Places touched the interests of the whole Moslem world; and they were satisfactory because, although he had no detailed information on the subject, he hoped the action taken by the Sherif of Mecca and those associated with him was an indication that they put implicit confidence in the declaration made by his Majesty's Government that they had no intention of interfering with the administration or independence of the people of the Hejaz. Not only were they satisfactory, but also somewhat unexpected. Although the whole of Arabia had been in a state of chronic revolt for many years past, if anybody acquainted with the affairs of the East had been asked whether there was likely to be a revolt, he would have replied in the negative. It did certainly appear that the success gained by the Turks at Kut-el-Amarah was likely to nip in the bud any idea of revolution in Arabia. That had not been the case, and it was another object-lesson to be added to hundreds that had gone before, how truly impossible it was for any European to foretell what was going to happen in the East. Since he put down the question he had seen in the newspapers notices of revolt of the Arabs against the Turks at Kerbellah. If the Government could give any information, it would be very welcome to those interested in the East. Turning to the Sudan, his lordship said that we had won successes in the field of diplomacy as well as in the field of military operations. Let them consider the position of the Sudan at the beginning of the war. It was an enormous country; the difficulties of communication were very great, the climate was extremely trying, and the population was very often turbulent. The whole of this country had been governed by a mere handful of civil and military administrators, some of them young men who had only recently left the university or the military colleges. They had been aided by an altogether insignificant force of British soldiers; but in spite of that there had not been the smallest disturbance of public tranquillity since the war began. That was a remarkable achievement, which had not been as fully recognised as it ought to be in this country. The state of affairs in the Sudan was one of the greatest indirect compliments that had ever been paid to the wisdom and beneficence of English administration. Moreover, it afforded the most ample justification for the lines of our general Imperial policy. It also showed the wisdom of the course that was taken when a few years ago we laid down the general lines on which the Sudan was to be governed. The main credit for the success achieved was unquestionably due to Sir Reginald Wingate and the officers under his command. He thought, too, a considerable amount of credit was due to the public offices in London—not for what they had done, but for what they had very wisely abstained from doing; he shuddered to think what might have happened if any attempt had been made to govern the Sudan from this country. Recently Sir Reginald Wingate and his officers established another claim to our gratitude by their successful operations against the Sultan of Darfur, who had for years been kept in order through the influence of Slatin Pasha. Slatin Pasha, being an Austrian, was obliged to quit the service when the war broke out, but that should not obscure the fact that during a great many years he gave most loyal and efficient service to the British Government. Recently the Sultan of Darfur adopted an exceedingly hostile attitude; but Sir Reginald Wingate wisely and courageously did not hesitate for a moment what to do. He undertook military operations against the Sultan, and the campaign was accomplished with success. Indeed, a more brilliant little military achievement had rarely been accomplished.

Lord GRENFELL also bore testimony to the extraordinary ability with which the Sirdar had conducted the operations in the Sudan. The difficulties of transport were very great. The sand was so deep that only camels could be used for transport, and the common idea that they required little or no water was one of the greatest possible mistakes.

Viscount BRYCE asked whether there was any truth in the statement in the newspapers that the Shereef of Mecca had torn up part of the railway line to the north of Medina. Another point on which he would like to have information was the condition of Syria, which he believed was suffering terribly from famine and disease, due to unparalleled severities on the part of the Turkish Government.

The MARQUESS OF CREWE, in replying for the Government, said that in regard to affairs in the Arabian Peninsula, he could not add much to the information which had appeared in the Press. His Majesty's Government had not received that information altogether with surprise. It had been their point of view all through that the Holy Places both in Arabia and Mesopotamia must be secured under Moslem control, and as soon as it appeared that the Turkish Government, under foreign influence and something like German control, was ceasing to represent the Moslem faith and world in the truest sense, it became obvious that a rising such as had occurred was by no means impossible. The Turkish Government had for some time past been losing its real validity as the representative of Islam, and, that being so, nobody had the right to feel surprised at what had occurred among those who regarded themselves as the true representatives of the Moslem faith. It was equally true that they could none of them refuse their sympathy with those who were endeavouring to throw off an alien yoke. And there was a further reason why they were sympathetically disposed towards the Arabian efforts to free themselves from Turkish domination. The pilgrimages had been of late greatly and of necessity interfered with. Thousands of his Majesty's subjects went annually from India and from farther East on pilgrimage to the Holy Places, and it seemed likely that what had taken place would render it far more easy to encourage the renewal of the pilgrimages, which had been interfered with to a great extent by the necessary blockade of the Turkish ports on the Arabian coast. The Government had no reason to suppose that the report of the cutting of a portion of the Hedjaz railway was untrue, but they had no further information on the subject. As to Syria, they had confirmation of the deplorable state of things. Great severity had been exercised by the Turks under Jemal Pasha against Syrian notables who became suspect to the Turkish Government. At least twenty persons of importance were condemned to death, and a number of others were imprisoned and exiled. The Turks appeared to have formed a regular cordon round the Lebanon district and to be practically starving the population inside the cordon, depriving them of the necessaries of life. Representations had been or were being made by the United States Government to the Turkish Government, pointing out what a departure from the ordinary proceedings of civilised Governments was involved in action of this kind, and it was difficult to see what other steps it was possible to take for the relief of these unhappy people. The whole future of Syria naturally caused the Government the deepest concern, and they could only hope that the success which might be obtained in different parts of the world in the military field might assist in the settlement of the question. It appeared to be the case that the Turks attacked Kerbellah, actually firing on one of the famous shrines, and it might be assumed that a considerable part of the Arab population of that part of Mesopotamia were in hostility to Turkish rule. Passing to the much more pleasant subject of Darfur and the success attained there, he said that the Sultan maintained for a considerable period rather distant but at any rate correct relations with the Government of the Sudan; but in 1915 he began to show signs of resenting our rule, and started intrigues with the tribes of the Senussi and other Moslem elements in Africa. Latterly the real necessity of inflicting a lesson on the Sultan of Darfur became more and more evident, and it was quite clear now that the best course was taken in the interests not only of ourselves, but of the French, whose colony of Wadai was on the western side of Darfur. In the meantime, the Sultan of Darfur had become more and more truculent. He addressed some very violent letters to the Governor of Kordofan and the Inspector on the border. One of them, couched in the most lurid terms, was, with a sort of grim humour, addressed to the Government of Hell in Kordofan and the Inspector of Flames at Nahud, and expressed a determination to inflict upon all infidels those combined punishments in this world and the next which the Moslem was in the fortunate position of being able to distribute. It was plain that he had been misled by German propaganda. On March 16 the advance of the British force began. It might be asked why it should not have been delayed until water would have been easier to obtain. The answer to that not unnatural question was that when movements were easier for our force they were easier for the enemy. It was likely that if delay had occurred some German emissaries whose activities there had been occasion to recognise might have found their way to Darfur. An advance from a place about halfway beyond the Kordofan border took place on April 15, and the capital was occupied on the 27th, after sharp fighting, in which heavy loss was inflicted on the enemy, and the Sultan fled. When Sir R. Wingate completed the report of the operations the Government would be able to lay papers before Parliament at the earliest opportunity. On behalf of the Government, he desired to add to what had been said already the warmest possible tribute to the services rendered by Sir R. Wingate and the Sudan officials for the sound judgment which they showed throughout, and for not refusing to take a certain amount of risk, which undoubtedly existed, in making the move forward at the time when it was undertaken. The plans were most carefully drawn, and the execution was rapid and prompt. It was just what would be expected of Sir R. Wingate, who was one of the most brilliant representatives of that type of soldier-administrator of whom the history of our government of India and the Sudan had given many examples. Sir Reginald was admirably supported by his Headquarters staff. A word of commendation should be given to the young officials, many of them of short service, who carried on the administration with such success under the Sirdar, and to the officer who carried out the military part of the expedition with the utmost care and with the success which all were glad to recognise.

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.
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ALEXANDRIA: 5, RUE AVEROFF.
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HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Situation in Greece. June 22.

Sir E. GREY informed Mr. King that, pending communication with the Allied Governments on recent developments in Greece, which were in the newspapers to-day, he could not make any statement on the subject.

Memorial to Lord Kitchener.

The House having gone into Committee, on the motion of Mr. ASQUITH the following resolution was unanimously agreed to: "That a humble Address be presented to his Majesty praying that his Majesty will give directions that a monument be erected at the public charge to the memory of the late Field-Marshal Earl Kitchener, with an inscription expressing the admiration of this House for his illustrious military career and its gratitude for his devoted services to the State."

British Prisoners in Persia. June 23.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether there was any probability of a speedy release of the British Consul and other British subjects of Shiraz now held prisoners by German emissaries in Persia.

Sir E. GREY: Everything possible is being done to secure the release of these captives, but I regret that I cannot at present give any more definite information on the subject.

A Zionist Battalion.

Sir E. GREY informed Mr. King that he has no information, but that he will ascertain whether a Zionist battalion has been recruited in Egypt from Jews who came from Zionist colonies, and took an honourable part in hostilities on the Eastern Front of Egypt.

Railways in Persia. June 26.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to a question put by Colonel Yate, said he believed that the Russian railway from Julfa to Tabriz, in North Persia, was completed. The survey of the Mohammerah-Khoremmabad line, the British concession in South Persia, had inevitably been delayed by the disturbed local conditions.

Dardanelles Papers.

Mr. ASQUITH informed Sir H. Dalziel that a considerable period must elapse before the promised papers on the Dardanelles operations were likely to be ready for publication.

The Memorial to Lord Kitchener.

The House agreed with the resolution passed in Committee the previous Thursday for an Address to the King praying his Majesty to give directions that a monument be erected at the public charge to the memory of the late Field-Marshal Lord Kitchener.

The Athens Police.

In a written reply to a question by Mr. RONALD M'NEILL asking whether any official information had been received of an attack on an employee of the British Legation at Athens on June 12, in which secret police and police in uniform were reported to have taken part, and of insulting behaviour of the secret police towards members of the Legation, including the Military Attaché and the chief of the British Naval Mission on the same day at the Stadium, Lord ROBERT CECIL states:—Incidents of the nature referred to by the hon. member have, I understand, taken place in Athens during the last few weeks, and serious representations were made to the Greek Government on the subject. That Government has now agreed to consult with the Allied Representatives in Athens with a view to the removal of the police officers responsible for such incidents.

Military Courts in Egypt.

Mr. GINNELL asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs on what grounds in such cases as the attempt on the life of the Sultan Egyptians were tried by military courts instead of by the assize courts.

Lord ROBERT CECIL said that cases of the nature indicated were under martial law properly tried by military courts. Proper provision was made for the representation of the accused, and when necessary for interpreting from and into his own language, and so far as he was aware no change was intended.

The Operations in Mesopotamia.

Sir HENRY DALZIEL asked the Secretary for India whether he could give any information as to the position and prospects of the British troops in Mesopotamia.

Mr. TENNANT, who replied, said such information as could be made public without prejudice to the success of the operations had been and would be issued to the Press in the form of *communiqués*. He was afraid that it was not at present desirable in the public interest to give further particulars.

Mr. JOYNSON HICKS asked when it was decided to despatch the two divisions from France to the assistance of General Townshend as mentioned in General Nixon's telegram of April 11.

Mr. MONTAGU said Mr. Chamberlain, who was unable to be present, asked him to refer the hon. member to Sir John Nixon's letter of April 11, in which he said that the decision reached him on October 24. It was taken on the preceding day.

Mr. JOYNSON HICKS inquired whether General Townshend at any time after his telegraphic communication to the Chief of Staff on October 3, 1915, sent to the General Commanding any despatch as to the first battle of Kut-el-Amarah, and if so whether that despatch contained an appreciation confirming the said telegram.

Mr. MONTAGU referred the hon. member to the statement in General Sir J. Nixon's letter of April 12, which said that he received no representation from General Townshend subsequent to his telegram of October 3.

Mr. JOYNSON HICKS asked whether General Nixon communicated General Townshend's definite opinion expressed in his telegram of October 3, 1915, to the effect that great risk would be run in the advance upon Baghdad without two divisions, and when the Cabinet first became aware of such opinion.

Mr. MONTAGU said if his hon. friend would refer to command paper CD. 8253, recently published, he would see that before April last neither the Government of India nor the Secretary of State had any knowledge of the opinion which General Townshend had expressed to Sir John Nixon. Its existence was made known to Government by the Viceroy's telegram of April 9.

Mr. JOYNSON HICKS next asked whether the Cabinet were warned by the military authorities in Mesopotamia that strong Turkish reinforcements had been despatched from the North to reinforce the Baghdad army prior to the battle of Ctesiphon, and whether it was these forces which contributed to the compulsory retirement of General Townshend after that battle. He also asked whether the advance upon Baghdad was decided on political rather than military reasons, and whether he would publish the whole of the telegrams and despatches passing between the Secretary of State and the Government of India or the Officer Commanding in Mesopotamia containing the orders for such an advance.

Mr. MONTAGU said Mr. Chamberlain asked his hon. friend to wait for the promised papers on the Mesopotamian Expedition. Every effort was being made to present them as soon as possible, and to make them complete.

The S. Persia Expedition. June 27.

Replying to Colonel YATE, who asked whether the expedition under Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes in Southern Persia was being carried out under the charge of the War Office, the Foreign Office, or the Government of India, Mr. A. CHAMBERLAIN stated that Sir Percy Sykes is acting under the orders of the Government of India.

Medical Arrangements in Mesopotamia.

Colonel YATE asked whether the Secretary for India would state for what length of time Surgeon-General Sir W. Babtie, the director of medical services in India, and the officer stated to have been responsible in regard to medical provision for the expedition to Mesopotamia, was absent from his post during certain months of 1915; and who was appointed to officiate for him during his absence.

Mr. A. CHAMBERLAIN: Surgeon-General Sir W. Babtie left India for a short time early in 1915 to carry out certain work entrusted to him by the War Office. He was not replaced during his temporary absence. He vacated the appointment of Director of Medical Services in India in June, 1915, when he was succeeded by Surgeon-General MacNeece. I am not aware by what authority General Babtie is stated to have been responsible for the medical arrangements in Mesopotamia, and I would deprecate any such assertion.

Bulgarian Atrocities. June 28.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Mr. R. M'NEILL, who asked whether any steps were being taken to compile an official record of atrocities committed by the Bulgarians in Macedonia, and to bring them to the knowledge of neutral Governments, said:—I have no official information as to such occurrences. Note is kept of reports of atrocities that reach his Majesty's Government with the view of subsequent verification and the eventual exaction of reparation, but it is of little use to communicate to neutral Governments unsubstantiated statements, the truth of which those Governments are at present better able than his Majesty's Government to ascertain.

Mr. R. M'NEILL inquired whether any official information had been obtained of the reign of terror said to prevail in the part of Nish under Bulgarian military rule, and whether the King of Bulgaria would be held personally accountable for that state of affairs?

Lord R. CECIL: I should be glad to receive any evidence possessed by my hon. friend on the subject. If atrocities such as he describes are being committed, his Majesty's Government have repeatedly said that they will hold responsible those, whoever they may be, who have authorised or permitted such crimes.

Treatment of Turkish Prisoners.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Mr. JACOBSEN, who asked whether, in view of the fact that British officer prisoners of war captured at Kut-el-Amarah had received excellent treatment at the hands of the Turks, he would arrange that all Turkish prisoners of war in our hands should receive specially favourable treatment, and cause such action to be brought to the notice of the Turkish authorities, said:—The Turkish prisoners of war in our hands have been properly treated throughout, and the Ottoman Government are well aware of this from the reports on internment camps for Turkish prisoners of war which have been drawn up by United States officials and communicated to that Government from time to time by the United States Embassy at Constantinople.

H.M. Minister in Roumania.

Lord R. CECIL, in reply to Sir H. ELVERSTON, who asked for the name and nationality of the British Minister at Bucharest, and whether any person of German or Austrian extraction had occupied the position during the last ten years, said:—His Majesty's Minister at Bucharest is Sir George Barclay, a British-born subject. The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative. Sir Walter Townley was there from 1911-12, and Sir Conyngham Greene from 1905-11.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. June 30 July 1	1916. June. 17	Friday	1334. Shaban. 28	5676. Sivan. 29
	18	Saturday.....	29 Ramadan	30 Tamuz
2	19	Sunday	1	1
3	20	Monday	2	2
4	21	Tuesday	3	3
5	22	Wednesday	4	4
6	23	Thursday	5	5

To-day is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Danilo Alexander of Montenegro.

Sunday is the birthday of Princess Marie of Greece, the wife of Prince George, who was born at St. Cloud in 1882, and married in Athens in 1907.

Thursday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Victoria.

The Roumanian Minister in London was confined to his bed during last week through illness. His Excellency, we are glad to learn, has now completely recovered.

It was announced last Saturday that Lady Maxwell was still not sufficiently well to join General Sir John Maxwell in Ireland.

General Sir John Maxwell left London for Dublin on Wednesday, after a flying visit.

Vice-Admiral Sir John de Robeck had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, when his Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath.

Lieutenant-General Sir Bryan Mahon had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday.

H.I.M. the Shah of Persia has appointed Mr. Charles Greenway, chairman of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Limited), Grand Officer of the Order of the Lion and the Sun.

Judge and Mrs. Fleming have left Khartoum in order to pass the summer months in England.

Dr. and Mrs. Bousfield have also left the Sudan for England.

The Hon. Mrs. Aubrey Herbert, wife of Captain the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., has given birth to a daughter at 28, Bruton Street.

The engagement is announced of Lady Irene Curzon, eldest daughter of Earl Curzon of Kedleston, and Mr. Guy Benson, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Benson, of Buckhurst, Sussex.

M. Pavle Karovitch, Secretary to the Serbian Legation, left London for Paris on leave last week.

On Thursday of last week, at St. Martin's, Salisbury, the marriage was solemnized of Leonard Dimock Saunders, L.R.C.S., eldest son of the late Mr. Edward Saunders, F.R.S., to Veronica Lyster, youngest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel James C. Gore, late Receiver-General of Cyprus.

FRENCH, English, Spanish, Italian, German, Scandinavian Languages, Greek, etc., rapidly taught by natives.
Σχολή Γλωσσῶν. Διδασκαλία συστηματική. Διερμηνεῖς κ.λ.π. Δίδακτρα μέτρια.
Lyceum Institute, 85, New Oxford Street, and 64, Haymarket.

On June 10 a large gathering of friends of the Rev. Mr. Gillan and Mrs. Gillan assembled at the Kasr-el-Doubara Club, Cairo, to bid farewell to them on their departure from Cairo. Amongst those present were the Bishop in Jerusalem and Miss MacInnes, Canon Gairdner, the members of the American Mission, Dr. and Mrs. Zwemer, Dr. Watson, Dr. Douglas Dunlop and Dr. and Mrs. Giffen, Sir Murdoch and Lady Macdonald, Sir Alexander Baird, Mr. and Mrs. Quibell, and Lady Oakes.

Mrs. Quibell, on behalf of the members of the Woman's Guild, presented Mrs. Gillan with a silver casket of Egyptian workmanship, and Mr. Howie, on behalf of the Kirk Session and Committee of Management of St. Andrew's Church, presented Mr. Gillan with an illuminated address and a silver inlaid ebony casket. Mr. and Mrs. Gillan returned thanks briefly, and the Bishop in Jerusalem, in the name of those who were not members of the Scotch Church, expressed his gratification at being able to thank Mr. and Mrs. Gillan for their friendship and their work.

General Bailloud, who is now in command of a division at Salonika, and was formerly at Gallipoli, has been made a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath. General Milne, on behalf of the King, conferred the decoration upon General Bailloud last week in the presence of a selected body of French troops.

Captain and Brevet-Major Eugene Louis Gerrard (Temp. Lieut.-Col.), R.M. (Wing Commander R.N.A.S.), has been appointed a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order in recognition of his services in command of a wing of the R.N.A.S. in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Flight Lieutenant Kenneth Stevens Savory, R.N.A.S., and Flight Sub-Lieutenant Richard Sebastian Willoughby Dickinson, R.N.A.S., have been appointed Companions of the D.S.O., "in recognition of their services on the night of April 14-15, 1916, when they carried out a flight to Constantinople and dropped bombs upon points of military importance, returning safely to their base in rough and stormy weather."

The Distinguished Service Cross has been awarded to Lieutenant Frank George Fowle, R.N., in recognition of his services on January 18, 1916, when he landed in charge of a demolition party from one of H.M. ships and blew up a railway bridge near Porto Lagos.

An engagement is announced between Lieutenant Leonard T. Hamblen, adjutant of the Egyptian Labour Corps, Alexandria, and Ruth Mary, youngest daughter of Mr. W. F. A. Archibald, Master of the Supreme Court.

The Bishop of Oxford visited the Serbian Colony at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, last Friday afternoon. In the course of an address to the youths, the Bishop said he trusted they would receive in Oxford nothing but the most cordial and sympathetic treatment, and that they would obtain the necessary facilities for the continuance of their education.

Major H. G. Thomson, commanding the 1/5th Hants (Howitzer) Battery, R.F.A., who, with most of the members of the Battery, was through the siege of Kut-el-Amarah, and is now a prisoner with his officers and men in the hands of the Turks, has written a letter to the home of the battery in the Isle of Wight conveying the first news to be received from the prisoners. He sends a list of men in his battery who are prisoners, and says: "I may not say much, but I do say this, that the island may indeed be proud of its heroic sons who have served in this campaign." A telegram despatched from Baghdad last week by Major Thomson stated that they were well treated and comfortable. The other officers of the battery taken prisoner are Lieutenant W. Tozer (town clerk of Ventnor), Lieutenant R. L. Flux, M.C., and Second Lieutenant H. C. Gallup. Major Thomson was twice mentioned in despatches and Lieutenant Flux was awarded the Military Cross.

Sir Arthur Nicolson, who is to take the title of Lord Carnock on his elevation to the peerage, has been elected to an honorary fellowship at Brasenose College, Oxford.

A military tribunal at Constantinople has sentenced Boghos Pasha Nubar to death. The charges against the Pasha were high treason and spying. One of the allegations made against him was that he had been the prime mover in collecting money for the Armenian volunteers in the Russian Army in the Caucasus. It will be remembered that early in the war Boghos Pasha Nubar left Egypt for Europe in order to interest the Allies in the fate of Armenia.

A largely-attended meeting of members of the House of Commons was held on Wednesday evening to express sympathy with Serbia on the occasion of the anniversary of the Battle of Kossovo. Among those present were Sir Edwin Cornwall, Sir Arthur Markham, Sir Hedworth Meux, Mr. Ian Malcolm, Sir Charles Hunter, Mr. Harold Smith, Mr. Handel Booth, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Ronald M'Neil, Sir Mark Sykes, Colonel Yate, Mr. George Terrell, Sir John Lonsdale, Mr. Peto, Colonel Norton Griffiths, Mr. Walter Roch, Sir Ivor Herbert, Sir Henry Dalziel, Major Wheler, Sir F. Banbury, Sir Henry Craik, and Mr. Shirley Benn.

A special service in commemoration of the anniversary of the Serbian National Day was celebrated at the Russian Church, in Welbeck Street, on Wednesday morning. The Very Rev. Eugene Smirnoff, of the Russian Embassy, officiated, being assisted by the Rev. Vladimir Theokritoff, Deacon of the Russian Church, and Father Nicholas Velimirovitch, Father Damaskin, and Father Markovitch, Serbian priests. Among those present were M. Mathias Boshkovitch, Serbian Minister; M. George Todorovitch, Secretary; Major M. J. Nicolaievitch, Military Attaché; Mademoiselle Nicolaievitch, Madame Olga Novikoff, M. D. Janitsch, Dr. Elsie M. Inglis (Chairman of Kossovo Day Committee), M. V. Janitsch, Madame Popovitch, Colonel and Madame Markovitch, Lieutenant Markovitch, Dr. Grgich, and the Rev. H. J. Fynes-Clinton.

A concert of Serbian music and Russian songs in celebration of Kossovo Day was held at the Æolian Hall, New Bond Street, in the afternoon. The artists included Dr. Voyislav Yanitch, Mademoiselle Zouka Nicolaievitch, and Dr. Svetozar Grgich. Among the audience were Mrs. Asquith, Miss Asquith, Madame Misu, wife of the Roumanian Minister, Mademoiselle Misu, the Earl of Albemarle, Lady Thynne, and Lord Shaw.

Friday, July 7, is the date fixed for the Memorial Service (to be held at noon in St. Paul's Cathedral) for all the Serbs and British who have given their lives in Serbia for the cause of the Allies. The Archbishop of Canterbury will preach. The Lord Mayor is to attend in state, and 300 Serbian boys, who are now receiving elementary instruction at Oxford and Cambridge, will be present.

Another service of intercession for Serbia has been arranged for Sunday afternoon, July 9, in the Chapel Royal, Savoy, where Serbian music will be sung.

On Sunday afternoon next a service of intercession for Serbia will be held in the church of St. Margaret's, Westminster. Father Nicolai Velimirovitch is to deliver an address, and Russian and Serbian Church music will be sung.

Regular visitors to Egypt will learn with regret that Wild Bey, the general manager of the Nungovich Hotels Company, has resigned the post which he has occupied with so much success for some years, and intends to sever his connection with the country. Mr. Wild has spent eighteen years in Egypt, and was as popular with the residents as with the floating population, to whose wants he catered with such affability. We understand that he intends coming to London, where he is not by any means unknown in the hotel world.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, the Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, has left Cairo for England on leave, preparatory to his retirement.

Kaimakam Bassett Bey, Senior Inspector, Upper Nile Province, has been promoted to the post of Governor of that Province in succession to Miralai Woodward Bey, who recently reverted to his unit in the British Army.

The appointment of Mr. A. P. Tottenham as Inspector-General of Irrigation, in succession to Mr. Williams, who has retired on pension, has now been officially announced by the Ministry of Public Works, says the *Egyptian Gazette* of June 14. Mr. Adamson, Inspector of the First Circle of Irrigation, has been promoted to succeed Mr. Tottenham as Inspector-General of Irrigation in Lower Egypt, and has in turn been succeeded by Mr. Carter, Director of Works of the same circle.

Our Bucharest Correspondent reports (June 6):—

M. Psychas, the Greek Minister in Bucharest, is about to return to Athens. His successor is said to be M. Rangabe, late Chargé d'Affaires at the Hague, who is expected to arrive shortly. M. Psychas' departure will cause universal regret, for he enjoyed great popularity. The reasons of his departure are not definitely known, but we have not far to seek when it is remembered that he was appointed by M. Venizelos.

M. C. Mano, Roumanian Minister in Constantinople, has recently arrived in Bucharest.

Brigadier-Generals Jean Gardescu and A. Saegiu have retired from active service.

El Kaimakam C. H. Stigand Bey, Second Inspector, Upper Nile Province, has been promoted to first Inspector and then to Senior Inspector of that Province.

Mr. F. P. Osborne, 2nd Inspector, Legal Department, Sudan Government, has been promoted to the grade of first Inspector in his Department. Mr. Osborne has also been appointed Province Judge.

El Bimbashi E. W. Viscount Hawarden, Sudan Government, has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

Dr. J. Warnock left Cairo on May 31 for England on three and a-half months' leave.

Our Cyprus Correspondent reports (June 9):—

Shefket Effendi, Turkish Judge at Famagusta, has been appointed to the vacant District Judgeship at Larnaca; and Mustafa Raïf Effendi, Village Judge of Lefka, has been appointed to Famagusta.

M. Margarot, the new Vice-Consul for the French Republic, has paid his first official visit to the High Commissioner.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Charge for Announcements under this Heading is 3s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTH.

WYLIE.—On June 7, at Tantah, Lower Egypt, the wife of Adrian W. Wylie, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

HUTCHINS—EDDY.—On June 15, at Alexandria, Egypt, at the British Consulate, and afterwards at All Saints' Church, by the Rev. Mr. Horan, Major S. Hutchins, son of the late Samuel Newburgh Hutchins and Mrs. Hutchins, of Ballylickey, Bantry, Co. Cork, to Effita Penniman, only daughter of Mrs. Eddy, of Holme Priory, Dorset, and New York City, U.S.A.

DEATH.

DORLING.—On June 23, in London, Stanley Dorling, of Alexandria, Egypt, and Park House, Southwick, Sunderland, youngest son of the late E. J. Dorling, of Sherborne, Dorset, aged 44.

OBITUARY.

BISHOP BRINDLE.

We regret to announce that Bishop Brindle, the famous Army chaplain, who had seen much service in Egypt and the Sudan, died on Tuesday, at Mount St. Mary's College, Sheffield.

Born at Liverpool in 1837, Dr. Brindle was ordained a priest of the Roman Catholic Church in 1862, at the English College at Lisbon. Fourteen years later he became an Army chaplain, and in 1882 he went out to Egypt and took part in the Egyptian Campaign. For the next four years he saw incessant service, including the battle of Suakin in 1884, and the Nile Expedition. On the last occasion he stroked one of the boats of the Royal Irish Regiment which won the prize of £100 offered by Lord Wolseley to the first boat to reach the end of the river journey. He was several times mentioned in despatches, and he won for himself amongst the soldiers a reputation for courage, and for kindliness, which was entirely deserved.

Returning to England in 1886, he spent the next ten years at Colchester and Aldershot, but in 1896 he went out to the Nile Valley again, and took an active part in the Dongola Expedition. He distinguished himself by his devotion to the sick during the bad outbreak of cholera that year; and he was present at the battles of Atbara and Omdurman, being mentioned in despatches on both occasions. After the capture of Khartoum he received the D.S.O. for his gallant conduct, on the recommendation of Lord Kitchener, being the first Roman Catholic chaplain thus distinguished. He was one of the three chaplains who officiated at the memorial service for General Gordon, and a prayer which he composed for the occasion was printed and distributed by Lord Kitchener's order.

He left the Army in 1899, and, after acting as auxiliary Bishop at Westminster, he became Bishop of Nottingham in 1901. He resigned the see in April last year owing to his age.

BARON JACQUES DE MENASCE.

The latest Egyptian papers to hand record the death, at the age of 66 years, of Baron Jacques Lévi de Menasce, one of the most prominent members of the Jewish community in Alexandria and head of the Menasce family, who have resided in Egypt for many generations. The late Baron, in his youth, entered the banking business of J. L. Menasce, Son, and Co., which was founded by his grandfather, and passed through the Liverpool, London, and Constantinople offices of the firm, being finally, in 1874, admitted into partnership. He was for over a quarter of a century chairman of the Jewish community in Alexandria, and took an active interest in all local public and philanthropic affairs. Latterly he had been more concerned in cotton and sugar cultivation than in banking, but he had a seat on a large number of the boards of Egyptian companies.

The Earl of Sandwich died on Monday at Hinchingbrooke, Huntingdon, in his seventy-seventh year. In his younger days he was occasionally attached to diplomatic missions, and in 1858 he accompanied Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, "the Great Elchi," to Constantinople on a special mission.

Captain A. Watt, Black Watch, who has died of wounds, served through the Sudan campaign with the Cameron Highlanders. He left the Army in 1902, and subsequently joined the Dundee Police Force as an ordinary constable, but when war broke out he re-enlisted, and was granted a commission very soon afterwards.

The *Sudan Times* reports that Mr. R. S. Brown, of Khartoum, died in that city. He had been in the Sudan since 1901, and was at first connected with the Sudan Development and Exploration Company, and later with the Public Works Department. Afterwards he started work on his own account as a contractor. After the war broke out, he came to England to work in the manufacture of munitions. The climate proved too severe for him, and he contracted a disease in the ear, which obliged him to return to the Sudan. There, however, his malady became worse; he had to go into hospital in April; and his disease terminated fatally on May 27. Mr. Brown was forty-two years old and unmarried.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1916.

GERMAN CONFIDENCE AND THE NEAR EAST.

In the course of three articles which have appeared recently in *The Times* an observer who has just left Germany, after having lived there since the beginning of the war, offers a striking analysis of conditions in that country. He does not allow that there has been any essential change in German public feeling, or that the confidence of the nation as a whole has yet been shaken. The twin bases of this confidence he considers to be belief in the invincibility of the German armies and the conviction that Germany has already obtained in the East such guarantees of future security as to be practically invulnerable. For the last ten or fifteen years the idea of Germany's destiny finding its inevitable development in the East had penetrated deeply into the mind of the German people. "Every well-informed and thoughtful German knew that what used to be called the Eastern Question must be solved in favour of Germany by war or otherwise. . . . . The German people feel that with the crushing of Serbia, and the opening up of the route through Bulgaria to Constantinople and beyond, the first and most essential portion of this great scheme has been realised; and they do not for a moment believe that their mastery of the highway to the East can now be seriously challenged." Accordingly, the Germans still have faith in complete victory, and the writer of the articles is of opinion that this basis of their confidence can be overthrown only by cutting across and interrupting German communications with the East. "The presence of an Allied force at Salonika has been a thorn in the German side, because of the potential menace it has constituted to the safety of the land and water routes to the East. . . . . The cutting of those routes and the re-establishment of Serbia would bring about the ruin of German hopes and the collapse of German confidence not less surely than the winning of military victories over German armies on the Western and the Russian fronts."

This view is entirely borne out by all that can be gleaned of German public opinion from the German Press, and supports the contention consistently advanced in THE NEAR EAST. It is almost impossible to read any German publication devoted to the discussion of public affairs these days without discovering the importance to the German mind of the inclusion of Bulgaria and Turkey in the German orbit. Reference is occasionally made to what purports to be a rival school of thought in Germany, which is inclined to lay stress on the importance of overseas colonies; but the two schools are in reality supplementary, not antagonistic to one another. The colonial party does not wish to see the Eastern idea developed to the exclusion of the colonies; the advocates of a Central European political "combine" stretching from the North Sea to the Persian Gulf have no objection to overseas colonies as well, provided they are not developed at the expense of their own scheme. Both parties still have implicit faith in the ultimate victory of German arms, and the grounds of their confidence are as stated. The Allied Powers are engaged in the task of inflicting a military defeat upon Germany. They cannot, therefore, afford to ignore any means which promise to shorten that task. No doubt a series of overwhelming reverses either on the Western or on the Russian front would destroy German confidence; but the difficulty of bringing this about is enhanced for the Allies by the very confidence which it is necessary to destroy. The undermining of what has been cited as the second basis of this confidence would inevitably weaken the German powers of resistance in the two main theatres of the war. Whichever, therefore, is the more vulnerable point for Germany ought to be attacked first by the Allies. In other words, if it is likely to prove easier to cut German communications with the East than to administer a crushing defeat on the Western or the Russian front, the attempt ought to be made without delay. The question is necessarily one for the military authorities of the Allied Powers to decide; but in view of what has happened in the Near East, we are tempted to believe that there has not been an adequate exchange of views between the military and the political experts. The objection of the former to the dissipation of strength is well known. No one, however, would contend that, if the situation in the Balkans had been as well known at the beginning of the war as it is now, more drastic steps would not have been taken to raise Great Britain's five million army in order that an adequate force might have been thrown betimes into the breach. As things are, the Allies have a comparatively large force at Salonika, which has constituted a potential menace to Germany's Eastern aspirations; but it has not served as yet to shake German confidence, for the reason that the force has achieved nothing. It is impossible to believe that the higher military commands of the Allied Powers intend to keep this force in permanent idleness—apart from frontier skirmishes. That it should have remained so long without attempting any forward movement may well be due in part to inadequate appreciation of the task which it ought to undertake. If its objective were Vienna or Berlin, there would be much to say against a premature move; but as its purpose would be served by the driving of a wedge between the Central Powers and Bulgaria, the question arises whether it is not already strong enough for such a limited purpose.

Justification for the discussion of these matters is to be found in the course of Near Eastern affairs during the war. From the outset Allied diplomacy has presented the appearance of trying to lag the greatest possible distance behind well-informed public opinion. Diplomatic ignorance in regard to Bulgaria had its counterpart in the military sphere in the crudeness and mismanagement of the Dardanelles venture. The failure to send help to Serbia in time must be connected with Great Britain's delay in putting forth her maximum strength. Only now after tolerating for six months or more all the inconvenience of the Greek Government's hostility have the Allies adopted a course of action which has been repeatedly advocated in these columns and in other quarters where conditions in Greece were known. The show of determination that has come so late in the day would have sufficed to save Serbia from its cruel fate. Little wonder, therefore, that there is considerable misgiving over the continued inaction of the large Allied force at Salonika. We must, however, take heart from the new policy adopted towards Greece. Its immediate and signal success should encourage the Allied Governments to revise their estimate of Near Eastern factors. In this connexion the convincing analysis of conditions in Germany by the observant writer quoted above deserves special attention; for if there is the least reason to believe in its accuracy, it affords the strongest possible argument in favour of an early advance from Salonika.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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THE QUESTION OF THE DANUBE

BY D. MITRANY.

One of the few questions connected with the present conflict which has been ignored by the Press, at any rate in the Allied countries, is the question of the Danube. Yet it is a question of no mean importance and one still awaiting solution; and it is the more worthy of our attention as the Danube is, so to say, the axis round which the whole policy which the Central Powers seem to contemplate with regard to Eastern Europe revolves. Naumann's "Mitteleuropa" may seem to us contemptibly Utopian; in Germany apparently the conception is gaining rapid ground. With the usual promptitude and energy which they display in the working out of new ideas, the Germans are already busily engaged in the preparation of schemes for a Danube-Oder and a Danube-Rhine canal. Together with other facts to hand, this clearly indicates that less than ever do the Germans intend to give up the "Drang nach Osten."

This alone should suffice to rouse some interest in the question of the Danube; but it is high time that the Danube navigation should be established on an international basis. The question has been dealt with time and again in conferences and congresses, but it has only led to compromises, either on political lines or considerations of personal interest, between the Powers interested in the navigation on the Lower Danube and the two main riverside States—Russia and Austria-Hungary. The international principle has not been furthered in this way; the smaller States watered by the Danube have certainly not been benefited by the system; and the position of the Danube with regard to the law of nations has remained very vague, though it holds the record in shipping treaties. And yet no other river is more truly international, for not only does the Danube touch the territories of nine different States, but the freedom of its navigation is a matter of serious interest to many nations outside its waterway. The present state of the question is due not to any specific difficulties, but merely to the ill-will of some of the Powers concerned. A brief historical survey of the subject will bear out this statement, while defining at the same time the problem and its correct solution.

Together with its affluents, the Danube represents a navigable waterway of about 5,250 m.; 530 towns and 660 larger villages abut upon its banks, containing a mixed population of four million people. The river was used by the Romans in their expeditions against the regions on the Lower Danube, and also served as a waterway to the barbarian invaders who advanced in the opposite direction to the conquest of Europe. The Crusades gave a great impetus to the traffic on the Danube, which declined with the decline of Constantinople and the rise of Venice and Genoa. A new period of prosperous traffic occurred in the fourteenth century, when Genoa, obtaining from the Byzantine emperors a monopoly of the Black Sea trade, established numerous staple markets along the banks of the Lower Danube. Traffic and settlements alike were abandoned when the discovery of new routes greatly reduced the importance of the Italian ports. That it took a long time for Danube navigation to recover and growth was due less to economic than to political causes.

With the coming of the Turks all security on the Danube had disappeared. Austrian ships were only allowed to descend as far as Belgrade, where the goods had to be transhipped into Turkish boats; and the ports on the Lower Danube—Vidin, Giurgiu, Rustchuk, etc.—had also become mere ports of transhipment. The treaty of Pessarowitz (1718), which granted freedom of trade on land and water, with special privileges for Austrian subjects, effected a certain improvement. But the situation acquired a totally new aspect when Russia, which had steadily expanded southwards, reached the Danube. The Treaty of Bucharest, 1812, brought her frontier down to Kilia, the northernmost arm of the Danube delta; by the Treaty of Akermann, 1826, she touched the middle arm, Sulina; while the Treaty of Adrianople, 1829, fixing the boundary at the southernmost arm, St. Georg, placed the whole delta, nominally neutral, under Russian domination.

The effects of these changes were soon to become apparent. By means of extensive works Turkey had kept open in the arm of Sulina a navigable channel 16 ft. deep. Traffic had been steadily increasing. In 1829, under the impulse of Metternich, who had recognised the economic and political importance of the Danube, an Austrian navigation company was founded, whose steamers were to call at the Danubian and even the Levantine ports. As the treaty of Adrianople in the same year had declared the Black Sea open to the commercial vessels of all countries it seemed as if nothing more was to stand in the way of the peaceful development of the navigation of the Danube. But, in order to handicap Austrian shipping and to force the Black Sea traffic to Odessa, Russia abandoned the work previously undertaken by the Turks at Sulina. In 1836, moreover, she established a quarantine at the Sulina mouth, a measure all the more injurious to shipping as the goods were not disinfected on the spot, but had to be taken to Odessa for that purpose. Moltke, who visited the region about that time on his way to Constantinople, lamented the fact that "that artery of life so important to Germany should be, in fact, in the hands of the Russians, just as the Rhine had remained, unfortunately, so long a time in the hands of the Dutch." And he adds, with unconscious irony, that "the natural obstacles which here impede navigation could easily be removed." To safeguard her interests Austria concluded a Convention with Russia in 1840, the latter undertaking to keep the mouths of the river in navigable condition and to build a lighthouse; trade was declared free, and the taxes fixed which Russia could impose upon shipping. But this arrangement remained a dead letter. The lighthouse was never built. Left to itself the depth of the channel was gradually reduced to 11 ft. in 1844, to 9 ft. in 1850, and to 7½ ft. in 1853. Navigation became so dangerous that freight from Constantinople to Galatz was nearly £1 per ton more than to Odessa, though the distance was the same.

Various factors had contributed meanwhile to draw the attention of Europe to the question of the Danube. The Black Sea and Danubian regions played a constantly growing rôle as suppliers of corn to Western Europe, especially after the repeal of the English Corn Laws; and it was in the general interest that navigation should not be impeded by arbitrary measures. Further, the political events which led to the Crimean War necessarily emphasised the political importance of the Danube, which, since Peter the Great, had always been the strategical axis of Russia's military undertakings. Accordingly, the notes exchanged in Vienna, in 1854, between the representatives of France, Austria, and Great Britain, emphatically declared that relations between Russia and the Ottoman Empire could not be established on a secure footing "if the navigation at the mouths of the Danube be not freed of all obstacles, and subjected to the principles laid down by the Congress of Vienna." What was meant by this declaration is explained in a despatch of Lord Clarendon to the British envoy. "A general treaty ought to ensure for that purpose the establishment of an independent authority, which should have the right and the power to remove all the obstacles placed by Russia in the way of the free navigation on the Sulina arm, and such obstacles as may arise in the future." The principle was adopted and extended to the whole of the Danube in the preliminary treaty signed in Vienna on February 1, 1856. But once free navigation in the delta was secured—since the retrocession of Bessarabia to Moldavia had removed Russia from the banks of the Danube—Austria changed her mind, and at the Paris Congress of 1856 she strongly opposed the application of the principles of 1815 to the whole of the Danube. Her argument was that acquired rights and engagements entered upon (meaning especially the privileges granted to the Austrian Danube Navigation Company till 1881) made it impossible for her to accept a complete internationalisation of the Danube. Though she failed in her claims theoretically, we shall see that, in fact, she has had her own way down to the present day.

Articles 15-19 of the Paris Treaty of 1856 declared the navigation of the Danube free. The works necessary to the clearing of the mouths were to be conducted under the supervision of the "European Danube Commission," consisting of one delegate of each of the contracting parties. The riverside States were to nominate a permanent com-

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mission, whose functions should be: (1) To draw up regulations for navigation on the Danube; (2) to remove all disabilities preventing the application of the 1815 principles to the Danube; (3) to undertake all works necessary along the course of the river; (4) to ensure its navigability at and around the mouths. It was to take over the duties and rights of the European Danube Commission after a lapse of two years. To give an idea of the magnitude of the task I may quote a few words from an address delivered in 1873 to the Institution of Civil Engineers by Sir Charles Hartley, chief engineer of the Commission from 1856 till 1872. When the European Commission entered upon its functions "the entrance to the Sulina arm was a wild open seaboard strewn with wrecks, the hulls and masts of which, sticking out of the submerged sandbanks, gave the mariners the only guide where the deepest channel was to be found." Under the able supervision of the English engineer conditions soon improved. The depth of the channel reached 9¾ ft. in 1859; 11 ft. in 1860; 16½ ft. in 1861. The average number of shipwrecks at the mouth of the river, which had been 81 in the period 1855-60, fell to 4 between 1861 and 1905 for each 10,000 ships entering the Danube.

Meanwhile the Riverside States Commission, of which Austria was the moving spirit, had drawn up, in November, 1857, a charter for the regulation of the navigation of the Danube, from which all trace of the 1815 principles had disappeared. The coasting trade was to be reserved for the riverside States—Austrian shipping possessing almost a monopoly on the Danube at the time—and various quarantine measures, which would soon have proved a convenient instrument for injuring foreign shipping, were to be maintained. The Powers therefore refused their sanction; the Riverside States Commission disappeared, while the time limit of the European Commission was extended from year to year, and for a further five years at the sitting of the Paris Conference of March 28, 1866. At the same time the regulations drawn up by the European Commission were adopted, and the neutrality of the Black Sea extended to the works, dependencies and personnel of the Commission, which were to enjoy the protection granted by the law of nations.

Russia had never digested the restrictions imposed upon her activity by the Paris Congress, and missed no opportunity to weaken them. Taking advantage of the conflict of 1870, the Russian Chancellor, Gortshakov, issued a circular declaring that the Emperor "could no longer consider himself bound by the stipulations of the treaty of 1856, in so far as they entrenched upon his sovereign rights in the Black Sea." As things were, it was impossible to oppose to the Russian claims the will of a united Europe; on the other hand, it became imperative to secure further the liberty of the Danube navigation, now that Russia had expressed her determination to rule on the Black Sea. A conference was consequently summoned to London in March, 1871, which extended the time limit of the European Commission for a period of twelve years, and declared the neutrality of its dependencies constant. All went well until war broke out between Russia and Turkey in 1877. To suit her own purposes, Russia disregarded the various treaties and conventions: to prevent Turkish ships cutting her lines of communication she caused boats loaded with stones to be sunk in the Danube, thus stopping all traffic; the buildings of the European Commission were wantonly destroyed and its members summarily ordered away. No wonder, therefore, that at the Berlin Congress of 1878 Lord Beaconsfield protested against the proposed retrocession of Bessarabia to Russia, as Article 20 of the Paris Treaty of 1856 expressly declared that Russia agreed to that rectification of the frontier "in order that the freedom of the Danube navigation be better secured." But Russia had the support of Bismarck, who, though he objected to play the rôle of schoolmaster, was none the less the taskmaster of European diplomacy. The channel of the Kilia arm and the mouth of Stari Stambul became consequently the southern boundary of the Russian Empire, while the delta, with the Dobruja and Serpent Island, was given to Roumania. All fortifications along the Danube between the Iron Gates and the sea were to disappear, and no men-of-war, except small vessels for police duty, were to have access to that portion of the river. More important for general shipping was the extension of the jurisdiction of the European Commission up to Galatz, and the provision that it should elaborate, in co-operation with delegates of the riverside States, regulations for the navigation from the Iron Gates downwards.

In accordance with this disposition a sub-committee was entrusted with the preparation of a draft. The resulting document proposed the creation of a commission composed of the delegates of the three riverside States and an Austrian delegate, who should preside by right and possess a casting vote. The privileged position thus reserved for Austria contrasted strangely with that Power's refusal to admit any European interference in regulating the navigation above the Iron Gates. In consequence the riverside States strongly opposed the project, which had to be abandoned. A deadlock seemed to have been arrived at, when a new proposal was put forward by the French delegate, Barrère. It was suggested that the navigation on the Lower Danube should be placed under the supervision of a mixed commission, consisting of the delegates of the three riverside States, an Austrian delegate with right of presidency, and, in addition, a delegate of the European Commission nominated for six months. The latter was to be chosen in alphabetical order according to the French nomenclature of the countries they represented, which meant that during the first year, when all the fundamental regulations were to be laid down, Austria would have been able to exercise an undue preponderance—the first two countries on the list being Allemagne and Autriche. Moreover, the commission was to exercise final judicial power in its own sphere, and was to nominate commissaries entrusted with the executive. That disposition was a grave infringement of the sovereign rights of the riverside States; these States were indeed made subservient to the commission, to which they were bound "to render such assistance as it may need in the fulfilment of its functions." The result was that Roumania energetically opposed the Barrère proposal; Austria declared that only its acceptance would make her consent to the extension of the time-limit of the European Commission; while Russia, always awake to the possibility of some advantageous bargaining, threatened a similar refusal unless she was accorded certain concessions—amounting to the removing of the Kilia arm from under the jurisdiction of the European Commission. England was, above all, anxious to safeguard the existence of that commission, and at her invitation a conference met in London in February, 1883, to consider the situation.

Notwithstanding the fact that the conference was to regulate waterways over which Roumania had sovereign rights, not to speak of her paramount interests in the matter, that country was not allowed to participate. Lord Granville had pleaded for her admission on an equal footing with the other countries; but the conference adopted the contrary view of the German delegate. Under the circumstances the conference resulted in the inevitable compromise: Austria and Russia obtained what they wanted, while England had the satisfaction of seeing the time-limit of the European Commission extended for a period of twenty-one years, with tacit continuation for periods of three years. As Holtzendorff rightly observed: "The London conference has introduced a new fundamental principle with regard to the relations between States, according to which the Great Powers would be entitled to grant a State privileges in the waterways of another—less powerful—State, merely on the ground of political interests." Moreover, while the Paris conference had proclaimed that there should be one uniform navigation charter for the whole of the Danube, the subsequent arrangements arrived at by the Great Powers, culminating in the dispositions of the London conference, had achieved the remarkable progress of instituting no less than eight different régimes on the navigable portion of the Danube. The arrangement was one to which Roumania could not willingly submit, and she justly replied to the Austrian argument of "paramount interests" that "great interests and aspirations after economic and political preponderance do not constitute a legal title, and cannot outweigh positive rights." The fact that Roumania was a factor necessary to the newly formed Triple Alliance for the success of their Eastern policy made it impossible for Austria to press the matter too far. The question of the mixed commission remained once more a pious hope, Russia alone deriving a tangible benefit out of the whole bargaining.

This unsatisfactory situation on the Danube has been emphasised by an evil of a more positive character. Among the greatest natural obstacles to navigation on that river are the rapids at the Iron Gates. The Berlin Congress had given Austria a mandate to execute the necessary works in order to create a free passage, with the right to levy a tax to cover the expenses. That mandate was subsequently transferred to Hungary, who in 1895 at last began the construction along the Serbian shore of a canal, which was finished in 1899. Austrian and Hungarian authorities themselves recognise the absolute inadequacy of the construction. The current is so rapid that even the most powerful Danube steamers have difficulty in passing up stream; while, on the other hand, the canal is not deep enough to carry the traffic, which was, for instance, completely interrupted for two months in 1908 on that account. These natural difficulties are rendered more harmful by a system of onerous fiscal regulations. According to comparative figures given by the *Neue Freie Presse*, of Vienna—which publication is certainly not biassed in favour of Roumanian interests—the duties per ton of cargo at the Iron Gates were eight and a-half times as heavy as the corresponding duties in the Nord-

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Ostsee canal, though the construction of the latter had necessitated an expenditure five times greater than that for the Iron Gates canal. Moreover, the towage duties were almost three times higher, though the respective distances compared as 1 to 56. The taxes were not uniform, but differed according to the class of goods, with the result that, to quote the Viennese paper again, "the burden falls primarily upon the traffic coming in transit from the Lower Danube up stream," while "the traffic from Austria and Hungary —that is, our export of manufactured goods—suffers less than would have been the case had the duties been imposed on another basis." In view of the opening of the canal, the Roumanian State Monopolies concluded in 1898 a contract with a south-German navigation company for the towage of oil-tank barges to Regensburg. The arrangement worked successfully in 1899, but broke down when the Hungarian Government enforced the new tariff of dues at the Iron Gates. The oil export has been since carried out by rail, and mainly by sea through Constantza. Finally, as a last instance of the way in which things are worked, we have the fact that, though the region in question is partly Roumanian and largely Serbian, Hungary has created national agencies on foreign territory, imposing even the Hungarian language for official use in that connection.

That Austria-Hungary should have constantly endeavoured to exploit the unsettled situation can easily be understood; that the Western Powers should have prolonged it by acquiescence in all sorts of compromises, to the detriment of the small States on the Lower Danube, is difficult to justify. True enough, their interests were concerned only with the mouths and the adjacent portions of the Danube, which they have been able to bring under a beneficent European control—a control from which Austria-Hungary was not the last to benefit. But this very fact, paradoxical though it may seem, has resulted in a serious injustice being done to Roumania; for by the restriction of her sovereign rights in the delta she was unable to enforce reciprocity upon Austria-Hungary. Either the principles of 1815 must be applied all along the Danube under European supervision, or the riverside States, large and small, must be left to deal with the problem in their own way. The duty of the Western Powers in that matter has become more clear since the plans of the Central Powers have found definite expression. Those plans have changed somewhat since the date of the Triple Alliance, when an Austrian writer, Beer, declared that "the possession of both banks of the Danube down to the Black Sea is a political end never to be lost sight of." Now the Germans and the Austrians would be apparently satisfied with that tariff union of which Naumann has become the recognised spokesman. I have mentioned at the beginning of this article some of the preparatory steps now being undertaken to that end. Though the Austrian Danube Navigation Company, which is practically a State concern, has in its hands by far the largest part of the goods and passenger traffic on the Danube, a new and considerable company for navigation on that river was formed in Hungary last year, which is, in its turn, to be subsidised by the Hungarian Government. In view of all these preparations, the Western Powers ought to untie Roumania's hands and let her defend her own interests, unless they are determined to exact at the opportune moment equal treatment, under European control, for all those interested in the navigation on the Danube. The Roumanians will not deprecate such a solution. On the contrary, they hope it will be realised that, if the problem is really to be solved and true progress achieved, such international control ought to be applied also to the Straits, as a natural extension of its application on the Danube: the Dardanelles being for all practical purposes the real mouth of the Danube, as indeed of the whole Black Sea region.

From the United States Embassy it is learned that the Turkish authorities are carefully preserving the graves of the Australian and British soldiers who fell in Gallipoli. All unburied bodies have been interred.

According to a Constantinople telegram the late Field-Marshal von der Goltz will be buried at the German Embassy at Therapia, is being impossible to send the body home to Germany. In this connection it will be remembered that at the time of Von der Goltz's death there were unconfirmed rumours that he had been murdered by a Turk.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Arab Revolt.

The *Daily Telegraph* (June 23), in a leading article on the Arab revolt, points out that it is of much greater significance now than any previous revolt against the Turk.

The Mohammedans have begun to discover that Mohammed V. is so entirely in the hands of the Germans that he is deprived of all initiative, and has to carry out the commands of his Teutonic taskmasters. To be at once the "head of the faithful" and a puppet of Berlin is in the eyes of the Arabs a degrading position. In their judgment their suzerain lord has finally forfeited his right to control Mecca and Medina and the pilgrimage of pious Mussulmans to these sacred spots. Only those who are conversant with Mohammedan feeling can appreciate the sanctity which surrounds places that are identified with the life of Mohammed, or estimate at its true worth the gravity of the present revolt.

The same article concludes:—

It is impossible, however, not to notice that once more the Germans have made a fatal miscalculation of the psychology of the different races with which they have had to deal. Berlin was confident at the outset of the campaign that she would be able to stir the Islamic world into revolt against the British Empire. We know the efforts that were made on the borders of Egypt and on the north-west frontiers of India. But such success as the Germans have obtained is insignificant, and the only result of their machinations has been to confront their ally, Turkey, with a new and formidable danger.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* (June 22) says:—

The Arab has never made any pretence of loving the Turk, who represented to his mind the banalities without the attractions of civilisation and a settled life. But the present outbreak is evidently on a very different footing from the manifestations of tribal independence with which the satraps of the Hedjaz and Yemen are so familiar. It is headed by the most important indigenous dignitary of Arabia, whose personality and office alike command respect wherever the evening call to prayer turns the prostrations of the faithful towards the Kaaba. And the delivery of such a challenge by the Grand Sherif is a political symptom of no light significance. The fashion in which the Sheikh-ul-Islam rang the knell of Abdul Hamid's power will be recalled by Moslems as they learn that Mecca is in schism from Stamboul.

After paying a tribute to the work of civilisation accomplished by Moor and Saracen in the past, the article concludes:—

It may well be that a fresh dawn is coming for the faith which has given many races a higher morality than their own and has contributed illustrious names to the highest rolls of chivalry. The Western world is well capable of respecting the Moslem virtues, while the more highly developed Islamic peoples have shown themselves far from insusceptible to the tolerant spirit of the modern age. To invert the adage, we may see the grass begin to grow again where the Turkish steed can no longer pass by.

The *Birmingham Post* (June 23) concludes a leading article with the paragraph we quote below:—

Orthodox Islam had nothing in common with the party of Enver Pasha, and the Arabs have seen quite clearly that the war alliance of Turks and Germans has meant the domination of the German. The Arabs of Mecca and Medina, and the whole of the Hejaz, do not want the Kaiser as Khalif. The holy places of Islam must remain under the control and guardianship of Moslems, and if to that end it should be necessary for the Allies to intervene, intervention there must be. The Moslem subjects of Britain, France, and Russia will assuredly look to the Allies to offer any aid the Grand Sherif may need. We have certainly no wish to add to our responsibilities in this war; but the Arabs may find themselves obliged to meet a stronger Turco-German attempt to recover the lost cities than they now expect. The Hejaz railway gives the Turk the means of transporting large forces to the region of revolt, and though his preoccupations on other fronts must influence his decisions, the steps he will take in Arabia must be closely watched. Italy is interested in observing these developments almost as much as the other Allied Powers, for the happenings in Mecca cannot fail to have thrilled the Arabs of Tripoli and its hinterland as they have moved the rest of the Moslem world.

The *Daily News* (June 23), in a leading article, says:—

The Arabs have at all times been restive under Ottoman domination, and nothing but respect for Turkey as the one considerable independent Moslem Power reconciled them to the rôle of subjects of the Sultan. The discovery that Turkish independence is a fiction removes the last argument against the assumption of political independence. . . . It is not inopportune to recall the assurance of the German Wireless in respect of Enver's pilgrimage to Medina three months ago, that "The Arabian population is showing the greatest attachment to the Caliphate." There is little doubt that the illusion of Arab loyalty to Turkey seriously dominated German thought, and failure to stir up a Moslem revolt against British rule has been among the heaviest blows to the Kaiser's hopes. It may yet be his lot . . . . to see the Moslems of Arabia definitely turning to Great Britain for protection and support.

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Greece and the Allies.

The *Morning Post* (June 23) blames Sir Edward Grey for having first weakened the pro-Ally party in Greece by conciliating Bulgaria. We quote from the concluding passages of this article, which deals with the Greek acceptance of the Allies' terms:—

If the situation is to be saved in the Balkans at this eleventh hour, it must be both vigilant and strong, and if Sir Edward Grey desires a more lofty motive for action than the interests of his country, let him reflect that he is helping to liberate the Greek people. They want to be on the side of the Allies and against Bulgaria and Turkey. That is at once their interest and their aspiration. They do not desire to be dominated by Germany and penetrated by Bulgaria. They want a national policy based on their independence and their aspirations. They want, in fact, the policy of the national leader, M. Venizelos. Therefore, it is the business of Sir Edward Grey to see that they have this policy—which, incidentally, is the policy favourable to the Allies. They might have had it long ago if our Foreign Office had acted on the simple rule of being the friends of our friends and the enemies of our enemies.

The *Times*, in a leading article, says:—

England, France, and Russia presented a Joint Note to Greece two days ago, and Italy signified to the Greek Government her assent to the document. Complete acceptance of all the demands it contained immediately followed. That is a lesson in war diplomacy in the Balkans, and, indeed, in war diplomacy in general, which we hope our *doctrinaires* will take to heart. . . . . The Note, we are glad to see, appears fully to accept the view that the guaranteeing Powers are responsible for the liberties of the Greek people, and that it is their right, and even their duty, to protest against the violation of these liberties. It declares that the Constitution has not been observed, and that the present Chamber does not represent the opinion of the country. We pressed these views strongly upon Ministers seven months ago. Now that they have been adopted at last, we trust that there will not be any infirmity of purpose in carrying out the policy which they dictate. The situation in the Balkans is too important to admit of shilly-shallying.

The *Daily Chronicle* (June 23), in a leading article on the Note and its result, says:—

The little clique of pro-Germans who, under the King's auspices, have so long usurped an unconstitutional control of Greek affairs is thus hurried off the stage—let us hope, not to return. The King's own position is ambiguous. If he is really the pure neutralist which he professes to be, he has now the opportunity of proving it. But until he has done so both the Greek people and the Allied Powers would do well to remember his record last summer.

The *Manchester Guardian* (June 23) says:—

We are glad that our position in Greece has at last been put on ground which is unassailable except by an open assault on the Greek Constitution. Hitherto we have been fighting our enemies in the Greek Government by putting pressure on the Greek people, a process which has been the more painful to them and to us because there was abundant reason to think that they were our friends. The new policy is to fight our enemies in the Greek Government by helping our friends to obtain their rights.

The *Westminster Gazette* says that the humiliation which the pro-German party in Athens has suffered does not touch the great majority of the people:—

Their sympathies will be wholly with the Allies in their protest against the entrance of Bulgarian forces into Greece and their occupation of strategic points with the connivance of the Greek Government. From the Greek point of view, there is a good deal to be said for the policy of benevolent neutrality as against intervention on the side of the Allies, but there is nothing at all to be said for Greek connivance with Bulgarian aggression. It is time that this situation was cleared up, in the interest of the Greeks as well as of the Allies, and the solution which is now to be found will, we are confident, be satisfactory to both of them.

The Future of Asiatic Turkey.

Mr. J. Ellis Barker discusses the above question at considerable length in an article contributed to the *Nineteenth Century* (June). In the opening paragraphs of his article Mr. Barker says that "The question of Asiatic Turkey may convulse the world in a series of devastating wars unless it be solved together with the other great questions which will come up for settlement at the Peace Congress." He thinks it not improbable that various Powers may propose to shelve the problem of Asiatic Turkey at the peace table:—

That attitude is understandable, but it should not deter those statesmen who realise the portent and the peril of the Turco-Asiatic problem, and the danger of leaving it in abeyance, from impressing upon their less well-informed colleagues the necessity of a settlement.

The question of Asiatic Turkey is undoubtedly a far more difficult question than that of Constantinople. Constantinople and the Straits are . . . not the key to the Dominion of the World, as Napoleon the First asserted, but merely the key to the Black Sea. Former generations, uncritically repeating Napoleon's celebrated dictum, have greatly overrated the strategical importance of that wonderful site. The importance and value of Asiatic Turkey, on the other hand, can scarcely be exaggerated, for it occupies undoubtedly the most important strategical position in the world. It forms the nucleus and centre of the Old World. It separates, and at the same time connects, Europe, Asia, and Africa, three continents which are inhabited by approximately nine-tenths of the human race.

If we wish clearly to understand the importance of Asiatic Turkey we must study its position not only from the strategical point of view, but also from the religio-political and from the economic points of view.

He points out that the acquisition of Asia Minor has been urged by many eminent Germans, both writers and men of action, and proceeds:—

Let us imagine the Turkish Government in Asia replaced by that of a strong and ambitious military Power. Such a Power would develop the country in every way and would double and treble its population. It would open the country in every direction by means of railways. It would construct lines capable of carrying a vast amount of traffic towards the Russian, Egyptian, and Persian frontiers, and it would continue the last of these lines, "on economic grounds," through Persia towards Baluchistan, towards India. It would create a powerful navy and construct strong naval bases on the shores of the Black Sea and near the southern openings of the Red Sea and of the Persian Gulf. Having done all this, it would be able to throw, at the shortest notice, an immense army either across the Bosphorus into Constantinople, or across the Suez Canal into Egypt, or across Persia into India. A strong European military Power, firmly settled in Asiatic Turkey, disposing of 2,000,000 Turkish-Asiatic soldiers and of a sufficiency of railways and of a fleet, could make Constantinople and Egypt almost untenable.

The writer examines at length the various schemes which might be enforced in regard to Asia Minor. The question is too fully dealt with to be quoted adequately, and the author himself quotes extensively from other writers; but we reproduce the paragraphs in which a European guardianship of the territory is given as the only feasible solution of the question:—

If the arguments given in these pages should, after a careful scrutiny, be found correct, it would appear that the problem of Asiatic Turkey can be solved only by placing the country under a European guardianship, and the question arises whether several Powers or a single one should fill this office. As several Powers possess strong interests in Asiatic Turkey, and as the country is of the greatest strategical importance, the ideal solution would seem to be a joint guardianship exercised by some body either on behalf of all Europe or on behalf of the victorious Entente Powers. It is questionable, however, whether the Powers exercising control over one of the most valuable and important territories in the world would be able to act in harmony.

Natura non facit saltum. A guardianship should not be imposed upon Turkey by violent means. It might be exercised in the form of the strictest financial control. A European financial authority might be made to control and direct the entire expenditure of Asiatic Turkey and might by purely financial means keep the country in order and shape its policy and internal development.

In his concluding paragraph the writer turns to the question as to which Power should be chosen to act as guardian:—

Russia will probably obtain considerable territory from Germany and Austria-Hungary and may receive Constantinople. Great Britain will obtain practically no material compensation, for the German Colonies can scarcely be considered as such. Great Britain has not fought for territory but for peace. The neutralisation of Asiatic Turkey appears to be the most necessary step for preventing the outbreak of another world-war. While Russia and France demand valuable territories as a reward, Great Britain is surely entitled to demand stability and peace as a compensation. No Englishman has expressed the wish that Great Britain should acquire Asiatic Turkey. The aim of the British Government and of all Europe should be to enable Turkey to govern herself. But in order to be able to govern herself Turkey must be taught the art of government, and Great Britain might be her teacher.

It seems necessary for the peace of the world that Asiatic Turkey in its entirety should be neutralised, and it seems likely that its neutrality can be maintained only if order and good government are introduced into the country under the auspices of a strong but non-military and unaggressive state, such as Great Britain, which is not likely ever to use the unrivalled position occupied by the Turkish provinces as a base for attacking the neighbouring Powers with a large army. A British guardianship would, of course, not prevent French, Russian, Italian, and Greek capital and labour participating with England in the government and economic development of the country, in accordance with the policy laid down by the European Powers in concert and executed by Great Britain as their appointed guardian. Thus Russia might develop Armenia, France Syria and Cilicia, Italy the district of Adalia, and Greece that of Smyrna.

Articles to Note.

"The Attitude of Roumania," in the *Evening Standard* (June 21).

"The Bulwark of Western Christendom," interview with the Rev. Nicholas Velimirovic, D.D., in the *Christian Commonwealth* (June 21).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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The second article on "The Real Germany," published in Saturday's *Times* and partly reproduced elsewhere in this issue of THE NEAR EAST, offers more than usual interest to students of Near Eastern subjects. It shows how Pan-Germanism, advocating the "settling of the Eastern question in favour of Germany," was the real cause of the war, and how, as a result of hostilities up to the present, part of the question has been satisfactorily solved (in German eyes) by the Teuton control of the highway from Berlin to Constantinople, as symbolised by the Balkan Express. "They (says the writer) do not for a moment believe that their mastery of the highway to the East can now be seriously challenged." Consequently, "they are confident that, as soon as the enemy shall have recognised defeat and left Germany at the head of an immense Zollverein stretching from Antwerp to the Persian Gulf, no power on earth and no British blockade will ever be able to repeat a policy of 'starving Germany.'"

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This certainly bears out—as do the other conclusions arrived at by the author in the course of his instructive article—my contention, namely, that the first and greatest ambition of the Teutons is the economic control of the Near East. What is more, they are going about it with all German thoroughness, and, not content with the railed highway, they are developing even now and with feverish haste the many navigable rivers and waterways which can or do unite the mouth of the Danube with the Rhine and the Elbe and which will enable "vessels of 1,000 tons to pass from Antwerp, Hamburg, Bremen, or any other port on any large German river or canal to the Black Sea by way of the Danube." Needless to say, it will be our duty to annihilate these schemes and plans, and to erect and support a buffer State in the Near East which will make of the Danube a free waterway utterly beyond German control.

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But if, as I believe, Prussian militarism and Pan-German economic machinations will only cease to be a menace to Europe when the *Drang nach Osten* has been permanently knocked out of the Boche head, it is no less true that greater urgency attaches to the cutting off of German access to the Near East than most people realise. It is, in fact, practically a hopeless task for our Navy to try to starve the enemy when he gets the greater part of his foodstuffs and his raw material from the East. Therefore, the highway by which he gets them must be cut in twain with all possible speed. For not until then will he feel a serious shortage of supplies and finally realise that his game is up. As for post-bellum arangements, it cannot be insisted on too frequently in these columns that it must be our sacred duty to bar Germany and Austria from any and all economic as well as political participation in the development of the Near and Middle East.

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We must wait and see how the new Greek Cabinet shapes to its difficult task of restoring confidence at home and abroad before we indulge in speculations regarding the financial future of the country. With the departure of the old and notoriously unneutral Government will disappear the majority of the causes which have led to the bad relations between the Powers of the Entente and the Hellenic Government, and it will now be possible to reconstruct the situation. The dismissed Prime Minister appears to have laboured under the mistaken impression that the power which he possessed was his to wield as he chose. It is a pity that the Entente did not act definitely months ago, for it has been obvious for a long time that action would be necessary to remedy an absolutely impossible situation. It was unfortunate that, in bringing to book the delinquent Government some hardship was inflicted upon an unoffending people, but I believe Greeks know the British and the French well enough to trust implicitly their good faith, and to look to the future with confidence.

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There are many reasons why the Allies would prefer to see the Greeks prosperous, politically and materially; indeed, for something like eighty years they have been employed actively in assisting in the development of the country, its trade, and its standing in Europe. No true Greek would attempt to deny that his country owes its existence as a free nation to these efforts, and there is not much reason to doubt that the majority of Greeks will be prepared to subscribe to this view. It is probable that in the course of the next few weeks additional evidence will be forthcoming of the goodwill of the Allies. Indeed, we learn to-day that the British and French Ministers have already recommended their respective Governments to make an advance to the Greek Government to tide over the most pressing difficulties. Greek finance is in a condition of almost hopeless chaos; the economic situation is all wrong, and trade and industry are all but paralysed. The maritime restrictions imposed by the Allies did not improve these conditions, of course, and much has now to be done in the way of reconstruction and reorganisation. Obviously, an insolvent and down-at-heel Government in Greece would be a serious complication for the Allies when it comes to a settlement in the Balkans—and that settlement must come before a permanent peace can be established—and, as obviously, the restoration of Greek stability is a task which the Allies alone can accomplish, I think that no greater guarantee of the *bonâ fides* of the Powers of the Entente could be given than this.

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Greek friends with Egyptian connections tell me that the restrictions imposed upon Greek trade caused grave anxiety in the tobacco world. Not that there was much likelihood of a shortage in Egypt, because the stocks in the Customs House stores at Alexandria are large enough to last for a year; but the Greeks themselves keep large holdings in Greece, and of course, with no export facilities open, they were threatened with disaster. It is said that in the first week of June imports of Greek tobacco at Alexandria amounted only to 4,000 packages, each of from thirty to forty okes. In May the imports were also considerably less than in previous months, the tobacco received from the Piræus and Volos not exceeding 10,000 packages.

If anyone in this world knows Egypt and its complexities it is Lord Milner. His views of the conditions now existing in that country, which were stated at the general meeting of the Mortgage Company of Egypt last week, will be read with confidence as to their accuracy and with appreciation as to their clear-sighted and robust faith. Egypt was hit badly financially by the sudden outbreak of the war and the exceptionally bad cotton crop season which immediately succeeded it, and several years will be needed to effect a complete recovery; but Lord Milner was able to outline a wonderful story of progress made in the direction of normality. The report he had to make of the company's affairs was not all honey, of course; he admitted elements of uncertainty regarding the future—it could scarcely be otherwise in all the circumstances—but he was able to present many gratifying contrasts.

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The Roumanian Ministry of Agriculture is moving with the times. According to a Bucharest financial paper three plants for producing crystallized copper sulphate have been installed under the auspices of the Ministry at Jassy, Bouitea, and Campina. It is said that the sulphate is excellent in quality, and the outturn will amount to about 5,000 kilogs. (five tons) per day. In addition eight plants have been installed in the principal viticultural districts to manufacture liquid copper sulphate from burnt copper pyrites, which are obtained from the Altan-Tepe (Dobrogea) mine. I have seen nothing to indicate the output capacity of these installations, but it is said that 100 tons of the pyrites will produce about one-twelfth of the quantity of sulphate. Which is an excellent study in the utilisation of waste.

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The cable received in London last week intimating that the operations of the Spies Petroleum Company at Grozny had been interrupted temporarily, recalls an article in the *Board of Trade Journal* of April 20. It was then stated that the production of the Grozny fields in 1915 had decreased by nearly 1,200,000 barrels—nearly 10,000,000 poods; that only "24,000 ft. were drilled, as compared with 39,500 ft. during the preceding year. It is considered that this decrease in the drilling activity will have a very harmful effect on production in the current year." There was, perhaps, no connection to be traced between these conditions and the recent interruption. The trouble was connected with the eternal labour question as a matter of fact. Fortunately, it was only temporary, for following a blank week ended June 11 there was an outturn in the week ended June 18 of 5,180 poods. For the rest, "no details have been received."

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Since that cable was published reassuring news has been received. The latest cable report reads: — "Operations at Grozny have again become normal, production for the 22nd inst. being 28,125 poods." All is well that ends well, and I hope that the only departure from normality in the Grozny fields in future will be in the direction of increased activity, and in the improvement in the conditions to which the article I have quoted drew attention.

COMMENTATOR.

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Fuel in Turkey.

II.—OIL—Early Use of Bitumen in Turkey and Egypt.

We continue this week extracts from the paper to be read at the Arizona meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers in September, by Mr. Leon Dominian, of New York, the well known authority on mining questions in the Ottoman Empire :—

The occurrence of hydrocarbons in Syria and Mesopotamia was known to the ancients, to whom the products had commercial value. The "fountains" of Is—the modern Hit—were exploited by the Babylonians who used the bitumen as a mortar to bind the sun-dried bricks with which public and private buildings were constructed. This cementing substance is probably the "slime" of the Old Testament. Ruins of edifices, as well as statues, bear evidence to-day of the enduring qualities of this binder. It is believed that the bitumen was applied in the plastic state and then gradual induration took place by the evaporation of a portion of the bituminous oils. The testimony of Herodotus on this point is instructive. The father of history describes the construction of a wall for a moat surrounding Babylon for which hot bitumen was used throughout as cement. He states that, "The bitumen used in the work was brought to Babylon from the Is, a small stream which flows into the Euphrates at the point where the city of the same name stands, eight days journey from Babylon." He also adds that lumps of bitumen are found in great abundance in this river.

Binding Property.

The binding property of bitumen was probably widely recognized by the Babylonians. Under the title of "Discoveries in Babylonia," T. G. Pinches alludes to the discovery of a Semitic head with ivory eyeballs inserted by means of bitumen in the eye-sockets made to receive them. The embalmers of Egypt consumed large quantities of bitumen in the process of mummification. The substance was imported chiefly from Mesopotamia, although it was also obtained from Syria. It is interesting to note in this connection the derivation of the word mummy from the Coptic root "mum" signifying bitumen. Pliny describes the Babylonian plains as presenting the aspect of a flaming basin. Greek writers refer to the hydrocarbons of Mesopotamia, and Strabo cites Eratosthenes when alluding to the abundance of asphalt in Babylonia, as well as to its uses as a mortar and in caulking rafts and river boats. In the old civilization of the Mesopotamia basin, bitumen was used in ornamentation. Alabaster vases inlaid with bitumen spread in fanciful geometrical designs were recovered from the ruins of Ur-Engur's temple. Pottery marked with characters in bitumen was found in near-by localities. The recognition of the value of bitumen as a commodity of commercial value is attested by the fact that part of the tribute paid to Thothmes III. at Karnak from Mesopotamian cities consisted of 2,040 minæ of "sift" bitumen sent by the chief of "Ist." To-day the substance is known by the name of "zift," not only in Mesopotamia but throughout Turkey. Later proof of the value of these hydrocarbon deposits to the ancients was well set forth in the year 311 B.C. when Antigonus sent Hieronymus of Cardia with an army for the purpose of taking the asphalt works of the Dead Sea out of the hands of the Nabatei. These dwellers of the Syrian and Arabian frontiers repelled the invaders and continued their exploitation.

The description of Hit by an English traveller, who probably visited the locality at the close of the 17th or the beginning of the 18th century, has been recorded by Rawlinson. The text runs as follows :—"Having spent three days and better, from the ruins of old Babylon we came unto a town called Ait, inhabited only by Arabians, but very ruinous. Near unto which town is a valley of pitch, very marvellous to behold, and a thing almost incredible wherein are many springs throwing out abundantly a kind of black substance like unto tar and pitch, which serveth all the countries thereabouts to make staunch their bark and boats. Every one of which springs maketh a noise like a smith's forge in puffing and blowing out the matter, which never ceaseth night or day, and the noise is heard a mile off, swallowing all the weighty things that come upon it. The Moors call it 'the mouth of Hell.'"

Oil in Syria.

Indications of oil in the Yarmuk River valley south-east of Lake Tiberias had always been reported to foreigners by natives. In 1912 oil-drilling was started near Makarim on the Hejaz Railroad by the Syrian Exploration Company. The locality lies in the heart of a desert region of contact between preglacial lavas and Upper Cretaceous rocks. It is easily attained from Haifa by rail across the plain of Esdraelon and the Jordan River valley. Drilling is somewhat hampered by the necessity of having to send to Haifa whenever parts of the machinery break. Fevers which prevail in the region, and to which the natives themselves do not appear to be immune, also constitute drawbacks. In June, 1914, drilling had attained a depth of 600 ft. with a noticeable increase in the smell of petroleum. It is expected that the plan will be encountered beyond 1,000 ft. Both the rotary and cable systems are used in drilling, although the hardness of the rocks is in favour of the use of the latter method. The geological column in this locality is represented by limestone at the surface. Sandstone occurs below and in the first 300 ft. It is followed by hard slates at about 450 ft. Other Syrian localities from which petroleum is reported are the Ajiloon, Haraun, and El Kork districts.

Mesopotamia.

The oil fields of Mesopotamia lie in the area of transition between the plateau of Iran and the Mesopotamian depression. The occurrences of hydrocarbons are encountered north of latitude 30 N. in the valleys of the Lower Euphrates, Tigris, and Karun Rivers. Thus defined they fall within the three Turkish vilayets of Mosul, Bagdad, and Busreh, and in the Persian province of Arabistan. The liquid fuel appears to exist also in the mountainous region lying north-east of Mesopotamia as far as the Black Sea coast.

The oil industry is in a higher stage of development within the Persian area than in Turkey. Nevertheless, the Turkish field is considerably larger than the Persian, which is restricted to the valley of the Karun.

The oil-bearing lands extend in a general N.-W.—S.-E. band parallel to a line of Tertiary folds rising on its eastern border. Here, as elsewhere in Asia, oil is found at the depressed extremities of mountain chains wherever the anticlinal slopes descend to the level and proximity of the sea.

This elongated basin abuts against well-defined limestone ridges which constitute the westernmost outliers of the Kurdish and Pusht-i-Koh Mountains. These successive walls of limestone begin north-east of Mosul, and are prolonged with a south-easterly trend beyond Alkosh and Sheik Adi. A range of the same connects Girdamanik, on the Great Zab, with Keui, on the Lesser Zab. The Kara-dagh, west of the Suleymanieh district, forms the watershed between the last-mentioned river and the Dyala. Proceeding farther west, the traveller attains the lowland area, which comprises the towns of Kasr-i-Shiru and Zohab.

West of the Pusht-i-Koh uplift the limestone ridges are replaced by a line of sandstone hills of lower elevation, which extend along a broad and undulating country formed by conglomerates, and characterising the environs of Mosul. The Karachak and Baravan Mountains are types of these isolated sandstone ridges, rising above a plain of conglomerates. The Jebel Hamrin, which rises to a height of 600 ft. north of Mendali, and merges in the Tigris plains beyond Kala-Serghat, also consists of sandstones and conglomerates. These different rocks disappear below Hit and Tekrit, where the great alluvial plain of the Lower Tigris and Euphrates begins. This deltaic area extends to the Persian Gulf.

The oil generally occurs in Miocene rocks, which consist of brightly coloured sandstones, marls, and limestones permeated with salt. As a rule, the petroleum and bitumen basins are found in soft whitish limestones. Veins and seams of gypsum, due to epigenetic modifications of carbonate of lime in the presence of abundant sulphur and sulphurous waters, are frequent. The usual accompaniment of sulphurous springs, often thermal, can be observed. The natives attribute curative properties to these sulphurous manifestations.

The northernmost of these Mesopotamian valley occurrences is found at Harbol, in the Caza of Sakho, sixty miles north of Mosul, within the easternmost extension of a patch of Eocene country. Thence southward to the shores of the Persian Gulf natural oil-pits are numerous.

At Hamman Ali, fifteen miles south of Mosul, a number of small basins are found at a distance of half a mile from the right bank of the Tigris. Here petroleum can be collected by skimming the pools, while threads of ceaselessly oozing bitumen can likewise be obtained.

To the south-west of Alijak, on the Great Zab, an elongated pit, about 120 m. in length, contains petroleum on the surface of its waters. The oil at this locality is reputed to be poor in quality, and the natives make no attempt to gather it. Springs are also reported immediately north of Tell Yazer, on the Chorr Derrah River east of Nimroud.

(To be continued.)

DEVELOPMENT OF AGADIR.

The following interesting account of the development of Agadir appeared recently in the *Morning Post* from its correspondent in Mogador (dated May 25) :—

It is probable that the cessation of hostilities will be almost immediately followed by the re-opening to seaborne commerce of an old and well-placed seaport on the Sus coast. Well-informed people no longer say "if" Agadir is opened, but "when." The grounds for postponement were based on obvious military necessity during the early stages of the war. It was by no means certain that an enemy squadron might not be left on the Atlantic quite strong enough to give trouble from the sea, while the possibility still existed of difficulties arising in connection with disaffected clans up country inspired by German agents, who towards the Christmas of 1914 were receiving significant messages by carrier pigeon post to "await deliverance from the ocean, *bahar el kebir*." When considering how the birds got through and whence they came one must remember that not a few German sympathisers are still enjoying the hospitality of the Spanish zone, and that long before hostilities commenced scores of pigeons had been trained and used to carry urgent commercial news from Marrakesh and Tarudant to Agadir. Indeed, I had the honour of personal acquaintance with one of their trainers, whose fingers, badly pecked by his ill-tempered little pupils, gave me the clue to an interesting discovery. This may explain the fact that all the Germans in this part of Morocco knew of their country being at war two whole days before the fact reached us by newspaper or telegram.

Morocco has enjoyed absolute immunity from the horrors of actual warfare, and the garrison at Agadir has laboured during the past summer to render the place habitable and useful for the purposes of commercial enterprise. The French *poilu*, particularly of the Midi, is a born roadmaker, and the work already accomplished by him in this direction is distinctly valuable. From confidential sources I learn that Agadir, with Casablanca, is to be given first place on the list of harbour works to be undertaken, a decision which indicates that the authorities have realised the unique advantages of the former port as a channel for tapping the resources of the Sus provinces. A considerable amount of British, French, and other capital has been invested at Agadir and its immediate neighbourhood in land, mainly with the intention of occupying it for trade and industrial purposes.

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THE OIL INDUSTRY.

When all the circumstances of the last two years have been taken into account, the position of the oil-producing industry cannot well be described as adverse. True, there have been fluctuations, and fluctuations will continue, but they have not all been on the wrong side; many of the concerns in which readers of THE NEAR EAST are interested have shown no deterioration as money-earners; their production has not decreased, and although cost of working has increased from many causes investors continue to secure a reasonable return on capital. What more can be said or asked for?

One of the concerns over which a shadow appears to be forming is Ural Caspians. At the meeting last week the chairman referred to a circumstance which threatened to operate greatly to the company's disadvantage. By a recent Russian decree a maximum has been fixed of 45 copecks for crude oil, because, owing to geographical conditions, the concern has to sell at about six copecks below Baku price. The cost of pumping from Dossor to Rakusha (the port) runs up to three copecks per pood, and it does seem unfair that the Ural Caspians should be bound by the Baku price. Rouble exchange is another disturbing factor, while the excess profits taxation, both in Russia and in England, has also to be reckoned with. As a set-off to these undoubted handicaps, we have the fact that the Russian Government has now sanctioned drilling over a wider area, and the output of the Makat field has largely increased. Although this year's profits may fall below the average the outlook may be described as encouraging.

Another concern which seems likely to earn reduced profits is the North Caucasian Company. The double excess profits tax, and the deterioration in the rouble exchange are, unfortunately, certainties which must be taken into account, however fluctuating other conditions may be. Output prospects are distinctly promising, however, and the setback, from the net earnings point of view, ought only to be temporary. To the end of May the weekly returns showed a fine advance on the figures of the preceding two years: 198,719 tons, as against 140,799 tons and 132,583 tons for the other periods respectively. For 1914 the directors were able to declare a dividend of 25 per cent.

It is difficult to account for the setback which Lobitos shares have encountered since the report was issued. The year's accounts were very satisfactory indeed, and showed a jump in the net profit of nearly £30,000. This excellent result was achieved after placing £15,000 (against £10,000) to reserve, raising the dividend from 10 to 15 per cent., and carrying forward £32,447 instead of £18,890. Notwithstanding this very sound position, the shares have gone back from 40s. to 38s. 3d., and it is difficult to visualise the reason for the decline. It has been stated that the reason is to be found in the unexplained and uncontradicted rumours that the Standard Oil Company desires to obtain control of Lobitos; but it is possible that the outlook has something to do with the decline. Profits from the steamers will be affected by the loss of the tanker El Zorro, while the output to the end of May shows a decrease of 1,820 tons. With a company of the standing of Lobitos, however, these factors ought not to have been strong enough to affect share-values; but the market is always a kittle-cattle sort of creature, and that is all there is to say about it just now.

The recent successes of the Russian armies in the Bukovina will be a godsend to some of the Roumanian concerns. There is the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields Company, for example. The production record has not been particularly satisfactory lately; but its shares have been in some demand at solidly firm prices. The last return, which was for the week ended June 10, made better reading, showing as it did an increased output of 203 tons—612 tons against 409. The financial year of the company ends with this month, and later on we shall be able to see how things really stand.

German post offices no longer accept letters for delivery in Greece, it being practically impossible to deliver them even in those parts of Greece not occupied by the Allies, says a message dated June 27.

TRADE OPENINGS.

The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paints, mainly for the scavenging and watering service. Date, July 15.

The Physical Service Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of weighing machines, balances and weights required for Government during 1916-17. Date, July 15.

The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of agendas required for Government Departments. Date, July 12.

The superintendent of Stores, Ministry of Education, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 3,600 table serviettes required for the school year 1916-17. Date, July 5.

The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of globes, bees-wax, and mats necessary for the Hejaz. Date, July 1.

The director, Coastguard Stores, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of fresh and dry rations required for the service men at depot, Mex, and for crews of cruisers at Alexandria, for one year commencing September 1, 1916. Date, July 15.

The tender of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Co., Ltd., for the supply of cotton-seed oil to the War Department Stores, Tura, at a total cost of £E6,144.200, has been accepted. The tender for coconut oil for the same department, amounting to £E882,500, of Mr. S. di M. Riso, of Cairo, has been accepted. The tender of the Cairo Gas Company for the supply of coke at the Abbassia and Tura Supply Stores has been accepted. The amount is £E1,333.

ENEMY FIRMS IN EGYPT.

The following notices appear in the *Official Journal*:—

The licences granted to the firms of R. and O. Lindemann and the Egyptische Egrenir Fabriken have been cancelled. Mr. H. Bridson, 6, Rue de l'Ancienne Bourse, Alexandria, the Receiver, has been instructed to liquidate the businesses.

Mr. C. W. Green, Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Alexandria, receiver of the business of Franz Neumann, 24, Rue Cherif Pasha, Alexandria, has been instructed to liquidate the same.

The following businesses have also been ordered to be liquidated:—Messrs. A. Mayer and Co., Cairo and Alexandria (Receiver, Mr. R. E. Moore, Savoy Chambers, Cairo); The Société Anonyme de Tuyaux et Poteaux en Ciment Armé (Système Siegivart) (Receiver, Mr. F. H. Russell, Gresham House, Cairo); Messrs. Schneider and Rothacker, Alexandria (Receiver, Mr. E. D. Joyce, Imperial Ottoman Bank, Alexandria).

LICENCES TO TRADE.

The following firms have been granted a licence to trade without special restrictions, in place of the restricted licence granted to them:—Adda, Elie and César V., 11, Rue Tewfik, Alexandria; Sachs, Halifa and Sons, 7, Souk el Attarine, Alexandria.

The firm of Joseph Sursock and Fils, 30, Rue Cherif Pasha, Alexandria, has been granted a licence to trade in Egypt with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain.

TRADERS' BLACK LIST.

The following names have been added to the list of firms with whom trading is prohibited:—

Assael, Peppo, Allatini Han, Salonika; Gottlich, Martin, Candia; Jenny and Vock (Fridolin Jenny; Emil Vock), Rue Franque, Salonika; Lianos, Soulakas and Goumas, Piræus; Lochner, Hermann, Patras; Pfister and Assael (Rudolph Von Pfister and Peppo Assael), Allatini Han, Salonika; Rossini, Alexander (alias Rosalini), Odos Vasilissa Olga, 162A, Salonika, and Porto Lagos; Schewend, August, Candia, Crete; Yeni, Samuel Judah, Salonika; Hajji Muhammad Hussain Kazeruni, Ispahan, and Shebarek, Georges, Teheran.

The following names have been removed from the list:—

Amin-ut-Tujjar (alias Agha Isfahansi), Ispahan; Christodoroff, Zares, Resht; Keprielli, Meshed; Missirian, Kerman, and Tabibian, M., Resht.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The *London Gazette* of June 16 notifies that the Greek vessel Ayios Cicolaos has been detained at Malta.

Of nineteen vessels sunk by the enemy in the week ended June 24, nearly all were lost in the Mediterranean. Only one was of much value.

Messrs. C. J. Webb and Co., Limited, were recently the successful tenderers to the Police Stores, Bulac, for the supply of ghafir clothing.

One of the results of the war is that Turkey carpets have gone "out of fashion" and Indian carpets have come in. Good Indian carpets are now realising 12s. per yard, which represents an increase of from 33 to 40 per cent.

According to the *Journal* of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce in April the price of gum reached a price unknown since the occupation of the Sudan. At one time P.T. 214 per cantar of 120 rottles was quoted at El Obeid.

In announcing the receipt through the Foreign Office of telegraphic information of the increases of certain Greek customs duties, the Board of Trade states that it awaits the detailed report which Sir F. Elliot is forwarding.

Mr. William Smellie has, it is understood, resigned his seat on the board of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields Company. Mr. Smellie is a member of the Liverpool firm of oil importers, Messrs. Meade-King, Robinson, and Co.

The Board of Trade have received from Gibraltar a copy of the "Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance, 1916," dated May 31, 1916, which provides that on and after that date the duty on all tobacco imported into the colony shall be at the rate of 2½d. per lb., instead of at the rate of 2d. per lb.

Sir James Roberts, of the well-known wool stapling company of Sir Titus Salt, Sons, and Company, has given £10,000 to the university of Leeds to found and maintain a professorship of Russian language and literature. The gift is appropriate, since the great success of the firm has been made out of Russian wool.

A Lloyd's message from Carthagena on June 26 stated that, according to a report from Cape Palos Wireless Station, the Greek steamer Nitsa foundered three miles north-east of Ormigas. The crew were saved by a Spanish steamer. A message from Alicante states that the steamer sank after being torpedoed off Cape Palos.

The Director of the War Trade Department has decided that manufactured articles with a small constituent part of steel containing chrome, nickel, cobalt, or vanadium, may be exported without licence. This is subject to the production of a certificate from the Cutlers' Company that the weight of steel containing the prohibited alloy does not represent more than 10 per cent. of the total weight of the whole manufacture, and also to the manufactured article not being otherwise prohibited.

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CROPS AND FOOD IN CYPRUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nicosia, June 3.

Cereal crops have been reaped under favourable conditions throughout the island, always according to the laborious, patriarchal methods which still prevail. There has been a good fall in the prices of wheat and barley and of various articles of food, in view of the new harvest.

As regards the bread supply of Nicosia, the stock of Government tithe wheat being exhausted, bakers can no longer obtain supplies which enabled them to sell the loaf at 3 piastres (4d.) the oke; but it is hoped, for the sake of the poor, that the Government will again issue the incoming tithe wheat in due course on the same conditions as before. Bakers now sell bread at 3½ piastres the oke for first, and 3¼ piastres for second quality.

Some discontent was caused by the prohibition to export all Cyprus cheese. A number of manufacturers have addressed a petition to the Government praying that certain kinds, not much used in the island, may be exempted from the order. Inquiries as to the stocks available have been made. From the vine-lands reports are, so far, satisfactory, and the carob crop promises to be a very good one.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.

London, June 29.

Demand continues strong, but available stocks are so very small that prices have hardened, limiting sales daily. Provincials are quoted from 41s. to 49s.; Amalias, 48s. to 53s.; Patras, 53s. to 59s.; Gulf, 56s. to 59s.; Vostizza, 55s. to 60s. Zante, 53s. to 58s.; and smalls, 46s. to 60s.

Sultanas.

Only in moderate demand, but all sales are being effected at full rates. Afghanistan and Indian fruit sell at 85s. to 100s., whilst Greek is quoted 86s. to 110s.

Dates

There has been a good demand this past week, and prices are much firmer. Egyptians are selling well at 32s. to 36s., and Persians at 22s. to 32s.

Seeds.

Linseed has been quiet and easier, London-Calcutta spot, and afloat, also June-July and July-August, 66s. 6d.; whilst August-September is quoted 67s., and Bombay, July-August, is selling at 67s. 6d. Cotton-seed is dull; London-Egyptian, June, is quoted at £13; and Sakelarides at £12 10s. per ton. Rapeseed is quiet, brown Cawnpore, July-August, being offered at 60s., and Toria 60s. 6d. Canary-seed is in small demand, and prices are in buyers' favour. Lentils are in good demand at 21s. to 23s. per 100 lb.; whilst Rangoon beans are steady at the recent decline, 18s. 6d. per cwt.; and Egyptian, 50s. per 480 lb.

Oils.

Linseed oil has declined during the week, and spot pipes are offered at £33, and barrels £34, landed; month, £32 15s. July-August, £33; and September-December, £34 10s. Rape-oil is quiet, and prices are lower. Cotton-oil is also quiet, and crude has declined; whilst refined remains unchanged. Crude spot pipes is quoted at £42, and refined pipes, pale, £47; barrels sweet, £52 to £54., as to make.

Oilcakes.

Egyptian cotton cakes are in moderate supply, and prices are well maintained. Best Egyptian in bags sells at £9 15s., ex-store, and £9 12s. 6d. ex-ship. English cotton cakes are quoted at £9 17s. 6d. to £10, whilst Bombay is offered at £9 12s. 6d. per ton. Linseed cakes—Owing to the remarkable absence of inquiry, this market has been depressed, and holders in some cases reduced their quotations considerably. Best London made, also East India seed pures, are nominally quoted at £12 10s. to £12 15s.

Locust Beans.

There has been a very good demand, but there is great scarcity of available supplies, and prices are firmly held up at £10 15s. for whole, and £11 15s. for kibbled.

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CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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GERMAN AIMS IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are from an article, the second of a series of three, which appeared on Saturday in *The Times*, under the heading of "The Real Germany":—

Pan-German Ambitions.

"During the last ten or fifteen years much has been said in the European Press about pan-German ambitions and the extension of German political control over the whole route from Hamburg to the Persian Gulf; but I doubt whether any outsider really understood how deeply this idea had penetrated into the mind of the German people. Every well-informed and thoughtful German knew that what used to be called 'The Eastern Question' must be solved in favour of Germany, by war or otherwise. The opening up of land and waterways from Germany to the East has been the practical object of German ambitions, which popular instincts have supported. Austria was egged on to pick her quarrel with Serbia for no other reason. Bulgaria was induced to adhere to the German cause for the same purpose. When the British blockade began to be effective it became more than ever necessary for Germany to open the way to Constantinople and Baghdad, to subjugate the Balkans, and to secure such control over the Straits and Turkey as to make of Asiatic Turkey not only a granary, but a source of supply for all important raw materials like cotton, wool, metals, and petroleum. The Turco-German 'commercial' agreement recently concluded provides, I understand, for the substitution of Turkish supplies of fruit for those of Italy on the markets of Germany.

Danube, Rhine, and Elbe.

"Is it any wonder that having secured, as they believe, the highway to the East, and, with it, the power to throttle Russia on the Bosphorus at their pleasure, the Germans should be confident? The best proof of their confidence lies in the efforts they are now making to organize, develop, and extend their inland waterways so as to make it possible for vessels of 1,000 tons to pass from Antwerp, Hamburg, Bremen, or any other port on any large German river or canal to the Black Sea by way of the Danube. This 'Danube question' is to-day the foremost question in Germany. Preparations are being made to link up by a system of canals not only the Rhine, Danube, and Elbe, but every important German waterway. In the past this 'canal scheme' has been chiefly Bavarian. Now it has become national and imperial. The King of Bavaria has long been its most powerful advocate. The Bavarian Canal Association, founded twenty-four years ago, has always enjoyed his protection and support. He recently attended the general meeting of the association at Kelheim and delivered a speech of great importance, in which he briefly expressed public feeling as I have described it, and urged the absolute necessity of linking up Rhine, Danube, and Elbe, creating a huge united 'economic territory' based upon 'a constantly increasing and more fruitful development of the old and new relationships between Germany and her Allies.'

"Meetings like this have been held during the last two or three months in all the chief German towns, among others at Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Dresden, Berlin, Munich, and Ratisbon (Regensburg). There is hardly an important centre in which some general assembly has not been organized with the object of forming local executives, enlisting a technical staff, and raising funds. The enterprise has become Imperial instead of being Bavarian—a development which implies a delicate compliment to the King of Bavaria and insensibly tightens the ties which bind Bavaria to the Empire. Whereas Bavaria has recently shown a desire to maintain her separate individuality in the Empire by rejecting the proposals for an Imperial postage scheme, this Danube and canal enterprise is being used to bind her more tightly than ever to the Empire.

"One of the objects of the 'Danube scheme' is to secure for Germany the control of both banks of the Danube from source to mouth. Throughout Austria and Hungary and along the Serbo-Bulgarian shore the control is assured. It is hoped to bring Roumania into the scheme by persuasion or force, and to compensate her by securing for her possession of the Russian shore of the Lower Danube. Thus German control of the whole waterway would be complete, and would, together with the control of the railway route, link Germany indissolubly with the East."

TEUTON CANAL SCHEMES.*

Danube, Save, and Morava.

At the recent "Central Europe" Congress at Munich, Professor Oelwein, of Vienna, gave a clear account of the canal schemes which are now being promoted with so much vigour throughout Germany and Austria-Hungary. He declared that the canal system must make the Central Powers independent of British sea power, and give them access to markets hitherto controlled by British sea power. He sketched the ideal canal system thus:—

1. The Central Canal connecting all the navigable streams, from the Rhine to the Vistula, which flow into the North Sea and the Baltic.
2. Navigable connection of the North Sea and Baltic ports with the Danube and the Black Sea by way of the Danube-Oder Canal.
3. Navigable connection of the Rhine with the Danube and the Black Sea by the canalization of the Main and the construction of a new Ludwig Canal.

These canals would form the main arteries from West to East and from North to South-East. The subsidiary waterways would be as follows:—

4. The Rhine, connected with the Dortmund-Ems Canal in the north, and, after canalization of the way from Basel to Schaffhausen, connection with Lake Constance in the south.
5. Continuation of the Weser to the Main and to the Danube and to Munich.
6. The Elbe, connected with the ways that are already being canalized to Prague.
7. The Oder.
8. The Vistula, connected with the continuation of the Danube-Oder Canal to Cracow.
9. Continuation of the Danube-Oder-Vistula Canal to the Dniester.
10. Canalization of the Save, connected on the one hand with the Danube by a canal from Bukovar to Samatz, and on the other hand with Fiume and the Adriatic.
11. A waterway from Semendria on the Danube through the valleys of the Morava and the Vardar to Salonika.

EGYPTIAN CURRENCY

The Egyptian correspondent of the *Pioneer Mail* writes as follows:—

"Every year we have a silver 'crisis,' usually in the early autumn, when large numbers of labourers have to be paid daily throughout the country in connection with the cotton crop; but the crisis usually is over by Christmas and is met by imports of newly minted coin, which have to be obtained in the ordinary course. The war has, however, completely changed the situation. The increase in the army has necessitated the putting into circulation of far more nickel and silver currency than ever before, and the financial authorities took early steps to obtain the necessary extra supply. Things would not have been so bad if the shipments in the Persia and the Maloja had not been lost. During 1915 new coin to the value of £720,000 was imported, whereas the average of the preceding five years had only been £140,000, and the previous recorded maximum annual import was £694,000, in 1886, when the system was remodelled. The Sudan, it should be mentioned, uses the same currency as Egypt, and a good deal of British gold and Egyptian silver remains every year in the interior of that dependency. India appears to have been the only part of the Empire which had any silver coin to spare, and by special arrangement the Egyptian Government imported a certain quantity of silver rupees, which, it is stated, have now been declared legal currency in this country. Whether in order to facilitate trade between Egypt and the Sudan they will also be made legal currency in the latter dependency is not known."

* See "Engineering Notes" on p. 212.

ROUMANIAN RAILWAY TARIFFS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 27.

When the Budget was voted it was decided to raise railway tariffs, the change coming into effect on July 1. Fares for first-class travellers will be raised by about 20 per cent., for second-class 15 per cent., and for third-class passengers 10 per cent.

The tariff for goods is to be increased by about 10 per cent., that for alimentary products being at the same time reduced.

The tariff for the transport of cereals and of oil will be raised by about 12 per cent.

ROUMANIAN LOAN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 27.

Total subscriptions to the National Loan sent in, far exceed the sum of 400 million francs, but the State has refused the surplus.

The National Bank authorities are preparing a report on the loan, giving the sums subscribed together with the social condition of the subscriber. This ought to prove interesting reading from many points of view.

EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

H.M. Consul-General at Alexandria (Mr. D. A. Cameron, C.M.G.) has furnished the following information, received from a reliable source, relative to the Egyptian cotton crop for the 1915-16 season.

The crop is estimated at about 4,600,000 cantars (= 99.05 lbs.), as compared with 6,373,000 cantars in the preceding season; but the higher general prices both for cotton and seed, coupled with an increased cultivation of the more valuable Sakellarides variety, has given an increased value of about £E3,000,000 (£E = £1 0s. 6½d.) to the grower, viz., £E21,500,000 as against between £E18,000,000 and £E19,000,000 in the 1914-15 season. Prices throughout the season were favourable with a continued advancing tendency till the end of February, by which time practically all growers had disposed of their crops. The Government's decision to limit the area under cotton cultivation in 1915 was the chief reason for the reduction in the size of the crop.

COTTON STATISTICS.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the twenty-four weeks ended June 15, 1916, was 1,937,951. This included 7,031 bales of British East African cotton and 153 bales of foreign East African cotton.

In the same period 271,933 bales of Egyptian cotton were imported and 149,459 bales were exported. The total imports were as follows:—

	Bales.
American	1,532,690
Brazilian	141
East Indian	72,061
Egyptian	271,933
Miscellaneous	61,126
Total	**1,937,951**

Exports for the same period were as follows:—

American	57,091
Brazilian	100
East Indian	21,295
Egyptian	149,459
Miscellaneous	3,777
Total	**231,72**

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA FOUR per CENT. LOAN.—The National Bank of Egypt announces that COUPON No. 29 of the City of Alexandria Four per Cent. Loan due July 1, will be PAID at 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT FOUR per CENT. CUMULATIVE PREFERRED SHARES.—The National Bank of Egypt announces that COUPON No. 24 of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt Four per Cent. Cumulative Preferred shares, due July 1, will be Paid at its offices in Cairo, Alexandria, and London (6 and 7, King William Street).

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Engineering Notes.

Rhine—Danube Waterway.

In a previous issue (May 25) the project for linking up the Rhine with the Danube was referred to in these notes, and the serious effect that the accomplishment of such a project would have on British trade with the Near East, especially with Roumania, Serbia, Bulgaria, South Russia, etc., was pointed out. The trade in heavy goods, such as engines, steam boilers, heavy machinery, iron bridges, etc., was particularly mentioned as the most likely to be seriously affected, for this class of goods are shipped, as a rule, at higher than the ordinary rates of freight, whilst their landing at the port of destination often costs as much as the freight from England.

Cost of Handling Heavy Goods.

There are very few ports in the Near East which can boast of the possession of moderately efficient means for landing very heavy goods from ships. Take, for instance, the Roumanian port of Constanza, in the Black Sea, which, as the British Vice-Consul in his recent report says, "is a transit port for the whole of Roumania," but which "offers few facilities for dealing with imported cargo." This disadvantage, the Consul says, is especially conspicuous in the winter months, when imports destined for all parts of the country are landed. The quays are then crowded with bales and cases, which sometimes remain in the open several weeks, protected by tarpaulins only. The port would greatly benefit by the erection of adequate warehouses on the quay for the storage of goods, and by the acquisition of cranes for discharging direct from the ship to the railway wagon.

Hints to our Manufacturers.

Under such shipping, landing, and transporting disadvantages in the principal seaport of a country which is considered one of the most desirable markets in the Near East, what chance will the British manufacturers have in competition with their German rivals who, when the linking up of the Rhine with the Danube has been realized, will be able to send their goods—no matter how heavy—by this waterway, safely and cheaply from the centres of industry to the banks of the Danube in Roumania? The same applies to Serbia, Bulgaria, and South Russia, however. What can be done against such unequal competition? The recent Economic Conference of the Allies in Paris undoubtedly included this important question in the resolutions, the outlines of which were published last week. In the meantime, we do not see what more effective measures can be taken to anticipate such a competition than a change in the regulations for the navigation of the Lower Danube.

Damietta and Rosetta Barrages.

Work on these projects is likely to be deferred for the present, on account of the financial disabilities imposed by the war. Writing on this subject recently *Al-Ahram* quoted the Ministry of Finance as authority for the statement that before the Ministry accords "its approval of the expense it must be sure that the interest of the money to be spent on these barrages is less than the annual cost of the construction of the dams the barrages will replace. In any case, these barrages will not be begun in the present financial situation, especially as there are other projects more urgent and useful to the nation and the country." It has been explained previously that the object of the Rosetta project is to keep the salty sea water from mixing with the fresh water of the Rosetta Branch (which work is at present carried out by a special temporary "sudd" of earthwork mixed annually in summer) and of improving the irrigation of the surrounding lands in Behera and Gharbieh Provinces. The exact place where this barrage is to be constructed has not yet been decided.

"Penny in the Slot" Water.

The new automatic fountain for supplying water, which has been set up recently by the corporation of an English Midland town, will be of great interest to many municipal authorities in the Near East who, at the present time and every summer, are at their wits' end how to find water, and how to prevent its waste. Careless consumers let it run in their gardens while others are parched with thirst; others use it extravagantly without payment, and others consume it for manufacturing purposes when they have no right to do so. Then there are the steam vehicles which, going about the town, obtain large quantities from the public fountains in the streets free of charge; and when there is no water there is generally a "protest" meeting of the inhabitants for the deposition of the entire corporation! To save their position and civic dignity the unfortunate corporations should obtain, and use in their system of water supply, the new "penny-in-the-slot" device, such as the one to which we refer above. It is a water-delivery pillar, which can only be worked by the introduction of a standard disc. It applies the principle of the "penny-in-the-slot" machine to the delivery of water. The discs are issued by the corporation to individual users at a fixed charge, which in the case of the town referred to is 3d. per disc. At present there is no measure of the quantity of water supplied for the disc. The flow is maintained so long as the lever which operates the mechanism is held down. It is said, however, that an improved type of the machine will soon be introduced which would put either a time-limit or a limit of quantity upon the supply for each disc.

A *Times* Athens message of June 27 states that the Decree ordering a general demobilization of the Greek Army takes effect on Saturday. One half of the Reservists of the 1913 Class will be kept with the colours until the end of August, while the other half will remain until the 1915 recruits are called up. The British and French Ministers have recommended their respective Governments to make an advance to the Greek Government.

ROUMANIAN OIL PRODUCTION.

The production of crude oil in Roumania during the second half of May (old style) was at the rate of 4,500 to 4,600 tons per day, the improvement which took place in the first half of the month, when the production reached about 5,000 tons per day, not having been maintained (according to *Oil News*). At the end of the month Bustenari crude was quoted at 76 to 78 fr. per ton for prompt delivery, and correspondingly good prices were obtainable for Tzintea and Baicoi. Paraffinous oils, after a period of neglect, also enjoyed a fair market at favourable rates. Lack of new drilling equipment has restricted the quantity of crude offered in the open market, and it is to this circumstance that the high prices are mainly attributed. Exports have been curtailed by the congestion of the railway at Ploesti-Prédéal, and to relieve this a certain number of trains are being despatched viâ Palanca.

OIL OUTPUTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN.—Gemsah—Production for week, 12 tons (previous week 20 tons); Hurgada, 428 tons, against 446 tons.

BAKU RUSSIAN PETROLEUM.—Production up to June 17, 84,000 poods.

BIBI EIBAT OIL COMPANY.—Production for weeks ended May 28, 63,466 poods; June 4, 62,600 poods; June 11, 62,600 poods.

BLACK SEA AMALGAMATED.—Production for week ended June 22, 22,760 poods.

CHELEKEN.—Production for fortnight ended June 17, 17,610 poods.

EUROPEAN.—Production to week ended June 18, 110,500 poods.

MAIKOP COMBINE.—Production for week ended June 22, 5,180 poods.

NEW CAUCASIAN.—Cable.—"Well No. 1, 14 ins. casing, depth 2,072 feet."

NEW SCHIBAIEFF.—Month of May.—Gross 518,420 poods (8,345 tons); net, 304,792 poods (4,919 tons).

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Production, 516 tons.

RUSSIAN PETROLEUM.—Production for week ended June 17, 60,100 poods; for week ended June 24, 58,300 poods.

POSSIBILITIES OF EGYPTIAN FRUIT INDUSTRY.

The process of making apricot paste is very simple, and the industry is one which could easily be worked by peasant proprietors. Recently the Horticultural Section of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture has conducted public demonstrations at the Mudiria, Giza. Between May 25 and 31 nearly 300 people availed themselves of the invitation to be present, including many well-known Egyptians and British residents.

There is no reason why the making of apricot paste should not become an Egyptian industry, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. Usually about £E25,000 of the fruit thus dried is imported each year into Egypt from Syria; and this large sum could in future be kept in the country.

Another experiment going forward is the drying of whole apricots. Some very excellent specimens of dried fruit were on view in the Section. An apparatus for evaporating the moisture is used for this, as well as the open air. When the evaporator is used, about ten hours will complete the process, while the drying in the sun takes several days and the fruit must be shielded from dew at night. Specimens of apricot jam and jelly were on view which looked wholesome and appetising.

It is understood that the preservation of tomatoes will next receive the attention of the Horticultural Department, and visitors will also be invited to be present at demonstrations with this useful fruit.

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EGYPT'S NATIVE INDUSTRIES.

From a Bradford paper we cull the following:—

Mr. W. A. Stewart, the former hon. secretary of the Bradford Arts Club, is finding in Egypt his work grow under his hand. He went out to reorganise the technical training of the native population in Egypt, and to try to revive the old textile and other art industries which once made Egyptian craftsmen famous, and the work is succeeding admirably. Even since the war commenced the work has shown development. Dyestuffs from England are replacing those previously imported from Germany, so that the weaving industry, now very extensive, shall not suffer, and an effort is being made to cultivate still larger quantities of indigo this year. Many new industries have been started to supply demands for articles no longer obtainable from abroad, including factories for cheese, brush, and bootmaking on a wholesale scale, and tanneries and dyeworks are also flourishing. A big exhibition of Egyptian industries is to be held during the summer at Alexandria, and it will be transferred to Cairo in the autumn. A permanent exhibition of the work done in the trade schools has been set up, and a constant demand for carpets, inlay and metal work, is now established.

The weaving school at Mehalla is to be further extended with the addition of power looms for silk and cotton weaving, and it is hoped to establish presently a weaving school at Damietta, and a school of applied design in the heart of the Cairo bazaars. In his work Mr. Stewart has received considerable assistance this year from an Egyptian student, who, after a course of study at the textile department of the Bradford Technical College, has returned to Egypt.

GREEK TENDERS FOR KHAKI.

The London correspondent of the *Birmingham Post*, writing on Friday last, said: "There has been speculation in wool trade circles here as to the outcome of an invitation to British manufacturers from the Greek War Office for offers to supply 300,000 metres of khaki cloth. Firms were given specifications at the beginning of April, and were asked to telegraph preliminary offers to Athens within a week, supplementing these by letters with full details and samples. One of the conditions laid down by the Greek Government was delivery at the Piræus. Not many manufacturers were in a position to tender on account of previous commitments, and now the whole business has been postponed indefinitely, as the British Government, I hear, owing to the condition of affairs in Greece, have not seen their way to grant permission for the delivery of the goods in the event of the contract being placed in this country."

THE GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to April 30, 1916 (New Style: January 14 to May 13, 1916):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Apr.,	1916	2,517,882	2,064,000
Do. do. do	1915	3,110,115	2,205,274
Estimated Receipts for 4 months (Law of Control)		9,633,333	3,566,666
Actual do. do.	1916	11,817,723	9,550,000
Do. do. do.	1915	12,717,086	8,842,887
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 4 months	1916	+ 2,184,389	+ 5,983,333
	1915	+ 3,083,753	+ 5,276,220

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate of the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY.

The thirty-eighth annual general meeting of the Alexandria Water Company, Limited, was held at Alexandria on Monday, June 5, at 4 p.m. The number of shares represented at the meeting was 29,730, or almost exactly 25 per cent. of the total number of shares.

The Chairman, Mr. A. L. Gorra, before opening the proceedings, expressed, in the name of the board of directors, their deepest regret at the death of their old and valued colleague, Baron J. L. de Menasce, on the 2nd instant. It is thirty years ago since Baron de Menasce was elected on the Alexandria committee of the board, in the days when the board of the company was in London. He never failed to take the keenest interest in all affairs connected with the company, and his profound experience and judgment in all financial matters has been of undoubted value to the administration. The proceedings of the meeting were suspended for five minutes as a mark of respect to the late Baron de Menasce.

The following is an extract of the directors' report to the shareholders and of the accounts:—

The directors, in submitting to the shareholders their annual report and balance-sheet for the past year's working ending March 31, 1916, have pleasure in stating that, in spite of the exceedingly difficult conditions under which it has been necessary to work owing to the war, the heavy increase in the prices of all commodities and the corresponding decrease in rental value of houses, the results obtained may be considered highly satisfactory. The question of coal supply has caused the greatest anxiety, and the prices have steadily increased up to 164s. per ton; during some months of last summer liquid fuel was used with great success, the supply, however, failed for a time; this has now been resumed, and although the prices are abnormally high, there is still a considerable economy effected by its use in place of coal. The total quantity of water pumped was 21,462,000 cubic metres, showing an increase of 4,135,000 cubic metres over the previous year. The water supply to transports in the harbour has necessitated some extension of mains and hydrants on the quays and about 1,500 metres of new pipes have been laid to meet these demands. An additional steam water barge has been purchased, and all the steam barges have been working practically day and night throughout the year. In order to cope with the military requirements and to compensate for the lack of pressure due to the large draw-off of water for temporary camps and hospitals, two important new mains have been laid, one of 1,250 metres of 12 inches and 425 metres of 8 inches up to the village of Mex, and the other of 2,450 metres of 18-inch main between the pumping station and Ibrahimieh. This latter will also provide an ample supply for a quarter which has developed very rapidly during the past few years. The total length of mains laid during the year was 8,856 metres. At the main pumping station two additional "Jewell" filters have been erected, bringing the number of these up to 24; a project is now in course of preparation for further extensions in this respect, which it is hoped will be put into execution when conditions are more favourable. A sum of £16,250 has been spent on new works during the course of the year. The high pressure fire service continues to give entire satisfaction. Apart from buildings fitted with automatic sprinklers it has been called into operation during the year on five occasions for the extinction of fires in buildings which were not fitted with these appliances. The total receipts amount to £191,605, as against £142,849 realized last year. This increase is almost entirely due to the extra water supplied for military purposes. The increase in the working expenses has been £9,133, a figure which might have been very much higher had we not had considerable quantities of coal in stock and on order at prices not much above normal. It is anticipated that there will be a further increase in our expenditure on fuel for this current year. The value of our machinery, mains, etc., and the various rates of depreciation fixed by the board, give the sum of £12,000 as the amount to be written off annually. The board, in view of the extraordinary receipts and the extra amounts spent on new works, has considered it necessary to write off, besides the £12,000 for this year, a further £10,000, thereby making the total depreciation figuring in the balance-sheet correspond to the value of the assets in question. It should be pointed out in this respect that our plant has been subjected to more wear and tear this year owing to the greater strain under which it has been working. The value of our securities, based on the market price at March 31, 1916, shows a further depreciation of £18,500 after taking into account the £15,000 which their valuation at the time of our last balance-sheet had shown. The board has, therefore, decided to write off the "profit and loss" account this sum of £18,500, carrying it over to the credit of the special account "provision for depreciation of securities" for the same reason and under the same conditions expressed in their last report. This provision thus stands at £33,500. The balance of the "profit and loss" account, after making the above depreciations and the usual allowances, and after deducting the interim dividend of 4 per cent. paid on December 15, 1915, is £81,000, from which should first be deducted 6 per cent. to complete, with the interim dividend, the 10 per cent. on the capital, £36,000, leaving a balance of £45,000, of which one half is due to the Municipality according to our convention—£22,500—and the other half to the shareholders—£22,500, which represents 3s. 9d. per share, and this, added to the 6 per cent. above mentioned, makes a total of 9s. 9d. per share for the dividend of June 15, 1916. The directors therefore recommend the shareholders to fix the dividend payable on June 15, 1916, at 9s. 9d. per share, which, with the interim dividend of 4s. paid on December 15, 1915, makes a total dividend of 13s. 9d. for the year. There are two vacancies on the board which it has been decided to fill by naming as directors Mr. A. G. M. Dickson, Sub-Governor of the National Bank of Egypt, and Mr. H. R. C. Blagden, M.Inst. C.E., the present manager of the company. These two nominations are submitted to the meeting, and, in the case of Mr. Blagden, Art. 106a of the articles of association must first be declared suspended in his favour. According to Art. 84 of the articles of association, Messrs. S. C. Salvago and H. E. Barker are the two directors who retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The report and accounts were unanimously approved by the meeting, and all the above proposals confirmed. Messrs. A. G. M. Dickson and H. R. C. Blagden were duly elected as directors, and Messrs. S. C. Salvago and H. E. Barker, the two directors retiring by rotation, were re-elected.

Balance Sheet March 31, 1916.

Liabilities.

To Share capital, authorised and issued— 120,000 shares of £5 each, fully paid		600,000	0 6
,, Creditors and other accounts— Deposits by consumers	£26,682 16 4		
Sundries	38,429 15 3	65,112	11 7
,, Reserve, belonging to the Shareholders		105,097	0 8
,, Provision for depreciation of securities		33,500	0 0
,, Profit and Loss Account— Balance carried forward, March 31, 1916		81,000	0 0
		£884,709	12 3

Assets.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By land, buildings, machinery, mains, etc., at cost to the company	485,772 9 10	
Less depreciation	122,101 0 0	363,671 9 10
,, concession, at cost		233,684 18 10
,, securities, at market price of March 31, 1914— £15,000 Agricultural Bank of Egypt 4% Preference Shares; £30,000 Egyptian Privileged Debt 3½%; £111,900 Egyptian Unified Debt 4%		152,335 19 11
,, Sundry debtors— Sundries	5,917 4 11	
,, Amounts due on water rates, etc.	9,605 18 7	15,523 3 6
,, Cash at Bankers and in hand		100,693 3 0
,, Stock of material in hand, at cost less depreciation, as certified by the manager		17,868 0 0
,, Office furniture, at cost less depreciation		932 17 2
		£884,709 12 3

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PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31, 1916.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Dividend paid on June 15, 1915, at 7s. 9d. per share	46,500 0 0	
,, Municipality's share to March 31, 1915, by Convention	10,500 0 0	
		57,000 0 0
,, Interim dividend paid December 15, 1915, at 4s. per share		24,000 0 0
,, Depreciation on buildings, machinery, mains, etc.		22,000 0 0
,, Provision for depreciation of securities		18,500 0 0
,, Staff assurance and employees' relief fund		3,347 17 9
,, Gratuity to staff		2,345 5 2
,, Provision for compensation claims		2,000 0 0
,, Balance carried to balance-sheet		81,000 0 0
		£210,193 2 11
By balance as per Profit and Loss Account, March 31, 1915		57,000 0 0
,, Balance from Revenue and Expenditure Account		138,563 8 8
,, Profit on Ice Works		2,191 1 6
,, Services and fittings, sale of material, and sundry receipts		4,091 2 9
,, Interest on securities, etc.		8,347 10 6
		£210,193 2 11

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The annual general meeting of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, was held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., on Wednesday, Major W. I. Le Breton (chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, I will first go through the usual form of asking your permission to take as read the directors' report and the accounts for the year 1915. A year ago I had to regret a falling off in our profits, and a consequent reduction in our dividend to 8 per cent. for the year. On the present occasion I have to express our satisfaction at the improvement in our profits, and at this early opportunity of returning to the 10 per cent. dividend to which we had become accustomed when our business was interrupted by the war. Our trading profits for the past year are the biggest ever earned in the history of the company—(hear, hear)—and our net profits have only been exceeded on one occasion; that was in 1911. Compared with the previous year (1914), our profits have increased by more than £9,000, but this statement, taken alone, would convey an exaggerated impression of our progress, for it has to be remembered, as explained by me when I was last privileged to address you, that the year 1914 was considerably short of the profits which we felt we ought to have earned, had it not been for the upset caused by the war. I think, therefore, it will convey a more correct idea of our position if we describe the result of our working for the year 1915 as £2,700 better than the pre-war year 1913. It is £2,000 short of the best year (1911) we ever had, but this is entirely due to higher charges for income-tax and bank interest. This result of the year's business is far more favourable than any of us could reasonably have expected, and it will, I think, have come as a surprise to any who have not followed our published weekly returns. In the previous year we had suffered considerably from the existence of war conditions during five months only, whilst in 1915 these unfortunate conditions, including martial law in Egypt, prevailed for the whole period, and yet we have not only made good the losses of the previous year, but have improved upon the profits of the last pre-war year, 1913, although that year had the advantage of the sale of cotton seed for the Government, which we lost. I have explained to you that it was taken away from us to be given to the Lalakas, which were established by Lord Kitchener. It would look as if the war had ceased to have any detrimental effect upon our business, if, indeed, it had not assisted it. Here, again, I have to guard against conveying an impression quite incorrect. The countries both east and west of Egypt have continued no less hostile, and we have, consequently, suffered no less seriously from the absence of supplies of camels and sheep therefrom. In certain districts our business has also been injured by the departure of considerable numbers of the inhabitants for employment by the Military Department at places altogether beyond the zone of our operations. Further, we cannot point to any gain to us from the war, except it be the indirect one due to the presence of large bodies of troops and the consequent rise in the prices of their local requirements. The advantage of this has, to a great extent, fallen to the districts, and this, I admit, is more to our advantage than all the money made by the towns in normal seasons. We have suffered less than we might have done by the restrictions placed by the Government upon the cultivation of cotton. In spite of these restrictions there was a crop approaching five million cantars, against an ordinary year's crop of, say, seven millions, and both the quality and prices were satisfactory. The restrictions referred to have now been withdrawn.

Our expenses show a reduction of £694 compared with the previous year, but this is unreal, and is due to the temporary absence of some of the staff on military service and to the larger credit to these expenses by debit to our nitrate business. The latter, as I have told you, increased very much, and it has to bear a fixed charge per ton sold for services rendered by the markets staff. Reduction of expenses is not a direction in which we can look for improvement. Claims for increases of salaries and wages are always before us, and deserve our consideration, both on the grounds of excellent service rendered and greatly increased cost of living in Egypt. Our net profits have more than doubled in the last seven years, and the dividends on our ordinary shares have quadrupled, while those on the deferred shares have risen from nothing to £6 per share. (Hear, hear.)

I will now refer briefly to existing circumstances in the light of their effect upon the current year. According to our latest advices, we have improved upon our last year's earnings to the extent of £746 at June 22. I have told you that the war certainly does us no good, and the sooner it is over the better for us. I may remind you that our acquisition of outside markets was, as it were, nipped in the bud by the outbreak of war and the consequent necessity for husbanding our resources. The termination of the war will enable us to proceed to the completion of negotiations for several of these markets, which, until then, must necessarily remain in abeyance. We have, according to our latest information, thirty-five markets closed at present, the majority of which are closed to all but camels and donkeys, owing to foot-and-mouth disease. We are led to believe that this is not likely to continue for long. There is but little sign of cattle plague, and in this important connection I see no reason to depart from my previously-expressed opinion that we have seen the worst of it and its consequences, nor from my hope that we may soon see the end of it. I am afraid that our business in chemical manures must suffer, as we have not seen our way to laying in sufficient stocks of nitrate of soda except at a risk which we did not dare to incur. I have no doubt many here have experiences of the consequences of the high freights and insurance charges which have recently prevailed, and it will consequently suffice for me to say that when nitrate of soda approached double its pre-war price, owing simply to the cost of conveyance, we decided not to lay in stocks from the sale of which we could, at best, only expect reduced profits, and which, under a change of circumstances, might result in very serious loss to the company.

I have told you that our business in another chemical manure, the product of the Egyptian Phosphate Company, is proving satisfactory, and we hope that to some extent this may counteract our losses on nitrates. We also hope to derive some advantage from a contract recently entered into with the Government of Egypt for the purchase, on their account, of fodder for the year for the mounted troops in Egypt. I admit that the making of a profit out of this has not been the only consideration of your Board. We were also actuated by a desire to be of use to the military authorities. A year ago we placed to reserve a sum of £750 to meet the consequences of deficiencies which had just been discovered. We did this in spite of our general manager's representation that such provision was, at any rate, excessive. I am glad to tell you that Mr. Duffield has succeeded in meeting the greater part of these deficiencies without having to draw upon this reserve—(hear, hear)—and it is now highly improbable that all of it will be required for the purpose. Our experience has, however, taught us that we are always more or less in danger of losses such as these or others due to depreciation in the value of stocks held by us. In the accounts which we have been considering we show two separate reserves, aggregating £5,600, including £1,500 set aside on this account from the profits of the past year. The services of our general manager, Mr. C. E. Duffield, of our assistant managers and of our entire indoor and outdoor staff, continue deserving of all praise. No less than seven of our European staff are now engaged in military duty, and amongst these are several of our most experienced and valuable officers. It says much for Mr. Duffield's management and for the loyal assistance rendered to him by those remaining that, although we were very short-handed, the work of the year has been so well conducted that we have attained the satisfactory results shown in the accounts. (Applause.)

The Chairman moved: "That the report of the directors, dated June 17, 1916, together with the audited statement of accounts and balance-sheet for the year ended December 31, 1915, be and they are hereby approved and adopted."

Captain A. St. John Cooke seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I have much pleasure in moving: "That the interim dividend of 4 per cent., less income tax at 2s. 8d. in the £, declared on the ordinary share capital of the company and paid on January 31, 1916, be, and it is hereby confirmed, and that a further dividend of 6 per cent., less income tax at 2s. 8d. in the £, on the ordinary share capital of the company, making 10 per cent. for the year, be and it is hereby declared to be paid to the holders of ordinary shares recorded on the registers of the company on June 19, 1916, and to holders of ordinary share warrants to bearer."

Mr. W. Home seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman: I beg to move: "That the sum of £1,836 5s. 9d. (equal to £6 2s. 5d. per share), plus or minus one-third of such additional amount (if any) as may be found due from or to the Egyptian Government, as the case may be, beyond the £3,200 (the amount estimated as due to Government), less income tax at 2s. 8d. in the £, be declared as dividend on the deferred share capital of the company, payable to holders of the deferred shares on the company's registers on June 19, 1916. That of such figure £4 10s. per share, less income tax at 2s. 8d. in the £, be paid on June 30, 1916, and the balance (if any) immediately after ascertainment thereof."

This was seconded by Captain St. John Cooke and carried unanimously.

Capt. St. John Cooke moved the reappointment of the chairman as a director, remarking that Major Le Breton wanted to retire from the board in 1914, but, at the special request of his colleagues, decided to stay on. He had helped the company immensely, and personally he wished to thank Major Le Breton for what he had done.—Mr. W. Home seconded the resolution.—Mr. Leigh Wood said he would not like the resolution to be passed without adding a special word of appreciation on behalf of the shareholders of the work done by the chairman. He hoped the chairman's health would permit him to retain the position which he had filled for so many years with distinction.—The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman thanked the meeting and hoped his health would allow him to remain for some time longer with the company, and if so, he would do his best for the shareholders. (Applause.)

Mr. Evans moved: "That Mr. George Herbert Redwood be and he is appointed a director of the company." He said he could do so with all the more confidence from his knowledge of Mr. Redwood and his capabilities.

Mr. Morrison, in seconding the resolution, spoke highly of Mr. Redwood's qualifications, remarking that Mr. Redwood was one of the founders of Borax, Limited, a company which had a capital running into millions, and a company which had been one of the greatest commercial successes.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Leigh Wood then moved the following extraordinary resolution:—"That the maximum number of directors be increased to six." The resolution was the result of a good deal of conversation between the respective interests of the company, and he could assure the shareholders that it had been arrived at

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in the best interests of the shareholders and of the company generally.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Morrison, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Leigh Wood then moved :—"That after the word 'Chairman,' appearing in Article 79 of the articles of association, the following words shall be added : 'And as from the 1st day of January, 1915, and thereafter, a further lump sum of £600 per annum, which shall be divided amongst the directors in such manner as the board may from time to time determine.'" In doing so, he said that originally the fees of the directors amounted to £2,350, but in 1909 they were reduced to £1,126, so that the company had saved a substantial sum in the past seven years. During those seven years the directors had had £200 a year, which was not a large amount, and in view of the fact that the shareholders were now getting a very good dividend he thought the time had come when the fees might be raised. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.

The eighth ordinary general meeting of the Mortgage Company of Egypt, Ltd., was held on June 23, at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., the Right Hon. Viscount Milner, G.C.B., G.C.M.G. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. R. H. Eggar) read the notice and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that they were much more cheerful than those presented a year ago. (Hear, hear.) It would be too much to say the company had completely recovered from the effects of the financial upset caused to Egypt by the sudden outbreak of war and the exceptionally bad cotton season which immediately succeeded it, because several years would be needed to effect a complete recovery, but they had certainly gone further on the road of recuperation than they could have anticipated a year ago and the prospect was far brighter. The past year had been one of momentous and terrible events, and at one time it seemed as if Egypt were likely to become one of the principle scenes of conflict, but this danger was now much diminished. There might still be a good deal of desultory fighting on the borders of Egypt, but there was hardly likely to be another serious attempt at invasion, and in the absence of invasion internal tranquillity would not be disturbed. Egypt had in her present Sultan a good ruler, devoted to the interests of his subjects and faithful to his British friends. The principal British officials were very capable administrators, and there was a strong army of occupation. Good prices for the produce of the soil had put money into the pockets of the people. They had become used to rumours of wars and were no longer scared by them. Thus political and social conditions were once more almost normal. On the economic side the outstanding feature of the situation was the great rise in the price of cotton. Last season's crop was one of the smallest on record, but the diminished yield—the main cause of which was the restriction of the area of cultivation by the Government in the autumn of 1914—had been more than compensated for by the favourable state of the market. Moreover, the higher price was likely to be maintained and even improved upon in the approaching season. In other respects also the cultivators had been doing well. The sugar crop was good, though the fact that the Government fixed a maximum price deprived the growers of the full benefit of the increased yield. The rest of the produce of the land, especially bersim, was disposed of at exceptionally high prices owing to the large requirements of the Army. In consequence of all this the Government finances had experienced a remarkable recovery, and the improvement had affected all the leading financial institutions, this company among the number.

Land owners, small and great, had been in a much better position to meet their obligations, and the actual cash receipts of the company during 1915-16 had shown a very gratifying increase over those of the preceding twelve months. The difficulty and delay in obtaining payment of the sums due, which was so greatly aggravated by the most unfortunate year to which he had several times referred, showed itself in the accounts in two ways—namely, in the growth of arrears and in the larger figure standing against the unwelcome item "Properties acquired by foreclosure." With regard to the latter, the increase this year was not very great. It had gone up from £120,000 to £148,000, but personally he did not anticipate much, if any, loss of capital in this respect. As to arrears, the experience of past years had shown that they did ultimately recover all but a small portion of them. Nevertheless, they had deemed it prudent to add £50,000 to the reserve—the same amount as they added last year, when prospects were far less favourable. There was, however, this great difference in the two cases. After setting aside the £50,000 last year they had nothing left, whereas after setting aside the same amount this year they were still able to pay a full twelve months' dividend to the Preference shareholders. This was a gratifying contrast. At the same time he did not forget that they were still six months behind in the payment of the Preference dividend, and that, until the leeway had been made up, they could not give anything to the Ordinary shareholders. While, therefore, greatly rejoicing at the improved condition of the company's affairs, he fully admitted that there was ample room for further improvement. How far they were likely to attain it in the year 1916-17 depended, apart from political considerations, almost entirely upon the prospects of cotton, and those prospects were on the whole very good, though there were elements of uncertainty which should induce them to be cautious. The area under cotton was very much larger this year than it was last, and with the remarkable recovery in price there was every hope of a large and very remunerative crop. On the other hand, there was always the danger of injury from the pink boll-worm, and there was a new trouble about coal. The Egyptian cultivator was dependent upon an adequate supply of fuel to work the pumps which, in many cases, were a necessity for raising water on to the land, and also for draining it; but the price of coal had risen enormously, and there was some doubt whether Egypt would be able to obtain a full supply this year at any price. These were serious drawbacks, but he did not think they would be sufficient to counteract the effects of the increased area of cultivation and the better prices. It was a reasonable anticipation that the growers of cotton, even if they did not realise all their hopes, would see a progressive improvement in their receipts and in their ability to meet their obligations.

The Hon. A. H. Mills seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

COMPANY NOTES.

Lake Copais.

The report of the Lake Copais Company for 1915 states that the net profit in Greece amounted to £51,185, increased by London revenue to £52,211. After providing for London expenses and charging interest on the prior lien bonds amounting to £6,686 18s., applying in writing down investments £835, transferring to reserve £2,000, carrying to "A" debenture stockholders' interest account £7,920, and to "B" debenture stockholders' interest account £14,220, there remains £17,950. This amount has been transferred to bondholders' suspense account pending consideration of the resolutions which are to be submitted on the 27th instant to holders of the several classes of bonds and debenture stock. Subject to the passing of the resolutions, it is proposed to distribute, on July 31, 1916, 4 per cent. in cash (subject to deduction for income-tax) on the "A" debenture stock. It is also proposed to distribute at the same time 6 per cent. on the "B" debenture stock, of which 2 per cent. will be in fully-paid 6 per cent. second prior lien bonds at par, and the balance in cash, subject to deduction of income-tax. Fractions of £5 of second prior lien bonds will be paid in cash. On January 24 last tenders of 7 per cent. prior lien bonds were invited, and £7,300 of fully-paid bonds and £10,400 of partly-paid bonds have since been redeemed. At the same time, the balance of 20 per cent. remaining unpaid on £23,100 of the 7 per cent. prior lien bonds was called up. The total amount of these bonds now outstanding is thus £52,300 fully paid, against £70,000, of which £63,300 was paid up. The area of land cultivated was 41,357 acres, against 35,375 acres in the previous year. The crop on 1,170 acres failed, being for the most part maize sown by tenants on land where no provision existed for irrigation. The total area from which the crops were harvested was thus 40,187 acres, which compares with 30,673 acres in the previous year. The increase in the area cultivated is largely due to the new irrigation and drainage works.

BALKAN COAL COMPANY.

A company under the style of the Balkan Coal Company, with domicile in Berlin, and a capital of 4,000,000 marks, has just been started, says the *Engineer*. The company's object is to supply Turkey and the Balkan States with fuel, in place of the English coal formerly used. Hitherto the Balkan States and European Turkey have imported about 2,500,000 tons of coal annually from England.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended June 24.	1916. Week ended June 22.
Cattle markets	466	389
General markets	370	359
Cattle markets closed	30	35
Receipts (£)	836	748
Total from commencement of year (£)	27,378	28,124

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for eleven days ended May 31.

	1915. £E.	1916. £E.
May 20-May 31	3,778	4,811
April 1-May 31	22,665	22,752

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CYPRUS TRADE.

The following trade returns for Cyprus imports and exports during the quarter ended March 31, 1916, are published in the *Cyprus Gazette* of May 19.

Imports.

Total imports amounted to £188,822 (including specie to the value of £814), as against £116,386 (specie £3,468) for the corresponding period of 1915. Principal articles of import were:—

Articles.	Quarter ended March 31, 1915.		Quarter ended March 31, 1916.	
	Quantity	Value.	Quantity	Value.
		£		£
Beans and Peas cwt.	1,042	673	1,902	1,785
Beer and Ale, in wood .... gal.	1,174	145	3,510	384
Butter, including Butterine, etc. cwt.	310	1,252	569	3,004
Coffee, raw ....cwt.	843	2,918	1,248	3,100
Wheat .....kilé	—	—	19,693	8.315
Flour.....cwt.	4,623	4,094	30,043	29,328
Fish, dried, etc. cwt.	515	728	538	1,224
Olive Oil .....cwt.	1,622	2,828	1,746	5,462
Provisions, tinned, dried, etc.....	—	1,398	—	2,692
Rice .....cwt.	4,933	2,930	10,153	8,077
Sesame.....cwt.	—	—	1,944	2,549
Sugar .....cwt.	6,404	66,31	4,982	8,621
Tea .....oke	1,224	195	1,654	326
Tobacco in leaf oke	42,386	4,868	69,863	8,628
Tumbeki or Persian Tobacco.....oke	8,235	1,074	1,182	374
Coal .....tons	110	368	—	—
Iron ... .cwt.	1,192	590	2,392	1,716
Chemical manure cwt.	5,857	1,565	1,271	832
Petroleum ....gal.	80,779	3,690	78,737	5,683
Silkworm eggs..oz.	549	122	975	208
Iron and steel manufactures....	—	2,021	—	1,885
Machinery, parts, fittings, etc.....	—	1,135	—	967
Cotton yarn and thread .....oke	132,329	13,211	46,023	5,703
Cotton piece goods cwt.	—	12,239	—	18,315
Haberdashery and millinery	—	2,091	—	2,838
Sacks .....No.	5,770	260	31,041	1,465
Silk manufactures	—	451	—	2,340
Woollen manufactures	—	3,489	—	5,636
Indigo .....oke	1,199	1,147	1,459	1,495
Leather manufactures	—	1,907	—	5,716
Leather, sole..cwt.	565	3,365	639	6,458
Matches .....gross	12,150	866	250	25
Soap ..... cwt	2,466	4,001	1,961	3,676
Stationery	—	850	—	1,367
Stores, Government and Military	—	8,202	—	9,307
Straw manufactures	—	1,358	—	1,063

Exports.

Total exports amounted to £124,138 (including specie to the value of £2,820), as against £119,452 (specie £5,329) for the corresponding period of last year. Principal articles were:—

Article.	Quarter ended March 31, 1915.		Quarter ended March 31, 1916.	
	Q'ntity.	Value.	Q'ntity.	Value.
		£	£	£
Mules .....No.	473	9,090	169	3,085
Oxen .....No.	10	80	214	1,455
Poultry .....No	416	30	699	56
Swine.....No	382	990	425	937
Barley .....kilé	219,702	31,759	—	—
Oats .....kilé	42,037	4,363	105	14
Lemons and Oranges No.	6,983,535	5,702	6,7[illegible]6,920	10,287
Raisins.....cwt.	8,542	3,343	6,306	7,676
Spirits .....gal.	6,367	648	11,980	1,792
Commandaria..gal.	2,092	177	5,562	436
Cheese .....cwt.	1,569	3,383	1,[illegible]35	3,433
Eggs .....No	33,863	53	1,200	4
Potatoes .....cwt	12,118	3,000	30,793	16,887
Vinegar .....gal	23,120	316	22,362	387
Beans and Peascwt	1,689	814	346	526
Carobs ..... ton	6,385	26,716	4,682	21,837
Cotton .....cwt.	1,963	4,938	—	—
Cotton seed....cwt	3,600	850	—	—
Silk cocoons....oke	—	—	1,717	1,481
Wool .....cwt.	124	408	479	2,500
Aniseed .....cwt.	266	298	—	—
Linseed.....cwt	1,197	543	593	607
Hides and skins cwt.	63	337	797	5,421
Sumac .....cwt.	1,444	261	546	135
Asbestos .....cwt	2,432	1,026	1,968	1,156
Terra Umbra . tons	314	496	1,713	3,132
Cordage and twine .....cwt.	406	786	483	1,463
Cotton manufactures.....	—	796	—	3,925
Gypsum .....tons	796	490	765	427

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909..	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909 ..	99	—	80
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan ..	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	79
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	69
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	65
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	52	56
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	52	54
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	51½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	43
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	52	52½xd
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	49
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902 ..	77	—	66
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	75½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855..	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	76½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	68½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4½	—	4⅞
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	7⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.....	80	—	69xd
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red...	83	—	71xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	—	11½
Bank of Abyssinia	¼	—	—
Bank of Athens.....	£2	—	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited.....	3⅞	—	3½xd
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	5⅞
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	12⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	—
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	4½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89⅜	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅜	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do, do. 4 % 1st Deb. ..	87	—	57
Do, do. 5 % 2nd Deb...	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds..	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1⅞	—	⅝
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2½
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	⅜	—	6
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/–
Do. Def.	⅞	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/–	—	9/–
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	88½
Do and Foreign Trust ..	5/–	—	¾
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅝
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	77½
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	9/–
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	—	1⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	1/–
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	26/–
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	18/6
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	—	23/3
Do. do. Prefs.....	⅜	—	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179¼	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	1½

OIL.	Price on June 14.	June 28.
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	7/3	7/3
Anglo-Persian	21/9	21/9
European Oilfields	3/9	3/9
Roumanian.....	14/6	14/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	June 13.	June 28.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	442	443
Canal de Suez	4470	4500
Credit Foncier Egyptien	627	640
Turkish Unified 4%	60.10	58.50
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.20	87.50
Serbian, 1895	60 70	60.70

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Côtes du 13 Juin, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt	12½	to	—
Tram. d'Alexandrie.....	Frs. 92½	,,	93
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£ 11½	,,	12
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. 5	,,	—
priv.....	L.E. 3⅜	,,	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs. 123	,,	—
Bons de Panama.....	Frs. 93	,,	94
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle.....	Frs. 56½	,,	57
Privilégiée	Frs. 90	,,	—
Cheikh Fadl.....	Frs. 76	,,	—
Urbaines et Rurales	£ 2¼	,,	—
Comptoir Financier and Commercial d'Egypte	£ ⅛	,,	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£ ⅛	,,	⅛
Union Foncièr d'Egypte	L.E. ⅛	,,	⅛
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4½	,,	4⅝
Bonded Warehouse.....	L.E. 4¼	,,	5
Unifiée	L.E. 80	,,	80½
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 4⅞	,,	5
Fondateur	£ 23	,,	—
Pressage et dépôts	£ 27½	,,	27⅝
Nungovich Hotels	£ 2¼	,,	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt.....	£ 4½	,,	4⅝
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.....	£ 3⅞	,,	—
Ord.....	£ 22/3	,,	22/6
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£ 3½	,,	—
Egypt. Delta Light Railway	£ 4⅛	,,	5
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire.....	£ 105	,,	—
Jouissance.....	£ 155	,,	—
Egyptian Markets	22/9	,,	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv..	Frs. 212	,,	—
Div....	Frs. 130	,,	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.....	Frs. 86	,,	88
Egyptian Salt and Soda	18/6	,,	—
Crédit Foncier d'Egypte.....	Frs. 577	,,	—
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs. 305½	,,	—
,, 1903 ,, ...	Frs. 246	,,	—
,, 1911 ,, ...	Frs. 253	,,	—
Delta Land.....	£ ⅜	,,	—
Port Said Salt	33/–	,,	33/6
Cotton Ginners	£ ⅜	,,	—
New Egyptian	£ 7/6	,,	7/9
United Land	P.T. 4	,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.	25/9	,,	26/–
Fondateur	95/-	,,	100/–

Marché nul.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 30 Avril, 1916, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

	£E.
Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien.....	7,279,213
Titres divers	398,214
Comptes-Courants.....	276,938
Avances sur Marchandises	279,261
Avances sur Titres	1,248,674
Avances sur d'autres garanties	791,947
Effets sur l'Etranger	1,276,669
Effets sur l'Egypte	175,487
Immeubles et mobilier	235,103
Placements à courte échéance.....	1,262,625
Comptes Banques.....	925,964
Gouvernement du Soudan.....	358,417
Comptes Divers	124,156
Encaisse:	
Billets de Banque.....£E.1,004,648	
Or £E.123,961	
Argent, nickel, etc. £E.98,130	1,226,139
	£E.15,868,807

	£E.
Capital (300,000 actions de £10 chacune entièrement libérées).....	2,925,000
Fonds de Réserve:—Réserve Statutaire....	1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	6,375,600
Tribunaux Mixtes.....	1,281,103
Gouvern. Egyptien	3,308,643
Do. Compte spécial	17,086
Comptes Banques.....	283,037
Chèques et effets à payer	113,607
Comptes Divers	287,231
	£E.15,858,807

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Or.....	£E.6,885,843
Titres	5,264,157
	£E.12,150,000
Billets émis	£E.12,150,000
	£E.12,150,000

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

PAYMENT OF DIVIDEND.

Notice is hereby given that a Dividend of Nine Shillings and Ninepence per £5 Share on Coupon No. 55 is Payable on and after June 15, 1916, at Messrs. Barclay and Company, Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, Alexandria, Egypt, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, forms of which will be supplied upon application.

By Order of the Board,

H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Manager.

Alexandria, Egypt.
June 5, 1916.

THE GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY, CAIRO.

Notice is hereby given that a Resolution was passed at the Ordinary General Meeting of this Company in Cairo on May 31, 1916, adjourning the meeting to July 31, 1916, at 11 a.m.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 270.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A break in the arrival of news from the Hejaz was to be anticipated after the conclusion of the first stage of the Arab revolt. As there has been no confirmation of the capture of Medina by the Grand Shereef's forces, it is probable that the report was premature. But with the destruction of the railway for a distance of nearly a hundred miles the city must be effectually isolated for the time being, and the Turkish attempt to relieve it may well precipitate an engagement which will exercise considerable influence upon the course of the revolt. In spite of withdrawals of troops from Palestine and Syria for other spheres it is probable that there are still sufficient Turkish forces in this part of the Empire to make the task of the Arab levies a difficult one. The configuration of the country in the region of the Holy Cities militates against the employment of heavy artillery; but, if the Turks command any large supply of maxim guns, they will have a marked advantage over their opponents. We can only hope that the Arabs will proceed warily and be content to consolidate their position rather than advance any farther against the Turks. The revolt is of their own contrivance; but it comes opportunely for the Allied Powers, and there should be no hesitation in affording the Shereef of Mecca any support of which he may be in need.

Despatches from the Commander-in-Chief in India giving an account of the fighting near Aden have now been published. The period covered is from the outbreak of the war with Turkey until the beginning of the present year. At the outset the Turks were found to be preparing to act against the Aden Protectorate and, with a view to breaking up their concentration, orders were given to a British force proceeding from India to Suez to capture Sheikh Sa'id, the south-westerly point of Arabia at the entrance to the Red Sea, and to destroy the works, armaments, and wells at that place. These operations were duly carried out in November, 1914, but, as was to be expected, only gave Aden temporary relief from the attentions of the Turks. By the end of June, 1915, it was learned that an attack on Lahej, twenty-three miles north of Aden, was imminent. The Aden Troop was sent ahead to protect the town, and the Movable Column followed on July 3. General Sir Beauchamp Duff continues:—"The intense heat, sand, and shortage of water rendered the march and the subsequent operations most trying, but nevertheless the advanced guard reached their objective, and engaged the Turks just beyond Lahej on the evening of July 4. But the desertion of the hired camels and the severe climatic conditions so delayed and distressed the main body as to necessitate a withdrawal from Lahej to Khor Maksar on July 5." It was accordingly found advisable to increase the Aden garrison. The Turks were attacked and routed at Sheikh Othman on July 21; a month later they fell back on Lahej, and a further reverse was inflicted on them on September 25. They made an attempt to coerce the tribes in the east of the Protectorate at the beginning of this year; but as a result of a successful action fought by the Aden Movable Column "the Turkish pressure on the Arab tribes is reported to have been relieved."

No very great importance attaches to the Aden operations; but it will be gathered from the despatches quoted that, as in the case of the Mesopotamian and the first East African Expedition, no attempt was made to organize and equip the British forces in any way adequate to the task they had on hand. It is not stated at what date the first strengthening of the Aden garrison took place, but presumably several months elapsed between the arrival of the first reinforcements and the advance on Lahej. During this period it ought to have been possible for a force designated the Aden Movable Column to have been so equipped that it could move two days' march from Aden without running short of water.

Such news as there is from Greece is of a satisfactory nature. The Greek lamb is overcoming any fears it may have had at the prospect of having to lie down with the Allied lion. Prince Andrew can only have intended to play with the latter's tail, without twisting it, when he spoke to some disbanded reservists of the King as making at present a great fight on behalf of Greece, and asked them not to be frightened by the aspect of external events, because "when the weak fight against the strong, they may succumb in body; but morally never." The whole speech seems to have been somewhat reminiscent of the Hohenzollern manner; but is not likely to be followed by any worse consequences for the author than a cordial invitation to visit Berlin. Meanwhile, at the suggestion of the Allied Powers, demobilization has been expedited, and should be completed by the third week of July. The elections, according to present arrangements, are fixed for September 17. M. Venizelos announces that the Liberal party will "throw itself body and soul" into the contest, and it is probable that his opponents will endeavour to

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hide their own discomfiture by representing a vote for the Venizelists to be a vote against the King.

There has been little change in the situation at Salonika. If the reports of the withdrawal of Austro-German troops from the Balkans should be accurate, the enemy will be deprived of some of the advantages accruing to him from the long time which he has been given in order to prepare for the Allies' advance. It is not to be supposed that the Bulgarians have been entirely deserted by the Central Powers. Messages from Salonika speak of the daily bombardment by German batteries on the Vardar front. As the expenditure of shells is out of all proportion to the results attained, it is probably incurred in the hope of arresting any forward movement on the part of the Allies. In the meantime, Allied, particularly French, aircraft have been active. On July 3 a French aeroplane carried out another raid on Sofia, covering the three hundred miles, there and back, in less than five and a-half hours. Whatever the material results of such a raid, the fact that only anti-aircraft batteries attempted to deal with the invader points to the enemy being not too well supplied with aircraft. When the time comes for the Allies to advance their superiority in the air should prove of considerable advantage.

"No material change" and "no event of importance" are the phrases used to describe the situation in Mesopotamia. We have, therefore, to infer that General Gorringe remains in occupation of Dujailar Fort, a few miles south of Kut, while the Turks continue to hold the Es Sinn position, an equal distance to the east of the town. The weather, that is to say, the midsummer heat, must be against military operations; but it is also possible that the success of the Turks in driving back the Russians from the frontier between Baghdad and Kermanshah has imposed a halt on the British forces. It was well known that the Russians had advanced on Khanikin with a comparatively small force, and the doubt was expressed in these columns whether, in spite of its successful record, this force was adequate to the task of advancing on Baghdad. The arrival of Turkish reinforcements has settled the question. As a result of the enemy's pressure the Russians have had to fall back until Kermanshah is reported to be once more in the hands of the Turks, and for the moment any hope of a combined movement on Baghdad from the north-east and south has to be abandoned. News of "desultory fighting" between Arabs and a party of irregular marauders in Turkish pay in the neighbourhood of Nasiriyeh shows that the enemy are still paying attention to the British garrison at this place, and that some of the Arab tribes are now with us. A force of Indian cavalry assisted the Arabs, and the marauders were dispersed without difficulty. It would be of interest to know whether the Arab tribesmen concerned have been loyal to the British throughout the campaign, or whether they have turned against the Turks either as the result of a general movement in the Arab world or in connection with the events that are said to have occurred at Kerbellah.

According to information received by *The Times* a rising against the Austrians has broken out in Montenegro. The insurrectionaries have taken to the wooded parts of the country under the leadership of a former War Minister. There can be little doubt that the rising has been prompted by the state of destitution to which the inhabitants have been reduced by the Austrians. Little news of what has been taking place in Montenegro has been allowed to leak out of the country; but even if most of the reports which are believed by Montenegrin exiles are discredited, there is ground for supposing that for some time past the condition of the people has been desperate. A rising in existing circumstances, with the country cut off from outside help, can have little chance of success, and can only have been undertaken as an alternative to slow starvation. We can but hope that it will serve to direct the attention of the Allied and neutral Governments to the situation in Montenegro, with a view to devising some means of alleviating the lot of the hapless inhabitants.

The subject is dealt with in a report drawn up by Mr. Alexander Devine, who was recently entrusted with a mission by the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund of London. Mr. Devine's chief object was to obtain information regarding Montenegrin refugees on the Continent and to take such steps as might be deemed necessary for the immediate relief of those who were found to be destitute. He was able to establish that there were less than 3,000 refugees in all, for the most part distributed between Italy, France, and Switzerland; but he was compelled as a result of the information which reached him to devote special attention to the problem of Montenegro itself and its inhabitants, with a view to devising some practical means of sending relief into the country. Mr. Devine was able to enlist the sympathy of the Vatican for the Montenegrins, and the scheme he recommends to his committee for the consideration of the Allied Governments is based on the Vatican's proposals. These are that, in conjunction with the Spanish Red Cross and with the strongest guarantees obtained through the Nuncio in Vienna that the wishes and stipulations of the Allied Powers should be strictly observed, a convoy of ships of relief should be sent to Montenegro in charge of Spanish officials, together with officials of the Vatican, and a committee in Montenegro, consisting of Montenegrins; that bases of supply should be formed at four points, and that the officials designated should with their own hands distribute the relief, reporting subsequently to the Allied Governments. Whether these proposals will be acceptable to the latter remains to be seen. It will be remembered that at an earlier date the British Government adopted the attitude that it was the duty of the occupying Power to provide for the well-being of the population in the occupied country, and it protested against the callousness of those who, "by deliberately starving populations under their control, attempted to blackmail the Allied Powers into replenishing supplies which ought never to have been taken from the country." Unfortunately, neither protest nor appeal to humanitarian principles has the least effect on the Central Powers; and a stage is soon reached when the Allies have to submit to be blackmailed in this way. They will, however, have themselves to blame if full retribution is not exacted hereafter from Germany and Austria.

Amid the competitive claims of numerous refugee funds it is to be hoped that the people of Great Britain will not allow their own fellow-countrymen who are refugees from Turkey to go unprovided for, because their need is not insisted upon with all the glamour of a flag day or public entertainment. Nothing could be more pathetic than the appeal wrung from Lady Lowther as chairman of the Executive Committee of the British Refugees from Turkey Fund. "Must British refugees," she asks in THE NEAR EAST of last week, "go without, while Allied refugees are being splendidly helped with British money?" But the resources of the fund which is so carefully administered on behalf of the refugees from Turkey will be exhausted by August unless further contributions are forthcoming. Some of the refugees are in great penury, helplessly stranded through no fault of their own, many with valuable property confiscated by Germans and Turks within the Ottoman Empire. We cannot believe that Lady Lowther's appeal for £5,000 will be made in vain.

It is with the liveliest satisfaction that we learn that the report of the death of Sister Augustine Bewicke proves to be untrue. A letter dated June 26 has been received from her, in which she states that she is "now quite well." During her long residence in the Near East Sister Augustine, as sister of charity in the French convent at Salonika, has endeared herself to all sections of the population in that town and to a large portion of Macedonia. Her death would have been a great blow to the people who have special need of her beneficence at this period, and no doubt the anxiety caused by her illness gave rise to the happily erroneous report concerning her.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 22.

The Sultan Visits Mansura.

H.H. the Sultan is continuing his journeys into the interior and has just concluded a visit to Mansura, the capital of the province of Dakahlia and one of the most important agricultural and industrial centres of the Delta. On his way from Alexandria his Highness stopped at Dessuk and Mehalla el Kubra, two of the principal towns in the Gharbia, at both of which places he held receptions. At Mansura the Sultan, who was accompanied by the Ministers, was received by the Mudir and the Provincial Council. From the station he drove to the various State schools, all of which he inspected most thoroughly, and after visiting the ophthalmic hospital, presented to the town by Badrawi Pasha Ashur, he proceeded to his own tent and held a reception of the local notables. Luncheon was then partaken of. His Highness made a stirring speech to the people, and afterwards drove to the station, visiting the Agricultural School en route, and returned by special train to Alexandria. The visit was a splendid success throughout, and his Highness was received with enthusiastic acclamation by the people wherever he appeared. Mansura is a busy and prosperous centre; but it has of recent years gained an unenviable reputation as a "Nationalist" stronghold. One can only hope that the people in the province of Dakahlia will take their Sovereign's words of counsel and encouragement to heart and occupy themselves more with matters that are far more profitable to their country and to themselves than all the political propaganda in which some of them have dabbled of late.

Memorial Services to Lord Kitchener.

Following on their participation in the ceremony which took place at Kasr-el-Nil Barracks on the 13th inst., the Jewish and Coptic communities this week held special services in Cairo and Alexandria in memory of Lord Kitchener. These services were attended by representatives of the Anglican Church, the High Commissioner, and the G.O.C. the British troops in Egypt. The Bishop in Jerusalem made a point of being present at the ceremony in the Great Synagogue, where the Grand Rabbi delivered a stirring address. The Coptic Patriarch, also, paid an eloquent tribute to the late British Agent.

In my letter last week I mentioned that the Grand Mufti was present on the platform with the heads of the other religious sects in support of the Bishop of London at the Kasr-el-Nil memorial service to Lord Kitchener. I am afraid, however, that I did not lay sufficient stress on the significance of this feature. In the past Moslem religious dignitaries have collaborated with Christians in civil ceremonies, but this is the first occasion in modern Egyptian history where the Grand Mufti and his sheikhs have sat on the same platform with non-Moslems during the celebration of a Christian ceremony. This departure from precedent, apart from the fact that it constitutes a remarkable tribute to the prestige of the late War Secretary, is certainly a welcome sign of the times.

False Coinage Cases.

A series of very interesting false coinage cases is at present before the Assize Courts. The most important is that in which the cashier of the Native Court of Appeal is implicated. It appears that some little time ago one of the judges wanted some small change, and sent to the Court cashier to get it. He changed a £5 note, and when he got home gave some of the money to his wife. The latter subsequently went shopping, and when she wanted to pay for her purchases at one of the big shops she was informed that the silver she tendered was false. She was taken to the *caracol*, but at once released; an inquiry was opened, and the Parquet sent the Appeal Court cashier and another man for trial before the Cairo Assizes. Both men pleaded "not guilty," but while the case was being heard a letter addressed to the cashier by a leading engineering firm was received in Court announcing the arrival from England of a piece of machinery which he had ordered, and which, whilst it might be used for perfectly legitimate purposes, could also be utilised for the manufacture of false coins. The hearing was at once adjourned for further investigation, and it is expected that when the case comes on definitely for trial some interesting light will be thrown on the extraordinary amount of false silver which has come into circulation of late years.

The Fuel Question.

It was recently announced that in order to assist the cultivators, who annually require large quantities for the irrigation of their land, and in response to urgent representations as to the serious situation created by the shortage in and high price of coal in the country, the Egyptian Government had secured a substantial stock of coal, and was prepared to sell it to *bona-fide* cultivators at prices considerably below the cost price of coal delivered at Alexandria. This last week a rumour has gone round that some hitch had occurred in the deliveries to the Egyptian Government, and that the latter was about to raise its price slightly. There is not a particle of truth in this, and as for the underlying insinuation that the stock held by the State is becoming exhausted, it appears that the fellaheen are by no means rushing to avail themselves of the concession made to them by the Government. In point of fact, we are being afforded one more illustration of the old saying that in Egypt the unexpected always happens; for the cultivators who were expected to be clamouring for the coal on which they have in the past been accustomed to rely for their pumping machinery, etc., have made no such move, and have turned to the national substitute lying to their hand—cotton sticks and the trees in the districts. What is even more surprising is that, although it is known that large numbers of trees (Sunt) have been felled, the country does not appear to be threatened with the deforestation which the alarmists predicted would take place when coal and wood-fuel imports fell off. The satisfactory feature in the situation is that the substantial amount that usually goes abroad for the purchase of coal has been kept in the country. The people have, in fact, drawn on their own fuel resources, and now that they have found out that coal is not indispensable it is to be hoped that they will continue in the future to make use of the excellent material which annually lies so near to their hand.

Feeling in the Greek Colony.

At the beginning of this month the Greek community sent a telegram to King Constantine expressing the pain they felt at the Bulgarian occupation of Greek forts, and imploring their Sovereign to seize this last opportunity and throw in his lot with the Entente. Much to their surprise and indignation, this message has been returned to them—presumably from Athens—through the Greek Agency, on the ground that it was too disrespectful to be delivered to the King. The Greek colony is in a very excited state, and the relations between the Venizelist and opposing elements are exceedingly strained. The anti-Venizelist Press has contained of late very violent articles of a nature that certainly deserves the serious attention of the local authorities. It is interesting to note that the pro-German element has been completely ostracised by the rest of the colony.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE CO.

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Funds - - £23,400,000.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, June 9.*

The Occupation of Fort Rupel.

The handing over of Fort Rupel to the Bulgaro-Germans has caused a painful impression throughout the country. Fourteen millions were expended on this fort, which constituted the defence of the Beles pass, and the details of which were not known even to the higher officers of the Greek army. And to-day it is in the hands of the Bulgarians! In a powerful article published in the *Kyrix* M. Venizelos accuses the Government, under pressure from the General Staff, of having violated Greek neutrality in favour of the Germans and their allies, the enemies of Greece, by abandoning Fort Rupel; while the Serbians, her allies, have been refused passage through Greek territory. Seeing that after the arrival of the Serbians at Salonika the balance of strength was with the Franco-British forces, it was wished (says the *Kyrix*) to strengthen the Bulgaro-Germans by handing over to them the fort that is the key to a Bulgarian invasion of Eastern Macedonia, as it is to a Greek advance upon Sofia. The Government's Germanophilism, the writer goes on, has carried it so far that it desires a Bulgarian victory in order that Germany may not be beaten, and it allows the struggle to extend to Greek territory in order to avoid a Franco-British invasion of Bulgarian territory.

The Blockade.

The surrender of Fort Rupel, constituting a violation of the promise of "very benevolent" neutrality given to the Entente by the present Government, has naturally aroused afresh all the mistrust that the Allied Powers have felt for the Skouloudis Cabinet ever since it announced that if the Franco-British troops had to retire into Greek territory it would have to disarm and intern them. The four Powers declared last week, through their representatives in Athens, that if the Bulgaro-Germans were allowed to advance without opposition by the Greek forces the consequences would be serious. Now, since the Greek Government has received that announcement unfavourably, the Allied Fleet has for the past five days put a stop to the movement of Greek shipping, closing most of the ports of the kingdom to Greek vessels, and sending some of them to Bizerta. This has created a deep impression throughout the country. The Ministerial Press ceased its insulting language regarding the Entente, and the *Nea Himera* advised the Government to give proofs of Greek neutrality. One wondered what these "proofs" might be; when a few hours later a supplement to the same journal announced that the Government had decided "spontaneously" to disband twlve classes of the reserve and to give leave to twelve more classes.

The Partial Demobilization.

The news of this partial demobilization, which was quite unexpected, has brought about a general relaxation of the tension in the country, upon which the absolutely useless mobilization had so long weighed like a nightmare. Needless to say, the measure was the direct result of the blockade, and the Government took it only in the hope of pacifying the Entente; though M. Skouloudis in the Chamber sought to make it appear that the Government acted entirely on its own initiative and with a view to pacifying the country. The Ministerial Press, not knowing how to account for the sudden *volte face*—for the Government had always asserted that the maintenance of the mobilization was an absolute necessity—declare that the Government has *now* been able to obtain satisfactory guarantees from the Central Powers, appearing to forget that they have hundreds of times assured the country that such guarantees had already been given!

General Demobilization. June 13.*

The Government, having been informed by the Greek Ministers abroad that the Entente Powers would not be satisfied with partial demobilization, and that they would insist upon a general demobilization, hastened to proceed to such general demobilization, in a disguised way, and seeking to make it appear that it acted on its own initiative. Thus, as the Royal Decree already promulgated only provided for the demobilization of twelve classes, the Minister for War has addressed a circular to all the army corps, in which the partial demobilization is, by a species of jugglery, transformed into a general demobilization. At the same time, the Minister declared to certain journals that the Government had actually intended to proceed to a general demobilization when it ordered the partial demobilization!

M. Venizelos on Fort Rupel.

In the *Kyrix* M. Venizelos shows clearly that had the Government ordered the defence of Fort Rupel it would not have run any risk of war with the Bulgaro-Germans; for had the latter had any intention of fighting they would not have stopped at the armed resistance offered by the Greeks. In stopping, they proved that they had no intention of occupying the fort by force. In fact, if Germany meant to make war on Greece, she would not have failed to announce her intention through diplomatic channels. Her failure proved that if the coup had not succeeded she would have disavowed the military authorities' action at Fort Rupel.

Attacks on Newspaper Offices.

Cowed by the vigorous action of the Powers, the Government has sought to avenge itself on the Venizelist party, regarding M. Venizelos as the author of its misfortunes, which are, of coure, really due to its own crass folly. Thus, after having organized a meeting of protest against the blockade and the "violation of liberty" by the Entente Powers, it sought to give the impression that public opinion was hostile to M. Venizelos. A military fête was held at the Stadium yesterday for the benefit of the mobilized men's families, and after this fête a part of the crowd escorted the King to his palace, where somebody delivered an oration of sorts. A student, addressing another in a loud voice, remarked that all these *claqueurs* were in the pay of Baron Schenck. Thereupon some of the gentry referred to attacked the student, and a police officer haled him and his companion off to the police-station.

Meantime another group of manifestants went off to the Place de la Constitution, where they were harangued by an unprepossessing individual, who constituted himself the champion of the Government, and incited his hearers against M. Venizelos. His listeners, amongst whom, it is said, there were many secret police, proceeded promptly to act on his incitement, and to break the windows of the Venizelist journals. It is significant that they were well provided with stones, which they must have been carrying with them, since the Athens streets are mostly asphalted; so that the whole business was clearly premeditated. The police made no attempt to check the demonstrators, who, after breaking into a shop and destroying all the portraits of M. Venizelos they could find, proceeded to that statesman's house and indulged in hoots and hisses. The conduct of the police was so disgraceful that it has been condemned even by the Governmental Press.

The *Patris* explains how these anti-Venizelist disorders are arranged and organized. It seems that, in addition to the regular gendarmes, there are 900 probationers, who, not having been enrolled, are held at the disposal of the police, and who, while still retaining their civilian garb, are employed as *claqueurs*, to applaud Ministers and so forth; for example, on the occasion of the King's fête day, when, says the *Patris*, they applauded also certain other people—meaning evidently the Ministers of the Central Powers. In fact, I noticed that on the Place de la Constitution the motor-car in which the German Minister was driving was received with applause—a strange thing, quite contrary to the national feeling, and one which surprised and disgusted everybody. These creatures it was, according to the *Patris*, who provoked the disturbances at the Church of St. Constantine during the Requiem attended by the refugees from Asia Minor, and who insulted the Mayor when he left the memorial service for the Emperor Constantine Palæologus, having acclaimed the Minister of the Interior and his colleagues.

* Delayed in transmission.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 13.

A Diplomatic "Gaffe"—

It is possible that Count Czernin's hint to the effect that M. Také Jonescu should "voluntarily" return his decoration was prompted by a not unfriendly spirit. The fact remains that his action represents a diplomatic "gaffe," for which in all probability his Government will not assume responsibility. Governments sometimes make scapegoats of their worthiest representatives, and are certainly not inclined to screen the vexatious doings of a blundering Minister. To do so would be running counter to the best established traditions of the diplomatic service. The Austro-Hungarian Government will presumably create no innovations in this direction. Count Czernin is not a professional diplomat. He was appointed to Bucharest, it is said, at the express wish of the late heir to the Austrian Throne, who honoured him with his friendship, and upon whose protection he could possibly have counted had the Archduke been alive. A diplomat who was less of a novice than Count Czernin might have avoided the pitfall. Meanwhile, the Count has gone to Vienna "on leave," and (for all we know) there may reign within the Imperial German Legation a spirit akin to jubilation. . . . .

—And its Sequel.

The banquet which it was proposed to give in honour of M. Také Jonescu and the other persons who had returned their Austrian and German decorations took place on June 4. Besides assuming proportions that surpassed all expectation (over 500 covers were laid), the occasion was used for springing upon unsuspecting guests a piece of political news, the importance of which cannot be denied. The first toast, in honour of M. Také Jonescu, was proposed by M. Olanescu in the name of M. Nico Filipesco, leader of the Conservative Party, who was himself prevented by an indisposition from attending the banquet. In the speech which was read on his behalf, M. Filipesco stated that a great debt was due to M. Také Jonescu for the attitude he had adopted since the outbreak of the European conflict; that there existed between them the closest ties, and the most complete understanding on all political questions, external as well as internal; and that they had resolved to solve these questions together, whether they happened to be in power or in opposition. He had the pleasure of informing the assembly that the fusion between the Conservative and the Conservative-Democrat parties was an accomplished fact.

Many speeches were made in the further course of the banquet, some of these—that of Dr. Jean Cantacuzène, for example—representing thought of a very lofty character. Suffice it to say that one and all were expressive of a spirit of intense hostility towards the Central Powers, and of unmixed confidence in and admiration for the generous cause supported by the Allies.

It is interesting to hear that the fusion of the two parties has taken place under the combined leadership of MM. Nico Filipesco and Také Jonescu, and that these two will work hand in hand in organising the fusion throughout the country.

The Incorrigible Radeff.

A Liberal member has made the following statement to the correspondent of a leading newspaper:—

The fire at the Army Pyrotechnic is the exclusive work of Bulgarian *komitajis*. It was originated by M. Simeon Radeff, the Bulgarian Minister in Bucharest, in complicity with Langheben, a pyrotechnic engineer, living at Rustchuk. This engineer is a man of vast competence in pyrotechnic matters. Their object in destroying our pyrotechnic establishment was to prevent Roumania from facing the exigencies of a military undertaking directed against the Central Powers. The fact that M. Radeff left Bucharest quite suddenly on leave before the nefarious plan could be put into execution is evidence that the Bulgarian Minister was afraid of discovery. I can further tell you that the Roumanian Government is aware of these facts, having received precise information from our diplomatic representatives in Bulgaria. I need only refer to the confidential reports received by our Government in the course of the last few days, which, I affirm, not only exist, but contain in black and white the information which I have given you.

The *Viitorul*, a Government organ, asserts that these statements are devoid of all foundation.

Lord Kitchener's Death: Roumanian Opinion.

The news of Lord Kitchener's death caused genuine consternation among Roumanians. Loudest of all are the doleful lamentations of those at whom people point a finger while they whisper in your ear the word "Germanophil." (Here it may be observed in passing that the fact of anyone harbouring tender feelings for the Teuton sufficing to single him out for special attention is the best evidence that he and his fellows do not form the majority. No one will nudge you and hint that Mr. So-and-so is a Francophil. It is an understood thing, unless the contrary is expressly stated.) These folk assume funereal expressions and gulp forth remarks such as "terrible catastrophe," "irremediable loss," "will precipitate peace," "worse than the naval disaster," and others no less grotesque. Most thinking people, while deploring the loss of our great soldier and administrator at this still critical time, judge that he had accomplished the greater portion of his task of organization, and that men of less conspicuous talents will suffice to carry on his work. They scoff at the suggestion that the disappearance of any one individual can have the significance of an irreparable national catastrophe to a Great Power like Britain, or can, as in the present instance, modify the course or issue of the war.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Nicosia, June 19.

The Troodos Summer Season.

The movement of civilian families to the pleasant summer quarters at Olympus has almost ended. Many will stay in the plains and brave the heat. Thanks to the hospitality of those who can get away, friends who remain below are often invited to break the monotony of the trying months by a visit to the hills, and a few weeks of the invigorating air work wonders for those who drag through the tedious season or suffer from fever.

Prices at the camp, as, indeed, more or less elsewhere, are very high and tend to rise, and this may well be a contributing cause which will lessen the number of visitors to Mount Troödos.

Jewish Refugees.

Rumours are current that pecuniary help is being sought from local funds for Hebrew refugees sent to Cyprus. One at least of the Greek papers strongly objects to the proposal. The Jews, it asserts, have many societies, as well as wealthy persons, in all countries who can well afford to care for their own poor; and it is not fair that the impoverished island and government of Cyprus should be called upon to provide money for this cause.

FOR BRITISH PRISONERS IN BULGARIA.

The splendid work done on behalf of British prisoners in Bulgaria by Madame Jonescu, the wife of M. Také Jonescu, the well-known Roumanian statesman, is familiar to most readers of The Near East. By means of a fund raised in Roumania, and with the assistance of the United States Minister in Sofia, Madame Jonescu has been able to provide many comforts for our imprisoned countrymen, and her kindness, and that of her friends in Roumania, has been most heartily appreciated by the prisoners. Now, however, the time has come when Madame Jonescu realises that to continue her good work further funds are absolutely essential. She is, therefore, appealing for subscriptions in this country, and we take pleasure in warmly commending her appeal to the notice of our readers. Bulgaria is a poor country; it is badly in need of many necessities of life at the present time, and the lot of the British prisoners can hardly be a happy one at best. There is, however, no doubt that Madame Jonescu will be able to make certain that all funds intended for the benefit of our countrymen are so employed, and subscribers to the fund need have no fears on this score. The Bank of Roumania has expressed its willingness to open an account for the fund, and the Earl of Bessborough has kindly consented to act as hon. treasurer. All subscriptions should be sent to him at the Bank of Roumania, Limited, 27, Throgmorton Street, E.C.

As a result of the inquiry into the causes of disorder at Galatz, the authorities have arrested a number of Syndicalists. During the disorder eight persons were killed and nine injured. The Syndicalists are said to be German and Bulgarian agents.

The Bulgarian-Roumanian frontier (says a Bucharest telegram) has been partially opened at Svistova and Lom Palanka. The principal points—Rustchuk and Pazarjik—remain closed. Bulgaria's attitude causes a painful impression, and the Press demands reprisals.

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 11.

"Tsar" Ferdinand's Dream.

Those acquainted with "Tsar" Ferdinand's sentiments know that he cherishes very tender feelings for the Hungarians. He looks upon Hungary as his real native land, and he would stick at nothing to serve it. The last visit of Bulgarian deputies to Hungary, Austria, and Germany has served to throw a strong light on his true preferences; for of all the towns and cities these deputies visited, Budapest was the only one to receive a telegram of thanks for the reception accorded them. Bulgaria and Hungary appear to be united in the dreams in which the "little Tsar" indulges. Perhaps, in his incurable megalomania, he conjures up a vision of uniting the crowns of St. Stephen of Pressburg and of Constantine of Constantinople!

Bulgaria and the U.S.

The Bulgarian Press goes into ecstasies over the fact that the American Legation at Sofia has, for the first time, hoisted its flag on the national fête day of SS. Cyril and Methodius. Says the *Mir*:—"Though we are separated by a great distance, excellent relations have always existed between ourselves and the United States, and it is particularly agreeable to us to record the attention shown to us by the American Legation on the occasion of our national fête. America is called upon to play a great rôle, not only with regard to the conclusion of peace, but also in the development of future international relations. And we can count on American sympathy being on our side." Another Bulgarian delusion!

The Bulgarising Process.

It is notorious that thousands of people are starving in Macedonia, but, instead of sending them bread, M. Radoslavoff's Government prates to them of "Bulgarian liberty," and sends them Bulgarizing books and pamphlets for distribution! Now, to hasten the process of Bulgarization of a country, which, in spite of *komitajis*, endeavours to preserve its individuality, the Government has decided to establish, so to say, several factories for the creation of "patriotic priests," who may later be entrusted with the mission of governing spiritually, in Bulgarian fashion, the unfortunate Macedonian Christians. Two seminaries and five schools for priests will be opened shortly in Macedonia. In the "priest schools" all *komitajis* who can pronounce a few formal phrases will be able to obtain in a few months the diploma necessary to qualify them for priestly work.

In the Department of Prizrend, one of the most Serbian regions of New Serbia at present in Bulgarian occupation, there is such a shortage of men that it is impossible to find enough even to constitute parish councils. Nearly all the male population has fled before the Bulgarian hordes, or has been exterminated. In order to make some show of communal administration, the Bulgarian authorities have set up in each district central municipalities which control all villages in their own district. These central municipalities will be under Bulgarian commissaries appointed by the Prefect.

Closing of the Frontier.

A few days ago—on the 9th inst., to be precise—the Military Commandant at Rustchuk and the Chief of Police called on M. Padeanu, the Roumanian Consul in that town, and on the agent of the Navigazione Fluviale Roumain, and informed them that from that date the Bulgaro-Roumanian frontier would be closed for passengers and goods, and that steamers between Giurgevo and Rustchuk would not be allowed to call. The news has caused a great sensation in Bulgaria, and at Rustchuk it was thought to indicate a rupture of relations between the two countries. Probably, however, movements of troops really account for the action.

Russian Prisoners in Bulgaria.

Germany is sending into Bulgaria large numbers of Russian prisoners, who have to be fed free whilst travelling in the country. These prisoners have on their caps, or on the cuffs of their coats, the initials "K. W."

There is no foundation for the report, Reuter's Agency is authoritatively informed, that the Entente Powers are exerting any sort of pressure, concerted or otherwise, upon Roumania with a view to influencing her course of action in regard to the war.

The Austrian military authorities in the occupied Serbian territory have ordered the compulsory teaching of the Magyar language in all Serbian schools (writes a Bucharest correspondent). German is already taught as an obligatory subject, and this new order presumably aims at restoring the Austro-Hungarian equilibrium. A Hungarian, one Janos Farego, a former Inspector of Schools in Hungary, is nominated as Director of Public Instruction in the invaded Serbian territory.

ASSYRIAN REFUGEES.

Mr. Paul Shimmon, representative of Mar Shimun, the Patriarch of the Assyrian Church, wrote to Persia some months ago requesting that photographs depicting the actual situation of the Nestorian (Assyrian Syrian) refugees be sent to the U.S.A. In response to his request he has received a letter in Syriac, the only one of the three copies to reach its destination. It is from Mr. Yoel B. Rustam, a graduate of Urmi College, about twenty-five years of age. He is well known to Dr. Shedd, the Archbishop's missionaries, and to Mr. Shimmon. He writes from Urumia, Persia, in April, 1916. The translation of his letter, from which the following extracts are taken, was made by Mr. Shimmon and revised in conference with Professor Rockwell, of the Publication Committee of the American Committee for the Armenian and Syrian Relief, and confirms Mr. Phillips Price's impressions of that region.

Those who live in Bashkala, on the frontier of Turkey and Persia, are in a most wretched condition. Up to the present (March) once only have some ninety loads of wheat been sent to them by the American missionaries. But what will this do for some 6,600 souls? Some have gone into the fields and villages to find remnants of unharvested wheat and pick them up to live on. Here and there a man had a sheep or mule which he was able to take along in his flight; that has since been sold and entirely eaten up. Now starvation is carrying them off mercilessly. Over one-third of them have died this winter. . . .

About 4,000 have gone to Khoi, a city in the north-western corner of Persia, and there they were in just as bad a condition. Nearly 1,500 of these have died. There are no houses in which they can live. Khoi is now altogether inhabited by Moslems, and they could not think of polluting their premises by the presence of Christians, whom they consider religiously unclean. The Mohammedan Governor compelled the Moslems, through the influence of the Russians there, to open their barns and stables for some to live in. The Christians are so lean and emaciated that death will get at them wholesale.

I went into the villages of Salmas (in Persia) where these Christian Highlanders are existing, and went from house to house and saw their condition. I visited Khusrabad first, a great centre where in normal times some 600 Syrian families live beside the newly arrived 13,000 that had been scattered through the villages of this plain (Salmas). In Khusrabad there were 3,200 refugees at the beginning. For some of them there are houses in which they have been accommodated. Others are living in barns, sheds, or stables. For others not even these are to be had, and they are living out in the streets, sitting under the walls on the highways. They suffer from cold, as they have nothing in the way of bedding and winter clothing, and the winter months are severe. (It is 4,000 to 5,000 feet above sea-level.) In every room, stable, or barn there are living anywhere from five to thirty souls. They are given six roubles per month for their support. The rouble has very much depreciated in value, and they do not know what is best to do with the money—whether to spend it for wheat, bread, fuel, clothing, kerosene, etc. Bread is now high. Many, therefore, purchase wheat and grind it with hand-mills and then boil and eat it. These people are dying for actual lack of nourishment and from bitter cold. Those who are so fortunate as to be in the houses gather around the ovens, which are dug in the ground, and spread a quilt on a low table placed over the oven in which they have put a few pieces of charcoal; and then they tuck their feet inside the quilt to get warm. They call this arrangement a *kursi*. A quilt has been given by the missionaries to each family of five or more to spread over them. They have nothing under them, and they sleep on the bare ground. Those who are sick and those who are well are all huddled together under this *kursi*. There is hardly a house in which there are no sick.

In passing through a village I came to a wood on the outskirts. Near it there was a barn which was partly unroofed; it had no door. I saw two boys of fifteen and five years of age sleeping outside this barn. On going inside I saw two other boys about ten and eight years of age. They had buried themselves in the chaff. I asked them: "Why do you do that?" They answered: "Because there is no room for us in the village. We have nothing to cover ourselves with, so we have buried ourselves in the chaff; it is both a quilt and a mattress." They further said: "We four are brothers. Our father died only the day before yesterday. Our mother died a week before he did. We have also lost another brother." They were so pale that it made one almost sick to look at them. They had no fire. There were no other relatives to look after them. I doubt very much if they could keep alive much longer in that condition. All I saw they had of this world's goods was an old

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teapot and one dish. Then they had bought a quilt a few days before for their father, which they were now using for themselves.

Of one family of seven three had died and two others were so sickly that one could not expect them to get well. I went a little way into the woods near the village and saw a person who had been buried four days previous. He had been ill and had been thrown into the wood, as he had no one to look after him. After he had died one of the boys in the barn had gone and dug a place for him in the woods, and had merely thrown some dirt over him. In some cases the wife or the daughter buries the family dead.

Out of the 3,200 in the village of Khusrabad one thousand had died, and there were many who were very ill. In another place I saw a mother and two children, a girl and a boy, sitting under the *kursi* warming themselves The mother was groaning faintly, but the voice of the little girl could hardly be heard, as she was nearly starved to death. The little boy was lying quietly beside his mother, and made no sound. The father and two daughters had already gone to their rest.

In another village, Ula, I was told that many of the people from Quchanes (the seat of Mar Shimun, the Syrian Patriarch) and other people were living there. At the beginning, in the fall, when they came here, there were about 900 people there altogether. Now only some 350 are left, and they are in the condition that I have described already. Late in the evening, while passing through this same village, I saw a woman with nothing but a thin spread wrapped over her, and she was lying near the wall in the street, and could not be expected to live many days.

From all the investigations that I was able to make, and from my own personal observation, I am sure that over 5,000 out of the 13,000 that had stayed in the plain have perished, and this is the opinion of others also.

These refugees are too far removed from centres of interest, and are still surrounded by Moslems, so that very little practical help comes to them other than that which is given by the charitable organisations; and this is not sufficient to satisfy their hunger and to give them enough clothing and bedding to be comfortable at night.

(Contributions to this work may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Archbishop of Canterbury's Assyrian Mission, Church House, Westminster, London.)

DISTRESS IN SYRIA.

In connection with the distress prevalent in Syria, and especially in the district of Mount Lebanon, the Syrians residing in Manchester held a private meeting on Thursday afternoon last week, when a provisional committee was appointed to act as a branch of the "Syrian Relief Fund," the headquarters of which are in Cairo. A subscription list was opened, and over £1,000 was at once raised amongst those present. It was also decided that no appeal should be made to their friends and sympathisers in Manchester, unless an assurance is forthcoming that the relief intended for the sufferers can be undertaken and distributed by the officials and agencies of the United States in Syria.

The Provisional Committee elected consisted of: Mr. K. Jebara, Chairman; Mr. S. J. Cohen, Vice-Chairman; Mr. E. Kahla, Mr. J. Majdalany, and Mr. F. Hourani, Hon. Sec. The principal subscribers to the fund were:—Messrs. S. and S. Sednaoui, £200; Mr. E. Kahla, £200; Mr. J. Majdalany, £100; Messrs. Hourani and Racy, £100; Mr. K. Jebara, £100; and Mr. S. J. Cohen, £50.

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Stanford's "Map of the Russian Battle Front in Europe" (war map No. 19) is of much interest at the present time. It shows the Russian front in April of 1915 and that held after the great retirement, whence the present advance is being made, and though it is to a small scale (1:2,217,600), it is full of detail, very clearly drawn, and excellently produced. The price of the sheet (25 ins. x 18 ins.) is 2s. 6d., or the map can be obtained mounted either to fold in case or to hang on the wall, for 4s. 6d.

Messrs. Hutchinson and Co. will shortly publish "Through the Serbian Campaign," by Mr. G. Gordon-Smith. The author, who is an Englishman, accompanied the Serbian army as correspondent of a New York paper, and thus had opportunities of collecting authentic information at first hand. His book will be illustrated by photographs, many of which have been supplied by a Serbian army photographer.

Messrs. Longmans have just published "With the Twenty-Ninth Division in Gallipoli," by the Rev. O. Creighton. The book, which contains two maps, is priced at 3s. 6d. net.

A book published recently (Young, Liverpool) is "With Gypsies in Bulgaria." Its character is indicated by its title. The author travelled (in 1913) from Varna to Rustchuk with a party of gypsies in the guise of a Turkish peasant, and his experiences, though neither very adventurous nor very exciting, provide good material for an interesting book.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

GERMANY'S TURKISH DUPE.*

Readers who turn to this little book expecting to find it a mine of information regarding the city of the Khalifs, Mesopotamia, and Syria, will, we fear, be disappointed. The author's long residence in the East, his frequent journeys up and down the country, and the opportunities he has enjoyed of studying many types and mixing with many classes of the native population, undoubtedly qualify him to write a book of the kind we have in mind. But in the present instance he—like most of us just now—is more concerned with the great war; and he is bent on doing what lies in his power to show how carefully Germany laid her plans to conquer the East, as a first step to conquering the world. Especially is he keen on showing how, by gross treachery to the rest of Europe and to the cause of civilisation and humanity, Germany contrived to secure her hold upon Turkey, the evil effects of which we all deplore to-day. This being his object, the sub-title of his book is certainly appropriate; and if we cannot help regretting that he tells us little or nothing new about the East which he knows so well, we may, at the same time, feel grateful to him for helping the public to form a true conception of German policy in regard to Turkey, and, for that matter, in regard to the Near and Middle East in general. The more widely that policy is understood in this country the better.

Canon Parfit has little to say that will be new to anyone who has followed events in the Near East at all closely during the past quarter of a century. But it is obvious that he writes not for such students, but for the man who knows little or nothing of the subject. Indeed, the book consists of a series of articles which appeared originally in an evening paper; and it is obvious throughout that the author is appealing to a special audience—a "popular" audience, and not a "select" one. He certainly makes many points so clear that the dullest of readers can hardly fail to see how widespread was the German net, how deep-laid were the plans for stirring up the Moslem world against the enemies, not of Islam, but of Germany! The tale of the Kaiser's unholy bargain with Abdul Hamid and, later, with Enver Pasha, is told in graphic fashion; we are shown how the wily Teuton, by means of his missions, his schools, his acquisition of all sorts of commercial and financial privileges, obtained his grip on the unhappy Turk; and his readiness to sacrifice the Armenians without a flicker of compunction so long as it subserved his own purposes is made only too clear. The Canon's personal observations of the rapid increase in the number of Germans in Turkey during his residence in the country are noteworthy; so is what he writes (on pp. 66-67) regarding the honesty of German methods in competing for such an important business as the importation of oil engines into Syria. We would especially commend these pages to the notice of British engineering firms and of our Government.

The book, being in the nature of a patriotic offering to the cause that we all have at heart just now, it would be ungracious to criticise it too closely. We would, however, suggest that Canon Parfit sometimes generalises too freely. Thus, when he writes: "To suggest a deep dark plot to a Turk is to capture his interest and support; to advise him to be honest and just is to suggest the imposition of intolerable restrictions against which his whole being must rebel," he is certainly unfair. The observation might be true if applied to the official class—which is the class Canon Parfit would be most likely to meet in Baghdad and Jerusalem. But the "Turkish" official is very seldom a true Turk, and we have it on the authority of such good judges as Mr. D. G. Hogarth, Sir Mark Sykes, and many others, that the true Turk—the Anatolian Turk—is one of Nature's gentlemen—simple, honest, and admirable indeed.

We could wish that the author had avoided such a horrible German spelling of Rashid as "Raschid," which sets one's teeth on edge; and we do not admire "Bedowi" for "Bedawi" or "Bedawee." Again, to write of the Druzes as having "long been loyal to Great Britain" is surely neither quite discreet nor quite accurate. These, however, are trifling matters. We must thank Canon Parfit for a sturdy effort to hammer another nail into the coffin of German ambitions in the East, and trust that the nailing down process will be performed thoroughly and quickly.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From the Gulf to Ararat: An Expedition through Mesopotamia and Kurdistan. By G. E. Hubbard, Secretary of Delimitation Commission. Illustrated. (Blackwood and Sons. 10s. 6d. net.)

Les Persécutions des Yougoslaves; Procès politiques (1908-1916). With Introduction by Victor Bérard. Paris: Plon-Nourrit. 50c.)

* "Twenty Years in Baghdad and Syria: Showing Germany's Bid for the Mastery of the East." By Canon J. T. Parfit. (Simpkin, Marshall and Co. 1s.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

An illustration of M. Venizelos' popularity is brought out in the following incident, reported by an Athens correspondent:—"Quite recently a well-known merchant in Mitylene and a large shipper of olive oil, had a lot of two to three hundred casks of oil ready for shipment. The dock labourers, however, refused to move the casks because the merchant was well known as an anti-Venizelist. After certain negotiations, the labourers only agreed to shift the casks on condition that the merchant first stood up on the casks and called out 'Zito Venizelos,' ('Long live Venizelos') three times; which he eventually consented to do, much to the amusement of the spectators."

***

The same correspondent writes (on June 23):—"The temperature in Athens during the last ten days has been tropical, reaching on Wednesday last 112 deg. Fahrenheit in the shade. In connection with this abnormal heat coinciding with the presentation of the Note by the Allied Ministers, a street hawker was heard to remark, "Of course, what can you expect once Germany is all ablaze."

***

A few weeks ago, in writing of the German and Turkish efforts to mislead the Moslem world, I mentioned a remarkable document that I had received from a correspondent, and indicated that I hoped to refer to the subject again. The document lies before me at the present minute, and, frankly, the more I consider it the more puzzled do I become. It is entitled "The Fetva of the Jehad," and it starts off with the following announcement (in italics):—

The issuance by the head of Islam of the Fetva, or proclamation, announcing a Holy war, called upon all Mussulmans capable of carrying arms—and even upon Mussulman women—to fight against the powers with whom the Sultan was at war. In this manner, according to Constantinople newspapers, the Holy war became a duty not only for all Ottoman subjects, but for the 300,000,000 Moslems of the earth.

There follows a short appeal—intended, I fancy, to be fiery, but somehow missing the mark, and seeming utterly to lack conviction—to Moslems to "open their eyes" and to "grasp their weapons," and announcing there is "no longer a difference of nationality; there is no longer a difference of Culture." Then comes the Fetva; and, finally, we have "The Sultan's Proclamation to His People at the Declaration of War Against France, Russia, and England."

***

Now, as I have said, this thing puzzles me. It is quite clear, of course, that it aims at making all the trouble it can for ourselves and our Allies; but that is the only point about it that seems certain. There is, naturally enough, no indication whatsoever of its origin; and though it is quite well printed, the printer's name is discreetly omitted. It is, be it noted, in English, and not at all bad English either. But to whom do its authors hope that it will appeal? Or, rather, we might say, to whom *did* they hope that it would appeal? For to-day their hopes must be pretty well dead. The Moslem world has taken the measure of the Turco-German combine and has very little use indeed for it. It knows that the German idea of assisting Islam in Africa, for instance, is to encourage pig-breeding; and it recognises that the gang of adventurers who have usurped all power and authority at Constantinople would barter their nominal Sovereign and Khalif away as readily as they have bartered away their country's freedom; that they would bombard Medina and Mecca itself with as little scruple as they have bombarded the shrines of Meshed Ali and Meshed Hussein, if they thought it would serve their own selfish ends and purposes.

***

To whom, then, I ask again, did those who were responsible for this strange document hope that it would appeal? To educated Moslems in India? To Syrians in Europe and America, who left the Ottoman Empire because they could not and would not tolerate the Ottoman yoke? I give the problem up, happy to think that the wonderful production is unlikely to have had any great effect. But I admire one or two touches in it. The saving clause, "according to Constantinople newspapers," quoted in the introduction above, is distinctly neat. It suggests that the author of the effusion had his tongue in his cheek when he penned it. And the reference to the absence of any further "difference of culture" is quite pleasing. "Kultur" and "culture." Was it not Macaulay who detested the latter word, by the way? Finally, I observe that the Sultan's proclamation is dated: "On the 22 Djilhidje, 1332, or October 29, 1914." This corresponds with November 11 of the Gregorian calendar. Yet the proclamation talks of the British and French fleets having bombarded the Dardanelles and so forth, which, unless my memory plays me very false indeed, seems to be a trifle previous.

***

"Love," says some cantankerous poet, "makes a man a fool"; and what passes for Love amongst certain savage and semi-savage peoples certainly makes some men behave in a very foolish fashion. In the Sudan it was at one time a usual thing for two rivals to one fair's favours to submit to an ordeal known as "Mobatanah." This consisted in the rivals taking turns in giving one another a number of lashes with a whip, or blows with a stick, on the back, and the one who held out longest without any expression of pain was regarded as victor, and received the title of "Brother of the Girls." Naturally this survival of savagery has not been encouraged by the Sudan Government. It has, in fact, been practically stamped out in the towns. The *Sudan Times*, however, reports that a case of the kind took place recently at Hillet-el-Dabeh, near Khartoum North, and that one of the rivals expired as a result of the punishment he received. The victor, in this case, has failed to gain the prize of his victory, finding himself in prison instead of in the arms of his lady love. I wonder whether he thinks the charmer worth it all!

CORSAIR.

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.
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THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.
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THE LATE LORD KITCHENER.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, June 23.

A service was held in the English Protestant Church here on the 13th inst., at 11 a.m. (coinciding with the service held at St. Paul's), in memory of the late Lord Kitchener and all those who perished in H.M.S. Hampshire, also of the officers and sailors who lost their lives in the naval battle off Jutland.

The congregation included H.R.H. Princess Alice (Princess Andrew of Greece), Sir Francis Elliot and several members of the Legation, Colonel Fairholm, Military Attaché, Commander W. F. Sells, Naval Attaché, many military and naval officers *en passage*, and the members of the British Naval Mission to Greece, in all about twenty in full uniform. The British colony was fairly well represented, there being about 150 present.

The service was very short, but very impressive. The Rev. W. Gardner preached an eloquent sermon on the excellent qualities of the late Lord Kitchener as a soldier and a gentleman, making also sympathetic reference to all those who perished in the Hampshire, as well as to the brave and gallant 5,500 who lost their lives in the naval battle. The service was brought to a close by singing the first verse of the National Anthem.

ON THE SUDAN FRONTIER.

Sir Reginald Wingate has forwarded to Sir Henry McMahon, the High Commissioner in Egypt, an account of the suppression of a revolt by a Congolese chief, Sultan Bangazagene, against the French by combined French, British, and Belgian troops. The territory in question lies close to the frontier of the Bahr-el-Ghazal province of the Sudan, in the angle where the British French, and Belgian frontiers meet.

In February last Bangazagene suddenly attacked the French post at Mopoi, and the Chef de Division was forced to retire to the Belgian post of Bangaro, on the Mbomu. Major R. F. White, Essex Regiment, with a detachment of the Equatorial Battalion, posted guards on the frontier, and entered into communication with the rebel chief, who refused to surrender unless permitted to settle in the Bahr-el-Ghazal. On March 4 Major White, accompanied by Captain J. A. Clark, R.A.M.C., with eighty Equatorial troops and 600 native levies, crossed the frontier, and on the 16th occupied the post of Mopoi. Major White's camp was attacked that night and the following day by Bangazagene's band. The same day, March 17, the French Captain E. J. R. Lebouc, at the head of French and Belgian troops, besides native levies, who were approaching Mopoi, met and dispersed with heavy loss a party of the rebels. On March 18 combined operations were undertaken against the rebels. Many were killed and wounded, many were captured, and numbers surrendered. Bangazagene himself and a few followers escaped pursuit, but the French flag was rehoisted at Mopoi, and on March 20 Major White and his detachment returned to the Bahr-el-Ghazal. This was the first occasion on which arrangements concluded in 1915 for co-operative action by the local British, French, and Belgian forces were put in force. The prompt help rendered by Major White was most cordially recognised by M. Merlin, the Governor-General of French Equatorial Africa.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

"FROM MOSCOW TO THE PERSIAN GULF."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I request the courtesy of your columns to answer certain statements made in a review of my book "From Moscow to the Persian Gulf" which appeared in THE NEAR EAST on June 23?

I am aware that a writer who chooses to publish his work is bound to accept criticism, however unfavourable, but I consider that it is his duty to protest against mis-statements, and, more particularly, falsified quotation. Your reviewer says that my judgment is disqualified by "Russophobism"; in reality, I was a lover of Russia many years before the present war made it a fashion for English reviewers to express a blind admiration of everything Russian. I shall, therefore, take up your reviewer's statements in the order made.

I did not ignore "the omnipresence of German spies" in Turkestan, but, like everyone who has ever been in the country, I was perfectly well aware that Russian police regulations at the time when I travelled in Turkestan were intended to prevent in as far as possible the entrance not of Germans, but of Englishmen. Nothing in my book warrants the remark that I am "a strong partisan of the late Treasurer-General," and share his "suspicion of Russia." While fully appreciating all that Mr. Shuster accomplished, I am also conscious of his mistakes. There are very few references to "Muscovite outrages" in my book, and instead of retailing every story told me "without taking the trouble to sift truth from fiction," I have in the few cases where I relate such stories been careful to cite them, not as facts, but as the statements of Persians whose principal interest lay in their expression of Persian feeling. Even your reviewer will not deny that the Russians violated the shrine at Mashhad and hung the mullas at Tabriz. Surely one may be permitted to mention regrettable incidents in the history of a nation without being considered an enemy of that nation. Moreover, a person is not necessarily guilty of what your reviewer quaintly calls "illogism" because he regrets that a race should become so decadent as to provoke foreign intervention by its inability to exercise the natural right of self-government, and at the same time admits that such interference is both inevitable and salutary.

Your reviewer's misstatements are, however, of minor importance. What I must emphatically protest against is a deliberately falsified quotation. Your reviewer attributes the following assertion to me:—"Great Britain has been compelled by political necessity to violate her best traditions *in bringing Southern Persia within her sphere of influence.*" No such sentence is to be found in my book; it is composed of certain words of mine to which your reviewer has added his own conclusion. The dishonesty of such a proceeding needs no comment. As a matter of fact, my words did not refer to Southern Persia, and were completed by the quotation of a statement made to me by a British official of the highest rank. As I dislike political discussions, they were carefully avoided in my book; but, without entering into one here, I may state that many British officials, whom I have the honour of knowing and who are qualified to judge by their intimate knowledge of Persian affairs, agree with my idea, expressed in passing—namely, that Great Britain has violated her best traditions in Persia. There is, however, nothing in my book to indicate that they or I consider this violation of tradition to be other than inevitable, and, on the whole, productive of good. I may deplore certain incidents, yet heartily agree with your reviewer that "recent events have amply vindicated Anglo-Russian policy." As my admiration for both Great Britain and Russia is great, even if not blind, I feel justified in objecting to the manner in which he credits me with opinions that I neither expressed nor hold.

In regard to the transliteration of Persian names occurring in my book, I would say that most of the examples quoted with blame are to be found not in the text itself, but in the headings of the illustrations. The proofs of the text I corrected myself, but those of the illustrations I was forced by circumstances to leave to a proof-reader; he did his work badly, making innumerable mistakes that I regret more than anyone. Your reviewer might have realised that such spellings as Moskov and Mawruz (not, as he says, Mowroz) are typographical errors, and not blunders that even a passing traveller would commit. As I make no pretence of being a Persian scholar, but dislike the confusing spelling of Persian names formerly in use, the work of transliteration was done not by myself, but by a professor of Persian quite able to defend his ideas on the subject. Turkomen is, of course, a careless slip of my own, which deserves criticism. However, it does not follow that a person who does not read Persian "knows no language but his vernacular," nor is an "American" necessarily "a young journalist." I would suggest to your reviewer that when one knows absolutely nothing about the writer whose work is being criticised a sense of courtesy might cause one to omit rather than to insert personalities.—I am, etc.,

BENJAMIN BURGES MOORE.

No. 31, rue de Valois, Paris, June 29, 1916.

RAMADAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I read in *Le Matin* that this July 1 being also the first day of Ramadan, during which lunar month Mussulmen are enjoined by the Koran to fast from sunrise to sunset, orders were given that all facilities be accorded Mussulman troops for observing this injunction. It is, no doubt, very considerate on the part of our gallant Allies to do this, but it betrays at the same time an ignorance of the Koranic law, which explicitly dispenses from fasting anyone who happens to be during Ramadan ill or on a journey, and, *a fortiori*, fighting! We must, therefore, not be surprised or shocked if these troops do not fast this Ramadan, as even water and smoke are not permitted to touch a fasting lip. The higher fast is, of course, to keep a clean heart and tongue, and this entails no physical hardship, and can be observed at all seasons.—I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER SEFI.

London, July 1, 1916.

THE TRANSLITERATION OF PROPER NAMES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—My thanks to you and "F. H. S.," but I must really ask you, Sir, to provide yourself with some Persian "type," as the point of my letter is entirely lost without the reproduction of the Persian script to show the true Persian renderings of the words referred to; because, after all, the transliteration of Persian is a mere matter of opinion, and it is no proof of pedantry if it is transliterated in such a fashion as to render it easily and correctly pronounceable by the veriest tyro. I hold, on the other hand, that it is consummate pedantry to retain obsolete forms which are absolutely wrong and do not even approximate to the correct sounds of the words intended. "The vast majority of readers," knowing no better, accept what the pedant imposes on them; but it does not follow that they thereby obtain even a colourable substitute for the correct word—"household," or otherwise. Two wrongs do not make a right.

I quite agree with "F. H. S." that the author of a book containing Eastern words, and who confesses his ignorance of Oriental languages, should ask some competent person to correct his transliteration, but it becomes again a matter of opinion as to who *is* competent.

It must not be forgotten that the bastard Persian spoken and written in India is not suitable to the transliteration of *real* Persian.

May I ask, for instance, if "F. H. S." would say "nau kar" for "servant"—"au" representing the sound of "au" in "taut"?

"F. H. S." fails to tell us from whence he derives the word "Dilkhusha." I am familiar with the forms (Hunterian) "Dil-khwush" and "Dil-khwushee" (Del-khush), which mean "glad" and "glee," as applied to something causing the heart to rejoice from sensual contentment and consolation—e.g., good news; but there is a distinct and subtile difference between the meaning of "Del-khush" and "Del-gushau," which expresses something attracting the heart through the visual sense, as a landscape or garden.

No educated Persian would use these two words indiscriminately. At least, that is my experience.

May I suggest that "F. H. S." means "Dilkusha" (Hunterian), the Indian form of "Del-gushau" with the Kaf-e-'Arabi instead of the "Kaf-e-Farsi"?

I certainly have never met the form "Dilkhusha" as here written and pronounced, and venture to suggest that there is no such word in the Persian language.—I am, etc., B. W. S.

An unconfirmed Salonika report states that numerous cases of cholera have broken out in the garrisons and among the civil population of Constantinople and Smyrna.

A considerable number of private letters have been received in Australia from prisoners of war in Turkey, and in every case, apparently, the prisoner is being well treated by his captors.

General Callaris, the Greek Minister of War, has issued a circular to commanders of units reprobating anti-Venizelist demonstrations on the part of the reservists in process of disbandment.

According to an Athens report, telegraphic communication between Greece and Turkey viâ Bulgaria has been cut off since June 27. This is attributed to Bulgarian military activity on a large scale in Thrace. Another Athens message says that the Bulgarians have shot the Greek Archbishop of Ossiani at Ghevgeli.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. July	1916. June.		1334. Ramadan	5676. Tamuz
7	24	Friday	6	6
8	25	Saturday.....	7	7
9	26	Sunday	8	8
10	27	Monday	9	9
11	28	Tuesday	10	10
12	29	Wednesday	11	11
13	30	Thursday	12	12

Wednesday is the birthday of King Peter of Serbia, who was born in Belgrade on June 29, 1844 (O.S.).

Wednesday is also the birthday of Prince John, the fifth son of the King and Queen, who was born at Sandringham in 1905.

On the occasion of the Shah's birthday last week (Thursday), Sir Arthur Walsh, his Majesty's Master of the Ceremonies, called on the Persian Minister and conveyed his Majesty's felicitations and good wishes.

The Hereditary Princess of Montenegro has arrived at the Hôtel Lotti, Paris, from Bordeaux.

Lady Inchcape and the Hon. Elsie and the Hon. Effie Mackay joined Lord Inchcape at Achnacarry, Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire, last week.

Lady Maxwell was reported to be a little better at the end of last week, but was still confined to the house.

Sir William Willcocks left Port Said for England on June 17.

M. Radovitch, the Montenegrin Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Finance, has arrived in London to arrange certain matters affecting his country. In connection with these questions he has called at the Foreign Office, and was also received on Monday by the Russian Ambassador.

The Roumanian Minister and Mme. Misu and M. Slavko Grouitch were among the guests entertained at dinner on Monday evening by Lord and Lady Swaythling.

Sir Edward Grey saw the Greek Minister at the Foreign Office on Wednesday afternoon.

The Crown Prince of Serbia has conferred upon the Lord Mayor the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Sava and upon Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Touche, M.P., Mr. Sheriff Shead, and Alderman Sir Henry Knight the Order of St. Sava (II. Class).

The marriage arranged between A. Gordon Haynes Lovell, M.D., F.R.C.S., only son of Mr. and Mrs. Haynes Lovell, of 3a, Hans Crescent, and Dorothy Constance, only daughter of the late Canon Marriott, of Redhill Rectory, Havant, and St. George's College, Jerusalem, and of Mrs. Marriott, of Ellesmere, King's Acre Road, Hereford, will take place at Hereford in August.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Harington, D.S.O., Rifle Brigade, who is officially reported wounded, saw service in the Sudan and took part in the battle of Omdurman. He also served in the South African War.

Judge Walter Bond, Vice-President of the Native Court of Appeal, left Cairo on June 15 for England. He was seen off at the station by his colleagues of the Court of Appeal, Ahmed Bey Loutfi, President of the Native Bar Council, and several others.

Mr. H. Griffith, Chief Inspector of the Mines Department, Egyptian Government, is coming to England on duty in connection with the recent coal discoveries at Esna. On completion of his duty he will be granted two months' leave to be spent in England.

Major H. D. Pearson has returned to Khartoum from his mission to Lake Tsana. The other members of the party, Mr. A. B. Buckley and Mr. O. L. Prowde, of the Egyptian Irrigation Service, stopped for a few days at Makwar. Major Thomson, R.A.M.C., who was also a member of the party, stopped at Roseires to resume his duties there.

M. Slavko Grouitch, the Secretary-General of the Serbian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, who is now in London, is taking an active part with the American Red Cross Society and the Swiss Committee for the relief of the starving Serbians.

The *London Gazette* announces that "the King has been pleased, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, to confer the dignity of a Baron of the said United Kingdom upon the Right Hon. Sir Arthur Nicolson, Baronet, G.C.B., G.C.M.G, G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., by the name, style, and title of Baron Carnock of Carnock, in the county of Stirling."

A British colonel in Mesopotamia, in a private letter received at Grahamstown (Cape Colony), writes that the Turkish Commander at Kut-el-Amarah and General Townshend were both brought up in France, where they were schoolfellows and friends in the same school. They immediately recognised each other.

The *World* understands that Sir George Arthur, Bart., is writing the biography of Lord Kitchener, with special assistance from Lord Derby. Sir George knew Lord Kitchener intimately for thirty years.

The will of Lord Kitchener was proved last week, the gross value of the estate being £171,421, and the net value £146,586. The will is dated November 2, 1914. Lord Kitchener appointed Arthur Henry Renshaw, of Watlington Park, Oxford, and the Hon. Algernon Henry Mills, of 67, Lombard Street, as the executors and trustees of the estate. He bequeathed £1,000, free of duty, to his brother, Colonel Henry Elliott Chevallier Kitchener, adding: "I give him this legacy and nothing else because he is already well off and because of the large benefits conferred by my will on his issue." He devised his house and estate in Kent, known as Broome Park, to the use of Commander Henry Franklin Chevallier Kitchener, R.N., son of his brother, H. E. C. Kitchener, and his assigns during his life. All the furniture, china, statuary, works of art, and effects at Broome Park are vested in his trustees and devolve upon the same trusts as Broome Park. His swords of honour, plate, and other gifts presented to him by public, municipal, or official bodies, are to be enjoyed as heirlooms with the Broome Park estate. He bequeathed £20,000 for investments upon trust for his nephew, Henry Hamilton Kitchener; £5,000 upon trust to his half-sister, Letitia Henrietta Emma Kawara Kitchener; to Arthur Henry Renshaw £2,000 upon trust for his son, Horatio Herbert Renshaw (Lord Kitchener's godson); and £200, free of duty, to his godson, Maurice Bovill.

Under the auspices of the Serbian Relief Fund, an exhibition of Serbian needlework, made in the workrooms of the Fund in Corsica, will be held at 5, Cromwell Road, from July 10 to July 15. H.E. the Serbian Minister will open the exhibition on Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock, and it will be open each afternoon of the week from 3 to 6.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in Salonika makes an urgent appeal for contributions to his hospitals for wounded soldiers. He asks for mineral waters, light muslin for windows, pyjamas for the wounded, rocking armchairs and folding deck-chairs. Stationery, ink and pencils, and all kinds of games will be welcome. Donations in goods or money should be addressed to Countess Morella, President for the Assistance aux Hopitaux, 24, Grosvenor Square, W.

SUDAN PROMOTIONS.

Mr. P. Ball, one of the six British officials who have passed the higher standard of the Arabic Examination for British officials in the Sudan, is a Third Inspector of the White Nile Province, stationed at Geteina, and he has been in the service of the Sudan Government since the end of September, 1913.

Mr. J. H. Goldsmith, also a successful candidate in the higher standard, is a Third Inspector in the Red Sea Province, stationed at Port Sudan. He has seen some three years' service, having first joined in June, 1913.

Mr. A. D. Home, whose name appears in the same list, is a Third Inspector in the Kassala Province, quartered at Gallabat, and has had less than three years' service. Mr. J. G. Monteath and Mr. J. A. Reid fill the position of Third Inspector respectively in the Berber and the Kordofan Provinces, both officials being at present on leave. It is noteworthy that these two gentlemen, as well as Mr. A. D. Home, additionally passed the Law Examination held at Khartoum on March 30 and April 1 last.

Mr. E. G. Coryton, a Third Inspector in the Kordofan Province, who is at present on leave from the Sudan upon medical grounds, and Mr. W. I. Cheesman, a Third Inspector in the Halfa Province, stationed at Wadi Halfa, have also passed the Law Examination held at Khartoum.

The appointment of Captain J. F. Bassett to the Governorship of the Upper Nile is in accordance with expectation. For some years he had been Senior Inspector of that province and Acting-Governor, with official residence at Malakal. Captain Bassett has been in the Administration since May of 1907, and succeeds Captain F. W. Woodward as Governor. He moved his headquarters to Malakal from Kodok in the early part of 1914. The former Senior Inspector of the Upper Nile Province, Captain G. B. Wauchope, now Senior Inspector of Kassala, is now Acting-Governor of the province, the Governor, Major C. H. Townsend, being on leave, owing to indisposition.

Captain Bassett will now have for his Senior Inspector Captain C. H. Stigand, who has been promoted from the post first of Second and later of First Inspector. Stationed formerly at Nasser and now at Malakal, the headquarters of the Administration, Captain Stigand has been over six years in the service of the Government.

Mr. F. P. Osborne, who for some time occupied the position of Second Inspector of the Legal Department (Kanuni), with residence at Renk, has been appointed Province Judge at El Damer, in the Berber Province, the appointment dating from January 1. Mr. Osborne has had some eleven years' service to his credit in the Government.

Mr. W. D. C. L. Purves, a Third Inspector in the Administration of the Berber Province, who has been granted absence on sick leave until July 9, has been gazetted a First-class Magistrate under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Charge for Announcements under this Heading is 3s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

MARRIAGES.

GIBSON—BERNARD.—On June 27, at the Minster, Wimborne, by the Rev. T. S. Gibson, assisted by Canon Fletcher, Ralf Sumner Gibson, Captain R.M.L.I. (attached Egyptian Army), second surviving son of the Bishop of Gloucester, to Anne Christina, second daughter of the Rev. E. R. Bernard, Chancellor of Salisbury.

OAKES—JONES.—On June 3, at St. Saviour's, Oxton, Francis Edward Oakes, Sudan Government Railways, youngest son of the late Colonel Richard Francis Oakes, R.E., to Kathleen Frances, youngest daughter of the late Frederick Gregory Jones, of Liverpool.

FRENCH, English, Spanish, Italian, German, Scandinavian Languages, Greek, etc., rapidly taught by natives.
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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

A Reuter's message from Athens announces that Admiral Damianos, the new Minister of Marine, took up his duties on Wednesday.

The *Egyptian Gazette* reports that Mr. Arthur B. Geary, H.M.'s Vice-Consul at Alexandria, has been transferred to Salonika for the time being.

Mr. Ireland, Inspector General of Irrigation for Upper Egypt, has been granted three and a-half months' leave of absence, to be spent in England. Mr. Baxwell, Inspector, Fourth Circle of Irrigation, will act as Inspector General of Irrigation, Upper Egypt, during Mr. Ireland's absence.

The *Egyptian Gazette* (June 21) reports: The Marquess Salvago-Raggi will, it is stated, be shortly sent to Egypt by the Italian Government on an extraordinary mission. The Marquess is a distinguished Italian diplomatist, and some years ago was on the staff of the Italian Diplomatic Agency at Cairo.

Major Whishaw has returned to Khartoum after an absence of over a year.

The following British officers have been attached to the Egyptian Army as special service officers, granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and attached for duty as follows:—

Major E. Keith Roach, Lancashire Fusiliers, to Khartoum District.

Captain A. F. Vingoe, Middlesex Regiment, to Sobat Pibor District.

Captain R. A. Colville, Worcestershire Yeomanry, to Sobat Pibor District.

Lieutenant S. F. Austin, Berks Yeomanry, to Khartoum District.

El Miralai N. W. Gardner Bey, Officer Commanding Arab Battalion, has retired from service in the Egyptian Army.

OBITUARY.

SIR GASTON MASPERO, K.C.M.G.

Widespread regret was caused last week by the announcement, conveyed in a Reuter's message from Paris, of the death of Sir Gaston Maspero, the famous Egyptologist and Permanent Secretary to the Academie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres. He died last Friday while attending a meeting of the Academy.

Born in Paris June 23, 1846, Sir Gaston was educated at the Lycée le Grand and the Ecole Normale. The subject of hieroglyphic writing interested him very early in his career, and while he was still at the Ecole Normale he made the acquaintance of Mariette, who was at the time in Paris as Commissioner for the Egyptian section of the International Exhibition. The great Egyptologist gave him some recently-discovered hieroglyphic texts on which to test his skill, and in a fortnight young Maspero produced some very creditable translations, a feat of no mean order, since Egyptology was then in its infancy, and he had few, if any, "authorities" to guide or aid him. This established his reputation, and in 1869 he became Professor of Egyptology at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes. In 1874, having meanwhile (1873) become a Docteur ès Lettres, he was appointed Professor of Egyptian Philology and Archæology at the College of France. In 1880 he went to Egypt for the first time, as head of an archæological mission despatched by the French Government; and shortly afterwards succeeded Mariette as director of the Boulak Museum. About this time he deciphered, translated into French, edited, and published the texts of the Sakkarah Pyramids. His translation, though not perfect, was a remarkable piece of work, which has been of great value to other Egyptologists, and is likely, as Dr. Wallis Budge says, to "remain for a very long time the base of all investigations" of such texts. In 1887 his services to science were recognised by the University of Oxford, which honoured itself in conferring on him the Hon. D.C.L. During the five years he served as Director-General of Excavations and of the department of Antiquities, he carried out important work at Luxor, where he cleared the Temple; at Karnak, where he restored the Hypostyle Hall of the great Temple; and at Thebes.

He returned to Egypt in 1899 as Director of Excavations and head of the Department of Antiquities, and remained there till 1914, during which time the transfer of the great national collection of antiquities from Gizeh to the new museum at Kasr-en-Nil was effected. His work in superintending the classification, re-arrangement, and cataloguing of exhibits laid students of Egyptology under a fresh debt to him, and the manner in which he carried out his duties gave general satisfaction, even to the archæologists, who are not perhaps as a body very easily satisfied as a rule.

He was the author of many books, amongst those published in English being "The Dawn of Civilisation," a popular account of Ancient Egypt and Babylonia; "Egyptian Archæology," "The Struggle of the Nations," "New Light on Ancient Egypt," "The Passing of the Empires," "Egypt, Ancient Sites and Modern Scenes," and "Art in Egypt." His profound knowledge of his subject did not prevent his writing in a popular style, quite lacking the "dry-as-dust" touch of many Egyptological writers, and many of his attempts to set before our eyes the life of the ancient Egyptians or the old-time inhabitants of Mesopotamia are eminently successful.

King Edward bestowed an Hon. K.C.M.G. upon Professor Maspero in 1909, in recognition of his labours in the field of archæology, and the news of the honour was received both in Egypt and in this country with as much satisfaction as it was in France.

Professor Maspero was twice married, first (1871) to Harriet Yapp, who died three years later; and, secondly, to Louise d'Estournelles Constant de Rebecque. He leaves two sons and one daughter.

The death of Major-General Augustus E. Warren occurred at his residence in Cornwall Gardens on Sunday in his eighty-seventh year. He served with the 82nd Foot in the Crimea, being at the siege and fall of Sebastopol and receiving the medal with clasp and the Turkish medal. He also served in the Indian Mutiny, when he was at the relief of Lucknow, and took part in a number of other operations, and in the Afghan War of 1880. Later he was in command of the 77th Regimental District, and retired in 1885.

The death took place at Torquay last Saturday of Colonel Lucius F. B. Cary, Lord of the Manor of Torre Abbey and St. Marychurch. Colonel Cary served both in the Navy and Army. He remained in the Navy for about five years, being attached to the Black Sea Fleet during the Crimean campaign. He was in the old sailing ship Albion, and was at the bombardment of Odessa and Sebastopol. In 1857 he joined the Rifle Brigade, and served in it for thirty-one years. His active service included the Ashanti and Burma campaigns. Colonel Cary lost his brother in the Crimean War.

The recent notification in the Roll of Honour that Second Lieut. G. H. Fox, R.A., formerly reported missing after the engagement at Katia, must now be considered killed, records the heaviest loss that the Ministry of Justice in Cairo has suffered through the war, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. Judge Fox went to Egypt in July, 1906, as Inspector in the Ministry of Justice, and was raised to the Bench in the Court of First Instance of Tantah in January, 1913. A keen lawyer, an indefatigable worker, and a capable Arabic scholar, he soon earned the respect of his native colleagues and the warm regard of all those who were admitted to his friendship. Like so many others, he, being unmarried and under forty, felt it his duty to volunteer for active service, and obtained leave to join the Army in August of last year. He spent six months training with the Royal Artillery at Newcastle, and had recently been sent out to Egypt, where, owing to his knowledge of Arabic, he was employed as Intelligence Officer. He joined the force with which it was his tragic fate to see his first and last fight only a few hours before the engagement. One among many of the brilliant careers sacrificed to the war, his loss bears with peculiar hardship upon a judiciary whose ranks can ill suffer the loss of so much ability and devotion to duty.

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THE SYRIAN PROBLEM.

Syria presents a two-fold problem, in the present condition of its unfortunate inhabitants and in regard to the future of the country. A not unnatural reluctance to raise the latter question at this period threatens to prevent the necessary steps being taken to cope with the existing state of affairs; but if there be the least foundation for the reports of all that the Syrians are suffering, uncertainty regarding the ultimate status of the country ought not to hinder efforts being made to alleviate as far as possible the lot of this people. Their troubles comprise not only a serious shortage of food, but also active persecution at the hands of the Turks. We have been able to record in these pages the measures recently set on foot to secure the dispatch of foodstuffs to Syria. The Syrians in Egypt were the first to move in the matter, and they are now meeting with generous support in America, where a deputation of their fellow-countrymen has waited upon President Wilson and received a formal promise of help. Little difficulty should be experienced in raising a substantial sum of money for Syrian relief purposes; but it may be a more serious matter to provide for the distribution of supplies in a satisfactory manner. The good offices of the Americans must again be relied upon, and it is gratifying to know that they are willing to help. The first desideratum is that no time should be lost. Between the collection of the necessary funds in Egypt or the United States and the arrival of provisions in Syria there must be a considerable hiatus. The interval, unless other steps are taken to deal with the problem, may prove fatal to large numbers of Syrians. For this reason, and with a view to dealing with the persecution to which their leading men are being subjected, it is to be hoped that the American Government will endeavour to effect an immediate amelioration of the conditions in Syria by means of emphatic representations in Constantinople. Quite apart from the humanitarian grounds which would justify such action, the United States, as a Cairo correspondent pointed out a few weeks ago in these columns, have moral and economic interests in Syria which they cannot afford to neglect and leave exposed to such risks as the present conditions are calculated to cause. The Syrian Protestant College at Beyrout has played much the same rôle in Syria as the Robert College outside Constantinople in the spread of Western education and ideas in European Turkey and Bulgaria. America can hardly be willing to see her educational work stultified by the wholesale destruction of a people for whom she has shown special solicitude. She was too late to save the Armenians; but there is, in all probability, still time to intervene on behalf of the Syrians, and there can be little doubt that both the Turks and their German mentors will prove more amenable to American representations than they were a year ago.

The most effective method of relieving the lot of the Syrians would be the dispatch of an expedition to oust the Turks from Syria. As there is little chance of this course being pursued in the present state of the war, we must rely upon relief funds and diplomatic representations. When so much is at stake for the Allied Powers on half-a-dozen battlefields, some difficulty is felt in certain quarters in realizing that Syria can have any special claim upon their attention. But to Great Britain it bears an even closer relation than Armenia does to Russia. As a writer in the *Nineteenth Century*, quoted in our last issue, reminds us, the significance of Asiatic Turkey may best be gauged by imagining the Turkish Government in Asia replaced by that of a strong and ambitious military Power. "A strong European military Power, firmly settled in Asiatic Turkey, disposing of two million Turkish-Asiatic soldiers and of a sufficiency of railways and a fleet, could make Constantinople and Egypt almost untenable." The contention is a strong argument for regulating the future status of Asiatic Turkey in a way which will prevent it from being a standing menace to the world's peace. Syria in such a scheme would play a prominent part on account of its proximity to Egypt. Great Britain, therefore, can never be indifferent to its fate. If the Turks are now engaged in an attempt to depopulate the country, it may be taken for granted that they and the Germans have good reasons for ridding themselves of the people whose destruction they are working. The Allied Powers have no belief in achieving peace in any region at the price of creating a wilderness. Whatever may be the ultimate political fate of Syria, the Entente must wish to see it populous and prosperous. Its agricultural potentialities are by no means negligible, and, if duly fostered, may win for the country a conspicuous place in the economic world. Turco-German anxiety to do away with the greater part of the present population not only supplies the reason for prompt action on the part of the Allied Powers and neutral States to thwart the enemy's object on humanitarian grounds, but also threatens the future of Syria and its usefulness when peace is restored.

It is generally understood that the reluctance of the Allied Powers to deal with the Syrian question arises from the fact that any proposed settlement introduces so many complications that the Governments concerned instinctively wish to defer the day when they will be compelled to deal with the subject. In a war of this magnitude a sense of proportion must be maintained, and it cannot be urged that Syria has prior claims over the regions where fighting has already taken place. But it is difficult to subscribe to the theory that a Government worthy of the name is able to cope with only a limited number of foreign problems. It would be thought that a Government's capacity in these matters must necesarily be coextensive with its responsibilities. There are cogent reasons for deferring a final settlement of the Syrian question until after the war; but these ought not to be allowed to interfere with measures for the relief of the present sufferings of the Syrians. The movement for the emancipation of Syria from Turkish rule originates with the people themselves; it formed no part of the objects which the Allies had in view in accepting Germany's challenge, but, as a result of Turkey's entry into the war, it must naturally be taken into consideration in any peace settlement. Among the suggestions canvassed by the Syrians four may be said to hold the field. They are, annexation by France, the establishment of a dual Sultanate of Egypt and Syria, an autonomous State on the lines of an enlarged Lebanon, and incorporation in a future Arab confederation. There is no need to analyse these different proposals at this time. They all presuppose "cutting the painter" as far as Turkey is concerned, and the substitution of a distinct relationship, varying only in point of closeness, with the Grand Alliance. The Allies, therefore, have a duty to perform to the Syrians more definite than in the case of any other of the subject races of Turkey. A settlement of the Syrian question must be found on lines which commend themselves to the bulk of the Syrian people as conforming to the principle of nationality, or at least as offering the best scope for the maintenance and development of Syrian nationality. In such a settlement there ought not to be any room for differences of opinion among the Allied Powers; still less ought the prospect of such a settlement to offer any embarrassment to the respective Governments in arriving at a decision for dealing with the present situation in Syria. Relief funds and American representations in Constantinople, as already stated, are the most practical means of securing an immediate improvement in the lot of the Syrians; but these measures are likely to be shorn of their effectiveness, unless it is made clear that they have the strong backing of the Allied Powers.

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JUSTICE IN EGYPT.

THE JUDICIAL ADVISER'S REPORT.—II.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

The Mixed Tribunals.

The outstanding feature of the past year in the Mixed Courts has been the reduction in the size of the benches, which has been rendered possible by the disappearance from these courts of the chief opponents of the scheme, Germany and Austria. The benches of the Appeal Court have been reduced from eight to five counsellors, and those of the First Instance Courts from five to three judges. These are, of course, early days to say whether the hopes of the Government, and of those who supported it, have been realised, for the reorganization has only been in operation seven judicial months. It would appear, however, from the tables presented for the Appeal Court that there has already been an increase of 26.6 per cent. in the number of judgments on appearance delivered by that court during the period in question. This is in itself an indication of what should be the result of a full year's work in all the courts, but we shall not be able to judge this until the next report. All things considered, the work of the Mixed Tribunals, despite the disadvantage under which they laboured owing to vacancies and absence through ill-health of several judges, has been satisfactory; and although the new cases set down during the year increased by 30 per cent., the arrears at the end of the judicial year were substantially the same as at the close of the preceding one.

Revision of the Codes.

The Commission instituted in 1913 for the purpose of revising the Code of Civil and Commercial Procedure has continued its sittings during the year under review. Numerous discussions, ranging over practically the whole field of procedure, with the exception of execution of proceedings on real property, have taken place; and the study has so far advanced that a preliminary project of certain chapters has been submitted for discussion. The Adviser refers to the many difficulties that have to be encountered in the preparation of a code of this nature, and points out the conflicting standpoints that have to be conciliated. But whilst "we must do our best to guard against the danger of too precipitate and profound a break with the past, it is no less necessary to eschew excessive timidity and exaggerated caution in the introduction of novel features." At the inaugural meeting it was decided that the mission of the Commission should be to innovate freely in existing institutions, and this is the spirit in which the work is being tackled. The existing Mixed and Native Codes of Procedure are directly based on the French Code of Procedure; but the latter is hopelessly out of date, as many leading authorities have freely pointed out, and little assistance in the matter of reform is to be obtained from French sources. Many other Continental countries whose laws, being based on Napoleonic precedents, are nearly akin to Egyptian legislation, have introduced notable reforms into their law and practice during the past century, and the Commission has endeavoured to profit by their labours. Whilst, however, there may be objections to making brusque and radical changes in a substantive law, "which has now been in force in Egypt for some forty years, and in spite of many defects has, on the whole, stood the test of experience fairly well," such objections are not so strong when it comes to changes in procedure. For this reason the champions of English procedure stand a good chance of winning the day; and with the precedent of Canada, where an essentially French system of law has been effectively combined with purely British machinery in its administration, before his eyes, the Adviser anticipates "that the new Procedure Code will draw largely on English models, while endeavouring to adapt them effectively to Egyptian conditions and fit them harmoniously into its somewhat complicated organization." The task of producing a code which, while not free from criticism, "may yet, in its entirety, be found acceptable by both native and European opinion," is not an easy one, and "an early solution of all the difficulties encountered is hardly to be looked for in spite of the zeal and diligence of those concerned in its execution." The Judicial Adviser here pays a graceful tribute to the Government officials and public-spirited private persons who have given up so much of their time during the past year to this arduous work.

Legislation.

During the year under review there has been no legislation of any importance by the ordinary channels. Such legislation as has been found to be necessary, has been effected by means of proclamations under the martial law régime. Those responsible for the military control of Egypt have, however, been by no means hampered "by all the embarrassments which attended the rulers of Egypt in peaceful times." Where public safety was concerned, they recognised no distinction between native and foreigner, and "the privileged jurisdiction of the capitulatory régime has been powerless to dispute" the uniform sway of their power. New offences were created, punishable by military courts and corresponding with the regulations made in England under the Defence of the Realm Acts, and where other enactments of the military authority might equally well have been made by departmental order, the particular benefit of the proclamation lay in the fact that it was enforceable against the whole population without exception. There is little doubt that the measures introduced under the military régime have been most salutary and helpful. In the first place, it has been possible to deal far more drastically than in the past with the sale of deleterious liquors, which went on to such a scandalous extent during peace time and which acquired alarming proportions on the outbreak of war and the advent of large numbers of troops. Secondly, the aid of the military authority was obtained in the matter of stopping undue speculation in articles of prime necessity, and also to reinforce the local law in regard to the powers of expropriation in the public interest enjoyed *vis-à-vis* foreigners by the Government.

Perhaps the most striking instance of the military régime coming to the aid of the civil authority and setting a term to a state of affairs which could never have arisen but for the existence of extra-territorial privilege was the proclamation ordering all and sundry to pay the *ghafir* tax whenever the demand might be made to them. The local force of *ghafirs*, which is necessary to the preservation of public order, is partly maintained by the levying of contributions, in return for service, on the inhabitants; but as the collection of the tax had never been agreed to by the various Powers, in practice it was only enforceable against natives. On the ground, however, that the maintenance of a proper and sufficient force of *ghafirs* was essential in the interests of public security, the military authority ordered all inhabitants, no matter what their nationality, to pay what was demanded of them, under pain of being punished for disobeying a military order in the event of their failure to comply with this request. Thus "equality before the Military Law suspended the régime of chartered privileges before the local authority."

The Adviser draws attention to the fact that by proclamation civil cases between enemy subjects, which would, under ordinary circumstances, have come before the German or Austrian Consular Courts, were handed over to the British Consular authorities sitting as special courts, applying the foreign personal law, whenever it was appropriate, the foreign civil law whenever the contract was between two Germans or two Austrians, and in other cases English law. The procedure was, however, to be that of a British Court. The Adviser says that "it is another example of the tolerance, which has characterised the treatment of enemy subjects in Egypt, that British judges in time of war should be called upon to administer the family law and the law of civil obligations of the enemy"; and he closes this brief survey of military ordinances in their effect upon foreign privileges with the statement that "it heralds the coming of an epoch in which there shall be unity and uniformity of legislative and administrative rules for all residents in the country whether native or foreign." The negotiations for the abolition of the anomalous Capitulatory privileges, which were in course, have perforce had to be suspended, but meanwhile "some valuable experience has been gained in the working of a system which establishes one rule for all who are resident in the country, whether in regard to penal offences, administrative measures, local rates, or the regulation of trade."

Some Interesting Decisions.

Since the country is on the eve of some new judicial organization, Sir Malcolm considers it opportune to cite some decisions of the Courts which "illustrate at once the peculiar complications of jurisdiction and law which arise in the cosmopolitan society and the peculiar conditions under which the law is moulded by a Court consisting of judges of various countries and various traditions not accepting the English idea of binding precedent." At the same time some of them illustrate "strikingly the tangles of legal relationship, which arise from the present absence of international agreement upon conflicts of private law." Problems arising out of marriage between persons of different nationality are of frequent occurrence, and considerable conflict of opinion has been evident in the Courts. The nationality of a European woman who marries an Ottoman subject has been the subject of differing decisions, but the Mixed Court of Appeal has now definitely held that she loses her nationality and becomes an Ottoman subject herself. A notorious case where an Egyptian Mohammedan Princess under interdiction married a Russian resulted in her marriage being declared null in Egypt, though perfectly valid in Russia, an anomaly which is "inevitable so long as there is not one single law or an International Court of Conflicts for the civilised world."

Whilst willing to deal, according to the accepted rules of private international law, with disputed questions of nationality,

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which formerly were settled through diplomatic channels, the Mixed Courts take particular care in matters of foreign personal status either to leave them to the Consular Courts or to give full effect in their decisions to the rules of the personal law in question; and there have been during the past year several interesting judgments in this respect. They have also shown their willingness to extend their sphere in other directions. Thus on two occasions last year the question was raised of the competence of the Mixed Courts to deal with cases between natives and Bulgarians, on the ground that Bulgaria was not a party to the Reforme Judiciaire. Having regard to the fact that the Mixed Courts "have frequently asserted that they are the courts of general jurisdiction in civil and commercial matters, competent between all persons of different nationality residing in Egypt," and that they have on several occasions claimed to deal with suits between Persians, Moors, Brazilians, and natives, the Court of Appeal, after decisions to the contrary in the lower jurisdictions, decided that the Mixed Tribunals have jurisdiction in all ordinary civil and commercial cases between foreigners, even if they are subjects of Powers that were not parties to the Reforme Judiciaire. The Adviser points out that "the Mixed Courts have indeed developed from the class of exceptional to that of general jurisdiction, and their claim to decide all mixed cases has come to be recognized by the native courts."

Enemy Subjects.

The treatment of enemy subjects before the Courts has also given rise to some interesting decisions. When war broke out the status of those subjects and of trading firms having partial or entire enemy membership was not clearly defined. It was forbidden to enter into new contracts with persons resident in enemy territory, but the execution of existing contracts and the payment of past debts were left unprovided for. Moreover, Egypt did not possess, like England, a common-law doctrine rendering illegal all intercourse with enemies. In January, 1915, a Proclamation was issued dealing more fully with these matters, and certain precautionary measures were taken for the control of local branches of enemy firms. The Proclamation "adopted the English criterion of residence as against nationality for determining capacity to appear, and it adopted also the English rule of recognizing the independent character of branches of enemy houses situated in the country in regard to transactions exclusively connected with the branch." It has fallen to the Mixed Courts to interpret this part of the Proclamation and its amending orders. Their decisions are certainly interesting. They decided to "strike out of the lists any case in which the plaintiffs were in enemy territory, even though the cause had already been pleaded and was ready for judgment," and declared "the nullity of an assignment of the interest of an alien enemy in an Egyptian firm to a person resident in Egypt, when the other partners failed to approve of the assignment." The Courts held that "the branches of two enemy firms could not litigate in Egypt during the war about the right to trade-marks placed upon goods manufactured in the enemy territory," but "where the proprietor of a trade-mark who was an enemy subject and had registered his mark in an enemy country was carrying on business in Egypt, he was held to be entitled to rely on his registration in an action for passing-off before the Egyptian Courts." In addition, the Mixed Courts held that the alien enemy's incapacity to sue created by the Proclamation did not involve an incapacity to be sued or to appear as defendant in the Courts of Egypt; and also that the alien enemy's incapacity to sue could not be used in cases where an enemy firm had appealed against a judgment in the lower Court, "as a device to deprive successful litigants in first instance, who were under no incapacity, of the final determination of their rights." At the same time the Courts refused to "allow the claims of plaintiffs genuinely established in Egypt to be defeated because of an alleged connection with the enemy." An exceedingly interesting case was that which dealt with the capacity of a firm constituted in Egypt with a majority of German members and under a German régime alleged to be unknown to, and not meeting with the requirements for an ordinary or limited partnership of, the Mixed Law. The Court of Appeal held "that the firm constituted a valid partnership under Mixed Law, although its claim to trade with limited liability failed, and that the character of the partnership and not that of its members was alone to be taken into consideration. The result of this decision was "that the association itself had a valid character, and was an Egyptian juristic person, and as such entitled to carry on its business in Egypt during the war without regard to the personal status of its members." A subsequent Proclamation, however, rectified this by providing that "persons of enemy nationality (including firms and companies in which a certain number of partners or shareholders were of enemy nationality) should no longer be authorised during the continuance of the war to carry on business in Egypt except under a licence." Thus, the régime applicable to enemy persons in this country has been made very much more restrictive.

A special Service of Intercession for the Serbian Nation was held at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Sunday afternoon. The preacher, the Rev. Father Nicolai Velimirovitch, Professor of Theology at Belgrade University, in the course of his sermon, said the culmination and decisive point of the Balkan crusades was the battle of Kossovo. The Serbians were leaders in the battle, as they were from the beginning of the Turkish invasion of the Balkans. The Greeks were too exhausted, the Albanians too weak, the Bulgarians too materialistic to lead the Balkan Christianity in the most tragic days in its history. The Serbs undertook the hard task and fulfilled it, if not with victory, at least with honesty and enthusiasm.

STARVING MONTENEGRO.

Deputation to Foreign Office.

A deputation representing the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund waited upon the Minister of Blockade, Lord Robert Cecil, at the Foreign Office last week, for the purpose of laying before him a scheme for the relief of the population of Montenegrin territory now in the occupation of Austria. The deputation was introduced by Mr. Ronald McNeill, M.P., and included amongst others Mr. Alex. Devine (Special Commissioner to the Continent for the Committee), Sir J. Roper Parkington, D.L., J.P. (Consul-General for Montenegro), Admiral the Hon. Sir Edmund Fremantle, G.C.B., Dr. Clemow, and Major Sir Fairfax-Lucy.

Mr. Ronald McNeill, in introducing the deputation, referred to a question he put to Lord Robert Cecil some time ago on the matter of relieving starving Montenegro. In replying to that question Lord Robert Cecil had said that the Government was most anxious to do everything that was possible consistent with military operations, but that they felt very strongly that it was the duty of the invading and occupying Power to provide for the people in the country. Lord Robert said further that it was desirable that nothing should be done to gratify the desire of the enemy to blackmail—for that was what it came to—people on whom the duty did not lie. He thought everybody who heard that reply to his question must have been in full agreement with the principle laid down, and he did not think any member of the deputation would dispute it for a moment. However, some facts which would be laid before Lord Robert Cecil would go far to show that there were limits, even to that principle, and that there might come a time when a humane nation with a reputation, such as England had, to keep up, might even allow itself to be blackmailed, in the last resort, rather than allow an innocent population to suffer starvation. The proposals would be laid before Lord Robert Cecil by Mr. Alex. Devine, who was a member of the Committee of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund, who, as a Special Commissioner, had examined throughout Europe the whole question regarding the Montenegrin refugees.

Mr. Alex. Devine, who put before Lord Robert Cecil the case of the deputation, referred to the fact that even in normal times Montenegro was dependent upon imports for its sustenance, and it was not difficult to imagine a state of affairs subsequent upon enemy occupation, to say nothing of the sudden stoppage of imports and the effect of the Serbian retreat. Case after case had been brought before them of people who had actually died of starvation. The price of foodstuffs is prohibitive where they are obtainable at all. Bread has risen to 7s. 6d. per lb., milk 1s. 6d. a pint, and meat is practically not obtainable. In fact, the army of occupation has barely enough food for its own needs, a condition of affairs which renders the position desperate. The Austrians having commandeered all the cattle have thus deprived the Montenegrins of their entire milk supply.

Replying to the deputation, Lord Robert Cecil said that he should be very glad, personally, to see all the starving populations fed, but he did not think it would be fair to hold out any hope that Montenegro would receive exceptionally favourable treatment. In the first place, we should have to ascertain the views of Italy before we did anything at all. Then, we should have to put the most stringent conditions on any foodstuffs going into Montenegro, not because the actual amount of foodstuff going into a little country like Montenegro would matter very much, but because it would form a precedent which we could not disregard. Therefore, we were bound to put some conditions forward. He was bound to tell the deputation that his experience was that when these conditions were put forward, they were found to be so stringent that the Germans and Austrians would not have anything to do with them. At least, that had been our experience with regard to Poland. But the first thing would be that we should have to consult the Italians. He could not promise to do that, but he would see whether anything in that direction could be done.

Replying to Mr. Devine, Lord Robert Cecil stated that he could not say anything definite at that point as to the conditions the Foreign Office might impose on any scheme.

Mr. McNeill thanked Lord Robert Cecil for receiving the deputation, and the proceedings terminated.

Mr. Devine's Report.

We have received a copy of the report presented by Mr. Alex Devine to the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund of London. From this deeply interesting document we take the following brief extracts, which speak for themselves of the admirable spirit of the Montenegrin refugees, and of the good work of the Fund. Mr. Devine, it will be remembered, travelled through France and Italy, visited Sicily and the Lipari Islands, and afterwards went to Switzerland:—

"I wish to pay the highest testimony to the loyalty and sincerity of the Montenegrin people I have met on my journey. With regard to officials generally, my report will give details of the help I have received, and the spirit in which I have been met, but, from the point of view of the poor people themselves—the refugees—I have been greatly struck by their gratitude and appreciation of Great Britain, and the absence of all spirit of grumbling or grievance. Uprooted and bereft as they have been, separated from their families, left behind in a desolate country, destitute and strangers, no word of reproach as to the disasters that have befallen them has passed their lips. They naturally think that it is unfortunate that help and rescue was not sent to them, but all, with one accord, realise

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that the best was done. Furthermore, I wish to bear strong testimony to the honesty and steadiness of these poor people, one or two instances of which I venture to give you in this report."

Referring to a certain lack of co-ordination and to the advisability of recognizing the efforts and work of "official France" on behalf of the Slavonic peoples, Mr. Devine writes: "I have found no trace of any effort at investigation generally as to the condition of the refugees all over Europe, and in several cases I have communicated with other relief authorities, giving them information with regard to their refugees that I felt would doubtless help them. The Montenegrin people are held to be the guests of France at the present moment—as are also the Serbian refugees, and in all these cases the French Government constitute themselves their protectors and provide, through their Prefects, the necessities of life, food and shelter, and are making attempts to include education in the case of children.

"To Bordeaux came those described as *fonctionnaires*, who, on the breaking of the storm, dispersed, and who are now returning to headquarters. These *fonctionnaires* are paid through the Montenegrin headquarters at Bordeaux by the French and English Governments. It became quite clear to me that from the point of view of the officials at Bordeaux there were two classes of refugees; first, and most important, the *fonctionnaires*, and, secondly, the ordinary refugees. I understood that the monthly advances the Government allowed were sufficient for the Montenegrin officials at Bordeaux to help the *fonctionnaires* to a certain extent, and, with regard to the second class of refugees, they had no funds, but the Prefects of the various Departments help.

"I should like to conclude my report on my work in Marseilles by giving an example of one of the refugees as showing the spirit these men exhibit. It is one out of very many similar illustrations that testify strongly to the excellent personal character of so many of these men. I met a Montenegrin at that city who had not only been severely wounded but was suffering intensely from the privations of the retreat and was in hospital for treatment for 'lupus.' I had a talk with him and told him that the London Committee would be willing and glad to help him on hearing as to his plans and wishes. He was very grateful and spoke of how much England was caring for Montenegro, but, when it came to paying him money, he said 'No, when I come out of hospital I have some good work to go to: I do not want to trouble anyone. You must give this money to many who really need it; I can manage for myself I am sure.'"

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Position in Mesopotamia. July 3.

Mr. TENNANT, replying to Sir H. Dalziel, said: I fear I cannot add anything to what I said last week about the position and prospects of the troops in Mesopotamia.

Sir H. DALZIEL asked whether the right hon. gentleman could go so far as to say that he regarded the position as satisfactory. Mr. Tennant suggested that the question should be postponed a little longer. He did not think it desirable to make any statement just now.

British Prisoners in Bulgaria. July 4.

Mr. MALCOLM asked whether the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs would now publish such reports as had reached him upon the condition of British prisoners and prisoner camps in Bulgaria and Turkey.

Sir E. GREY: No recent reports have been received from the United States representative at Constantinople as to the condition of our prisoners in Turkey, and we are inquiring when reports that may be published may be expected. With regard to Bulgaria, we are informed that all the British prisoners have been assembled at Philippopolis, with the exception of a small number who are employed in construction work in the interior. As soon as this work is finished they will be sent to Philippopolis. The prisoners are treated on an equal footing with Bulgarian soldiers. Parcels are being distributed to them. Their health is good.

Mr. MALCOLM: Is the right hon. gentleman satisfied with that report?

Sir E. GREY: It would be too much to say that I am satisfied with it, but I have nothing that I can publish.

Large gatherings assembled in Victoria Park on Sunday on the occasion of a demonstration in honour of Kossovo Day. A number of Serbian refugees attended, and the flags of the Allies were displayed. Mr. F. A. Renton, on behalf of North-East London, extended a welcome to the Serbian visitors, and expressed the belief that when the war was concluded the Serbian people would be re-established in their own country to develop the virtues and characteristics which had distinguished them in the past. Dr. Elsie Inglis, who spent ten months in Serbia, described the wonderful spirit which the Serbians had exhibited not only throughout this war, but in all the 500 years which had succeeded the great day of Kossovo. In common with the people of this country, the Serbians never knew when they were beaten. At the commencement of hostilities they defeated the Austrians in three battles. Then came the great outbreak of typhus. She did not suppose it would ever be known how many people had died in the course of that awful epidemic, but the figure must have been enormous. Dr. Vosniak, M. D. Janitsch (President of the Jugoslav Society of Serbs), M. Ostovic, Mr. N. Rhys, and others spoke.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Constantine of Constantinople.

The following quotation is taken from a recent number of the *Independent* (New York), and refers to a mass meeting of Athenians who assembled to express their sympathy with the American President as being a victim of "British tyranny":—

This harks back to 1453, when the eleventh and supposedly the last of the Constantines was struck down by a Turkish sword and cried in vain for a Christian to cut off his head. The Turks who that day battered down the walls of Byzantium with their new weapon, the cannon, have held the city ever since, but now there are many aspirants for it, the Czar of the Russias, the Czar of the Bulgars, and the King of the Hellenes among them. The last-mentioned, half Dane and half Russian and married to a German, has no claim to the succession by right of Byzantine descent. The imperial line ran out with Ferdinando Paleologus, who found a humble grave in St. John's Churchyard, Barbados.

The people who now live in Greece have perhaps as little of the old Greek blood as they show of the old Greek spirit, but because they speak Greek and because they have named their king Constantine they claim to be heirs of the ancient glory of the Greek Empire on the Bosphorus. That is why they refuse to join with the Allies in giving Constantinople to the Czar. Better the Turk than the Russian, they think, because the Turk's hand is weakening, but the Russian bear never lets go what he gets his claws on.

The Turks in Arabia.

Country Life (July 1) publishes an article under the above heading by Mr. Douglas Carruthers, from which we quote below:—

The situation is a strange one. The Caliph is head of some 100,000,000 of human beings. For four hundred years the Sultan of Turkey has been regarded as that head. Throughout the ages his adherents have increased vastly, for even after twelve centuries Islam is still a living missionary force, and its converts number hundreds of thousands yearly. From China to the Congo, from Siberia to the Malays, hosts of human beings look to Stambul rather than to the actual rulers under whose dominion they dwell. But to-day it is a fact that the Caliphate has passed out of the hands of the Ottoman Sultan. What the effect will be it is hard to guess. It may be that the golden cord of Islam is broken, that the Moslem world is divided against itself. It may be that the true followers of the Prophet will hold together and succeed in casting off the Turkish incubus—the mock-Moslems, who, having usurped the Protectorship of their faith, betrayed them.

For the moment Islam is without a leader, the Faith is being put to the test. It is my opinion that Turkey will fall, and that Islam will not only survive, but rejuvenate. . . .

The story of the Turks in Arabia is not a pleasant one. It is one of intrigue, murder, and appalling mismanagement. Yet the fact remains, they have managed, by hook or by crook, to keep possession of Mecca. With great determination the Sultans have held out the temporal power represented by the possession of the Holy City, which is their chief claim to the title of Caliph. Although Turkey has never conquered outright and laid the whole peninsula under her sway, she has stuck to the one important point; for after all Arabia *is* Mecca, and Mecca is the core of Islam. It is a strange fact that the Turk is as unwelcome in Arabia as any Christian would be.

The Serbs at Salonika.

A special correspondent of the *Evening Standard* at Salonika contributes an interesting article to his paper regarding the Serbs who are waiting the order to advance to the deliverance of their country.

Here, at Salonika, all that is left of the Serbian Army are waiting with a fierce impatience for the forthcoming day of

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battle. It is almost impossible to describe in sufficiently strong terms the wild longing that the Serbs feel to be once more meeting the Bulgarians in deadly conflict, for, as the Prince Regent said during an interview that I had with him at Corfu, "the Bulgar and the Serb feel nothing but the bitterest hate of each other, and the Serbs are determined to drive their enemy out of Serbia, even if they perish to the last man in the attempt."

They are a wonderful army at the present moment—sadly shrunken in numbers, of course, for four years of hard fighting have reduced Serbia's troops from 400,000 to 150,000; still, the men she can still put into the field are men who will fight with a desperate courage, soldiers who can be relied upon to give a fine infantry attack and slashing cavalry charges, though it is doubtful if the army could stand a very long and hard campaign, for greatly—enormously—as the Serbs have benefited from their stay at Corfu—fine, sunburnt fellows as they look to-day—they must still be feeling the terrible strain of the grim famine march across the Montenegrin and Albanian mountains, their strength cannot be wholly restored to them.

The Serbs themselves would like to attack at once, but this correspondent urges caution. He continues:—

England and France have contributed to the complete re-equipment of the Serbs, and very well the soldiers look in their khaki uniforms. They sang their old battle-songs as they sailed away from Corfu, and here, at Salonika, they are filled with the old fighting spirit. It is pleasant to be able to record how great a friendship prevails between the British and the Serbian troops; they will fight well side by side, and it is very interesting to note the mutual admiration that the tall, lean Serbs and the more heavily-built British entertain for each other.

The forthcoming Balkan campaign is going to be a big affair when it starts, and there will be little quarter given or taken. The Serbs have desperate wrongs to avenge, and they plead to be put in the front rank of the battle; and when Bulgar and Serb meet, the two opponents will fight, if need be, with their very teeth, for this will be the death grapple of the two nations—a grim wrestle for supremacy in the Balkans.

Victory for the Allies would mean undoubtedly the shortening of the war, but it would mean more than this—it would prove to generations yet unborn that the supreme courage the starving Serbian army displayed during the ghastly retreat last winter has had its reward, and that the men who fell out day after day during the long march—sinking down dying by the roadside—did not offer up their lives in vain.

The Truth about Bulgaria.

The attitude of certain English politicians who still apparently regard Bulgaria as a possible ally was dealt with by Mr. Alfred Stead in the *English Review* recently. Mr. Stead writes:—

Of course, it must be out of the question to give Macedonia to Bulgaria: the argument that, before the Balkan wars, Serbia was ready to forego much of this territory, and that during the present war, under unjustifiable pressure from her Allies, she was ready to hand part of Macedonia to Bulgaria, has nothing to do with the situation to-day. Bulgaria, by joining the camp of our enemies, has forfeited all right to any concessions whatever; she has earned the right of being wiped off the map. It is doubtful whether we have any more ardent enemies than the Bulgarians in the ranks of our adversaries—the outlaw who has committed the basest of crimes must necessarily fight to the end against the forces of law and order. It palliates nothing that Bulgaria appears more base because of the incredible stupidity and blindness of the Allies before the open declaration of war. Bulgaria has for years been pro-Austrian, and every year has seen the last traces of Russian influence, based on a supposed gratitude of a notoriously ungrateful savage people, grow less and less. Under the rule of Ferdinand the whole tendency of Bulgaria has been towards Austria; the whole of the army and the governing circles—those puppets of the throne—have been Austrianised. The writing was on the wall for all to read, but we preferred to believe the soft words and sweet singing of that wonderful *causeur*, Ferdinand of Coburg, the ruler of Bulgaria.

The writer quotes from Bulgarian papers to show the real attitude of the Bulgars towards the Allies, and Britain in particular, and continues:—

If we treat with Bulgaria seriously we risk not gaining Roumania—we gain nothing with Bulgaria, save smirching our national honour and a worn-out second-rate army. In losing Roumania we lose 600,000 men, well trained in war, fully officered, with trained reserves of another 500,000 men. All these strategically placed where they can do the most good.

German and Austrian.

We quote the following anecdote regarding the relations between German and Austrian from an article entitled "The Tragedy of Serbia," by Dr. Elsie Maud Inglis, in the *Englishwoman* (June):—

The most hopeful sign of the situation as we saw it was the fact that no love is lost between Germans and Austrians—there is contempt on one side, and irritation on the other. One incident which Dr. Hutchison gives shows how easily this smouldering hostility could burst into flame. She and her unit had been taken into Austria as prisoners. They were travelling in a horse-box, and both doors were open. To the one door came a young Austrian officer who had been very kind to them during the whole journey. At the other door appeared a German private, who shouted some insulting and disgusting remarks into the carriage. "Take care what you are saying," called out the Austrian. "It is no concern of yours," answered the German. The young Austrian flushed scarlet. "Do you know whom you are speaking to?" he cried. "I am an officer." "And I," said the man, "am a German." Being a private in a strictly-disciplined army, he realised that he had gone too far, and made off down one side of the train, while the Austrian made after him on the other. In a little while he came back, saying he had made the man over to the proper authorities; but the incident speaks for itself—"*I* am a German."

Austria and Peace.

Mr. Francis Gribble, writing in the *Manchester Daily Despatch*, considers it not unlikely that Austria might be induced to abandon her Ally in the near future. He concludes an interesting article with the passages which we quote below, and which summarise the foundations upon which his views are based:—

In the first place, though their Ally has saved them from destruction, he has also treated them with contempt. He has deposed their generals, and assumed the supervision of their armies. His newspapers have ridiculed their failure in Serbia; the man in his street has mocked at their incapacity and thrown doubt upon their courage. "Those Austrian rabbits" was an expression often to be heard in Germany when I was there; "the routed Austrians" is an expression which has appeared in a German order of the day found by the Russians in one of their prisoners' pockets. That sort of thing does not make for harmony.

In the second place, the German plans for the future, based on the assumption of German success, have been drafted without much regard to Austrian desires and interests. Austria was to be dragged, willy-nilly, into the Zollverein, in order that Germany might be the better able to fight the threatened boycott. There was to be a new political unit known as Central Europe; and that, as many Austrians have perceived, was a thinly-veiled scheme for incorporating Austria in an extended German Empire of which the hegemony would be retained by Prussia. And that project is not agreeable to Austrian pride.

So long, of course, as the Central Powers were winning, Austria, even if dissatisfied, had nothing to gain by breaking with Germany, but when the tide turns, Austria will have no motive for holding out to the last because Germany is too proud to give in. On the political as well as the military *terrain* breaking point will be sooner reached in Austria than in Germany, and then the line of least resistance will lead the Austrian Government into negotiations. Austrian statesmen know perfectly well that Austria is not, except in Serbia, hated quite as Germany is hated; and, if the spirit of Metternich is not quite dead in the country, then they are unlikely to lose much more time in taking advantage of that fact.

Articles to Note.

"A Greek Island," by G. E. H.; "At Ctesiphon"; and "Earl Kitchener of Khartoum," in *Blackwood's Magazine* (July).

"The Rescue of an Army," by Lieut.-Commander E. Hilton Young, M.P., in the *Contemporary Review* (July).

"Persia and the Frustration of German Schemes," by Robert Machray, in the *Fortnightly Review* (July).

"There Resteth to Serbia a Glory," by Alice and Claude Askew; and "Kitchener," by John Helston, in the *English Review*.

The temperature during the past month at Cairo exceeded 90 degrees Fahrenheit daily. The maximum reading was 112 Fahrenheit, which occurred three times. The heat wave continues.

A Reuter's message from Athens, dated July 1, reports: "According to present arrangements, the elections will take place on September 17.

Sir Francis Elliot, British Minister at Athens, has promised to recommend that facilities be accorded for the return to their homes of Greek time-expired Reservists resident in Egypt.

According to private information received in Bucharest, the Bulgarian Government has issued a decree ordering the internment of all enemy alien subjects at present in Bulgaria, and the sequestration of the property of commercial houses and industrial and other companies of enemy nationality.

A Turkish newspaper has been regaling its readers with an alleged interview with General Townshend, the defender of Kut, who is represented as vilifying his chief, General Nixon, and reserving his praises for Khalil Pasha, to whom he surrendered. There is, of course, not a word of truth in the narrative, no such interview having been given by General Townshend.

The Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund has received a telegram from their hon. secretary, the Rev. Harold Buxton, now in Van (Turkish Armenia), asking for all available money to be sent immediately in order that he may organise the rebuilding of the ruined homes of Armenians who, as a result of the Russian victories, are now able to return to their own land. The money is urgently required in order that shelter for this stricken people may be provided before the coming of winter, which is very severe in Armenia. Funds will be received by the Hon. Treasurer, Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, 96, Victoria Street, S.W.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Recent news from the Balkan States has been significant. Item one—the idea of a commercial agreement between Roumania and Turkey has been definitely abandoned, which shows that our Bucharest friends continue to be well advised. Second—it has been decided that the Bucharest Stock Exchange, which has been closed for a year, shall be reopened for cash business—excellent evidence of the abundance of money. Third—Britain has agreed to supply to Roumania the sulphate of copper which France was unable to send, a satisfactory event indeed. I have already had something to say on this subject; but this budget of news is certainly reassuring in character.

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According to a message from Zurich, dated July 1, the Central Powers had invited Roumania to be represented at the Danube Conference, to be held shortly in Vienna. Writing on this subject on June 14, the Correspondent of THE NEAR EAST in Bucharest said: "I am able to inform you that Roumania has *not* been invited to take part in the Conference. Roumania has since the beginning of the war preserved strict neutrality, and to invite her to participate in the Conference would have been the equivalent of asking her to disclose her intentions. Even the refusal to accept such an invitation would have been embarrassing—possibly to both parties."

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This is true to some extent; but Roumania could, nevertheless, have been represented, if only to safeguard her own interests; that would not have been a breach of neutrality. As I have frequently pointed out in these columns, the question of the Lower Danube—now controlled by Germany because Bulgaria commands the middle lower reach of the river—is one that interests Roumania very considerably, and no arrangements regarding the river can be made by any States or Powers that do not concern her directly. This is a point which must be borne in mind by our diplomats, not only now in connection with our friendly relations with Roumania, but later, when peace terms are discussed. My readers will do well to consult the exhaustive article on the subject by M. D. Mitrany which appeared in last week's issue of this journal.

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One of the most interesting of the telegrams affecting our enemies received last week, I think, was that which gave us the details of Bulgaria's financial position. We have had all sorts of rumours before, of course, but most of them have been suspect—we are always prepared to believe that the enemy is in trouble. In the present instance, however, there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of the statement placed before us. We are told that the Budget Bill now before the Sobranje shows that the deficit in 1914—in a year of apparent peace, let it be noted—was, roughly, 22,000,000 fr. This serious figure expanded in 1915 to 60,000,000 fr., while the estimated deficit this year is about 100,000,000 fr. On May 31 last the National Debt was 1,697,756,972 fr., and it is stated that by the end of the present year this sum will have been increased to 2,000,000,000 fr.

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A debt of £80,000,000 sterling is not excessive from the national point of view, perhaps. It may be argued, indeed, that none of the Powers of Western Europe is less indebted. That is perfectly true; but even the most financially weak of them—and I am prepared to back Germany for that position—will have some prospect, when peace has been restored, of being able to make some sort of terms with its creditors. Germany will be able to trade, she will be able to re-establish her industries, and in course of time rid herself of her heavy mortgage debts. But Bulgaria is without hope. Her present allies would not help her if they could. She has played to Russia the part the serpent played to the Roman woodman, and from that quarter Bulgaria may expect nothing but stern and uncompromising justice. Roumania will have her own policy to follow, and Greece has a task almost as formidable as Bulgaria's to perform. There are Austria and Turkey remaining among her friends, and the Bulgarians themselves know what measure of help is to be expected from those quarters. Unhappy Bulgarians! Truly, they got down the wrong side of the fence.

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Our American friends are very shrewd business people, notwithstanding their methods of hustle, which I have always suspected have been employed merely to hide from us the fact that they are really very go-ahead. I am led to these reflections by the perusal of an able report which Mr. Consul Ralph H. Bader has made from Teheran to his Government. Of course, it deals with trade and trade possibilities, and covers a particularly wide ground, from soft-goods and needles to kerosine oil, and it is in dealing with this latter commodity that he is most interesting, at any rate to readers of THE NEAR EAST. In regard to oil, Consul Bader has not much use for the northern portion of his territory; he is wide-awake enough to know that, there, "the proximity of Baku makes it impossible for petroleum from other countries to compete with the Russian article." It is only in South Persia, he tells us, that American and European oil is sold, and he calculates that "if oil from the wells at Abadan, in the Persian Gulf, is refined and put on the market the future of American petroleum in Persia would not be bright." I believe I could tell Consul Bader that the future of American oil in Persia is *not* bright.

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A word of congratulation to our Roumanian shipping friends. A correspondent in Colombo tells me that, for the first time in the history of the port, a vessel flying the Roumanian flag has called there—she was the "Bucaresti," was bound from Marseilles to Vladivostok, was of 2,269 tons, and was commanded by Captain C. Lalomit. Add to that the fact that the vessel was owned by the Roumanian State Maritime Service, and there is a complete note of progress to place on record. By-and-by, perhaps, the fact that many Roumanian ships are trading in Indian waters will be recorded, for there is no doubt that much scope exists for tonnage at all times. The country will enter upon a new era of prosperity if it can build up a really great overseas trade, carried by its own ships—here's the hope that such will be accomplished.

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I read that the London Chamber of Commerce has instructed its Post and Telegraph Committee to "consider and report upon the desirability of advocating the extension of the cash-on-delivery system in connection with the Parcel Post service with foreign countries." I am glad that the Chamber has taken an initiative in this matter, which is important from the trading point of view, but I should like to point out that if the C.O.D. system has not been such a success in this country as it has been in Germany the fault does not lie so much with lack of facilities as it does with the indifference of the British trader to its advantages. Take Egypt as a case in point. When the C.O.D. system between Great Britain and Egypt was introduced it was only with the greatest difficulty that British tradespeople could be persuaded to fulfil orders against payment on delivery of goods; they wanted payment in advance. This obstinacy on our part naturally drove a lot of trade to Germany and Austria, where no such scruples about cash payment on delivery exist. Therefore, my argument is that if a C.O.D. system with foreign countries is to be a success the British trader must be taught to use and not ignore it.

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It would have been worth the while of dealers in Mediterranean countries to have been present, either by agent or personally, at one or other of the exhibitions, which have been held in a number of industrial centres in this country, of samples of German and Austrian goods which have been collected from markets throughout the world—including Malta and Cyprus, to mention two topical names. Altogether, there are now about 8,000 samples of goods of great variety representing many scores of trades and industries. Later on, I understand, an attempt will be made to compile a list of wares of which German and Austrian makers have practically had a monopoly, but which British manufacturers will pay special attention to in the future.

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As I indicated last week, the trouble which led to the dislocation of the Spies' operations in the Grozny oilfields was connected with labour—which is a pretty prolific source of trouble at the best of times—and that it was adjusted. I hear now that the men struck for an increase of wage which did not conform with the views of the employers' representatives on the spot. The men were already in receipt of a war bonus, and the management was prepared to increase this; but the workers were obdurate, and they actually downed tools on June 2, not resuming work until June 22. I believe further concessions were made before the men turned to; wages and bonus were both increased, which, with the loss incurred as a result of suspended production for twenty days, will make a hole in the revenue account.

COMMENTATOR.

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Prosperity of Egypt in 1915-16.

Surplus of More than Three Millions.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 27.

The State accounts for March have just been published, and with them the closing figures for the financial year 1915-1916. As the statements of the three preceding months and the Financial Adviser's Note on the new Budget led one to foresee, the year has closed with a record surplus. The final figures are:—Revenue £E17,759,418, expenditure £E15,324,259, leaving a surplus of £E2,435,159.

An idea of the wonderful manner in which the State finances have recovered and have falsified all expectations—at any rate, in so far as concerns the actual extent of that recovery—can be obtained from the following figures:—

	Budget. 1915.	Actual Results. 1915.	1914.	1913.
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
Revenue ..	14,756,000	17,759,418	15,389,124	17,703,898
Exp'ndit're	15,900,000	15,324,259	16,857,783	17,659,961
Surplus....	− 1,144,000	+ 2,435,159	−1,468,659	+ 43,937

Normal Revenue.

Thus the results of the year just closed are £E3,579,159 better than the original estimate, the revenue having exceeded the figure assessed by a shade over three millions, or 20 per cent. on the estimate, whilst the expenditure is £E575,741 less than the budgetary credits. The same table shows that the revenue for 1915 has returned to the figure for 1913, the last normal year previous to the outbreak of war, and that the expenditure is about £E2,300,000 less than that incurred two years ago.

During the year direct taxes improved by £E340,218, Customs by £E477,089, tobacco dues by £E247,873, legal fees by £E42,428, railways by £E548,128, telegraphs by £E44,850, Post Office by £E13,075, rent of Government land by £E22,882, Domains receipts by £E419,718, investment of funds by £E89,729, divers receipts by £E336.850. The principal decreases were in ports dues, £E174,532; military exemption, £E21,140; and sale of property, £E23,953.

Perhaps a clearer impression of the recovery made by the country will be obtained if one compares the position under each head of revenue at the end of the 1914-1915 financial year (which included seven months only of war conditions) and of the one now under review with that at the close of the 1913-1914 accounts, which were for an entirely normal year.

The appended table gives this information:

—	Position on 31/3/15.	31/3/16.
	£E.	£E.
Land and Direct Taxes	− 263,758	+ 76,460
Customs.....	− 772,258	− 295,169
Tobacco Dues	+ 22,549	+ 270,422
Port Dues	− 126,112	− 300,644
Legal Fees	− 362,311	− 319,883
Railways	− 687,815	− 139,687
Telegraphs	− 7,341	+ 37,509
Post Office.....	− 47,073	− 33,998
Rent of Land	− 14,008	+ 8,874
Domains.....	− 51,040	+ 368,678
Military Exemption	− 32,177	− 53,317
Investment of Funds.....	− 40,443	+ 49,286
Sale of Land.....	− 4,074	− 28,027
Sundry Heads	+ 71,087	+ 415,016
	− 2,314,774	+ 55,520

+ As compared with that at the same date in 1914.

Improved Conditions.

From this it can be seen that, whilst on the one hand the falling-off recorded at the end of March, 1915, in direct taxes, telegraphs, rent of land, Domains, and investment of funds has been converted into an increase, those in the other heads, with the exception of port dues, military exemption, and sale of land, have been considerably reduced, and the increase in tobacco receipts has gone on progressing. It is true that various means were resorted to last year to obtain an expansion in the revenue—some of the Customs tariffs were raised and an increase was made in the passenger rates of the railways and in the postal and telegraph charges. Generally speaking, however, the true effect of these expedients will not make themselves felt for some time, especially as regards the Customs tariffs (excluding, of course, tobacco). Consequently, since the recovery is most marked in heads that always reflect the economic situation in the country, such as Customs, railways, telegraphs, and Post Office, there can be no disputing the fact that it must (in the main) be attributed to the general improvement in the condition of the people, consequent on the excellent cotton position and on the continued presence of such large numbers of troops in the country.

The record surplus which has resulted is due not only to the recovery in the revenue, but also to the economy effected in the expenditure, which, if allowance is made for the supplementary credits granted during the year, was £E852,112 below the total authorised. The economy principally reflected itself in irrigation, £E189.265; railways, £E187,780; education, £E63,939; War Office, £E84,593; public health, £E57,861; town drainage, £E33,529; interior, £E39,627; ports and lights, £E34.854; police, £E24,659; and coastguards, £E25,306. It is somewhat remarkable that in a year like the past one economy should have been possible in what were already war estimates for the police, coastguards, and army. The explanation is possibly that, owing to the difficulty in getting supplies from abroad, the stocks of equipment have not all been replenished, in which case part of these replacements will have to be borne by the current year.

It is interesting to note that the percentage of working expenses to receipts of the railways, which rose to 82.1 in 1914-1915, fell to 62.0 last year, thus more nearly approaching the normal, as typified by 1913-1914, which stood at 57.8. Both Telegraphs and Post Office paid their way, whereas the previous year they had been a burden to the State. Indeed, the former has considerably contributed to the Exchequer.

Trade "Looking Up."

Compared with the results of the past financial year, the estimates for the current one leave a very wide margin, in so far as concerns the revenue. The latter is set down at £E16,530,000, or £E1,229,418 less than that now realised. On the other hand, the expenditure is fixed at £E16.630.000, or £E1,305,741 more than that of the year just closed. These estimates have been framed in a most cautious manner, and it may already be predicted that the draft of £E100,000 on the reserve fund, which has been provided to bring about the balancing of the Budget, will not be required. Last July we predicted that the draft of £E1,144,000 on the reserve, which the estimates provided to meet the anticipated deficit, would not be required. Our forecast has come true, though we must admit that we never anticipated that the result of the year's working would be so brilliant, and what we said of the 1915-1916 deficit holds good in the case of the current one. The position is indeed a highly satisfactory one. The prosperity of the people continues. They are still deriving great benefit from the continued presence of British troops, trade in general is looking up, and, with a rising cotton and cereal market, the prospects of the coming crops is excellent. So that there is little doubt that the expectations of the financial authorities will be fully attained.

The surplus of £E2,435,159 has all been placed to reserve, £E1,270,407 being used to write off the depreciation undergone by the securities in which that fund is invested. This is an exceedingly wise step, and the reserve fund now stands at its actual value—i.e., £E4.799.642. At the end of the 1913-1914 financial year the fund stood at £E5,103.549, so that its present amount is still £E303,907 off its pre-war figure. It should, however, be remembered that at that date the securities had already begun to undergo depreciation, estimated at the time by the Financial Adviser at 2 per cent. of their book value, and that the reserve to-day stands at the net value of those securities. In these circumstances, therefore, it is permissible to say that the finances of Egypt stand at the end of eighteen months of war conditions almost exactly where they were before the outbreak of hostilities, thus giving her what is to all intents and purposes a unique position amongst the belligerent countries of the world. All concerned have indeed reason to congratulate themselves on this remarkable achievement, for, although the recuperative powers of the country have accounted for much in the attainment of this result, an important contributory factor has undoubtedly been the caution and firmness displayed by those who held the purse-strings.

CONTINUED PROGRESS.

Cairo, June 22.

Last night the Customs returns for May were published. They show a continuation of the general trade improvement. Imports rose by £E1.391.283 to £E2.970.052, and exports by £E701,305 to £E2.079.511 during the month. It is interesting to note that at the end of May imports stood at practically the same figure as at the same date in 1914, whilst exports were over a million better.

The principal increases under imports were:—Preserved fish by £E19.834, leather goods by £E10,984, jams and preserves by £E31,592, beer by £E71.065, liqueurs by £E45,597, petroleum by £E74.139, mineral oils by £E33.434, stationery by £E30,107, coal by £E257,966 (whilst the value more than doubled, the quantity was 13,000 tons less), textiles by £E552,862, and worked iron and steel by £E55,764. The only important decreases were rice, by £E51,535, owing to the abundant local crop, and chemical manures by £E21,882.

Exports reveal a further expansion in the sale abroad of the country's products. Sugar exports increased by £E90,523, although the 1915 figures were already far above those for 1914; alcohol by £E39,830, as against nothing previously; maize by £E211.012, skins by £E12,146, cotton seed by £E56.333, and cotton by £E350,866. Eggs and onions showed slight decreases, £E12.323 and £E42.340 respectively, but in the case of the former the amount already exported is far superior to that of preceding years. Gold and silver bar fell off slightly, whilst cigarettes remained comparatively stationary. Specie movements were confined to the imports of silver and nickel coins for the local circulation and to the export of £E48,400 Maria Theresa dollars for account of the Sudan Government, through the Egyptian Ministry of Finance.

The lion's share under both imports and exports again fell to Great Britain, with £E1,679.262 and £E1,114.603 respectively. Her chief sales to Egypt were flour, £E29,523; beer and liqueurs, £E104,864 (70 per cent. of the whole imports); all the coal, cotton tissues, £E530.047 (out of a total of £E641,965); and worked iron and steel, £E80,020. All the eggs and cotton seed went to Great Britain, and nearly half the cotton and 90 per cent. of the maize.

Amongst the other countries, America increased her exports by £E36,604, France hers by £E45,817, Italy hers by £E178,159, Japan hers by £E31,944, whilst the only noticeable changes in exports from Egypt were a falling off of nearly 50 per cent. in purchases made by the United States and a considerable increase in those made by France (cotton and alcohol), Italy (sugar and cotton), Russia and Switzerland (cotton).

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan improved very much during May. Exports from south to north jumped from £E46,175 to £E100.596, and traffic the other way from £E78.923 to £E137.661. Exports from the Sudan to Egypt were mainly cereals £E14.010, live-stock £E5.557, charcoal £E5.006, and cotton £E58,588, whilst the principal imports were refined sugar £E49.878, cotton tissues £E24,888, and cereals £E6,715.

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TRADE OPENINGS.

The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paints, mainly for the scavenging and watering service. Date, July 15.

The Physical Service Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of weighing machines, balances and weights required for Government during 1916-17. Date, July 15.

The Director, Coastguard Stores, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of fresh and dry rations required for the service men at depot, Mex, and for crews of cruisers at Alexandria, for one year commencing September 1, 1916. Date, July 15.

The Director of Personnel and Equipment Department (Supplies Office) invites tenders for the supply of photographic material required, for a period of one year commencing on August 1, 1916, and ending on July 1, 1917, for the Ministry and the Identification Service of the Ministry. Date, August 1, 1916.

Tenders Accepted.

The Egyptian Cement Company's tender for the supply of twenty tons of cement to the Domains Administration has been accepted for £E85.84.

Messrs. Compton and Sons have obtained the contract for the supply of blue uniforms for the School of Arts and Trades for the next scholastic year.

TRADERS' BLACK LIST.

The *Official Journal* of Egypt, dated June 15, 1916, contains a proclamation by the Officer Commanding-in-Egypt, adding a large number of names to the list of firms with which trading by British subjects is prohibited. The following Greek firms are in the list:—

Abramiantz and Co., Lalezar, Teheran; Barouh, Solomon and Levi, Volo; Brazzafoli, Domenico, Syra; Carnik Khan Dalguidjan, Teheran; Constantacopoulos and Co., Patras; Dimitrelias, John Vathy, Samos; Fels and Co., Corfu; Frandzis, P., and Fiorentino, G., Vathy, Samos; Galanis and Goldstein and Hadjiandreou, Samos; Haim, Ezra, Hamadan; Haji Ahmedagha Teheranji, Teheran; Haji Mohamed Ibrahim, Teheran; Hanemoglou, Resht; Pugin; Lianos, C., Frères, Piræus; Muller, Karl, Patras; Lochner, Max, Patras; Lucas and Co., Patras; Spiliotopoulos, C., Patras; Stoltenhof and Lucas, Patras.

The following names have been removed from the list of firms with which trading is prohibited:—

Haji Abdur Rahim Shirazi, Bombay and Shiraz; Ittahadie Fils, Teheran; Mir Abdul Baghi and Sons, Kermanshah; Rahim Ittahadie (Ittahadie Fils), Teheran; Shohet, Selim David, and Co.; Sofer, D.J. and S., Hamadan; Zorour, Sion, Hamadan, and Zilka, Abraham Joseph, Kermanshah.

Mr. F. H. Russell, of Gresham House, Cairo, has been appointed receiver of the property and assets of the German Evangelical Union of Cairo, with directions to take charge of and manage same as he may think fit, subject to any instructions of the Licensing Officer.

EGYPTIAN COTTON IN JUNE.

Egyptian cotton did well in June. In Manchester, middling American began, on June 2, at 8.43d. per lb.—the lowest figure it had reached since May 5, when it touched 8.20d.—and by June 23 it had dropped to 8.29d. Egyptian, on the other hand, began at 11.53d.—the highest price attained since April 28—and advanced to 11.85d. per lb., the best result since February 18, when it reached the same figure. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that this is the highest price realised in Manchester for fully good fair Egyptian for a very long time.

In the yarn market business was quieter than it was in May, but here again Egyptian lines did exceedingly well.

The railways in the western regions of the French Protectorate of Morocco, which were constructed merely as military lines, have now been thrown open to public traffic, although priority will be given to military requirements.

SUDAN RAILWAYS IN 1915.

Although the revenue of the Sudan Government Railways in 1915 declined by £E3,803, the public receipts rose by £E26,359, a very satisfactory feature, which was due to the remarkable growth in the export traffic which was developed in the Sudan in the period under review. Unfortunately, the revenue result of this development was more than counteracted by the falling off in the receipts from the Government, which were less than in the previous year by rather more than £E30,000.

The year has been one in which it was necessary to observe the most rigid economy. "On the railways," says the annual report, a copy of which has just been received, "the ratio of expenditure to earnings has been reduced from 74.6 per cent. to 63.4 per cent. This is due to the suspension of the relaying programme, the use of reserve stores and other reductions in expenditure which were decided upon on account of the war, and the great uncertainty of the financial situation. Actually, during the past twelve months the railway has done better than at first appeared probable, but we are by no means out of the wood yet. In the first place, prices and freights have risen, while certain articles are unobtainable at any price. Coal is both difficult to get and very expensive. The last quotation for Welsh coal delivered at Port Sudan was 72s. 6d. per ton, as against a pre-war price of 27s." Since the report was published the price has risen, we are told, to 110s. per ton.

The management does not ignore the fact that while the policy of shutting down all possible work, living on reserve stores, "and so on is economical enough for the moment, it must react sooner or latter, and if the emergency lasts longer than anticipated, may react very seriously."

The report proceeds:—

It has to be recognised that while certain work can be stopped, e.g., relaying and renewals of locomotives and rolling stock, without bringing the line immediately to a standstill, this does not apply to stocks of coal and stores. The latter must be maintained, and should be increased rather than diminished, because the coincidence of unexpected accidents or delays may produce a situation where the normal reserve, adequate enough under ordinary circumstances, gives out. With regard to relaying, the circumstances of the war have practically taken charge of the situation. Sleepers are unobtainable at any reasonable price, and for the time being we must patch with what we have in hand and exercise the greatest care and watchfulness to prevent failure and consequent accident. This is entailing considerable added responsibility upon the engineering staff.

With regard to renewals, certain work in hand when the war started has been completed, but anything in the way of further expansion has been stopped. The difficulty now is to prevent slipping back and loss of efficiency. Here again everything depends on the foresight and constant care of the mechanical engineers both at headquarters and out-stations. With all the care and watchfulness in the world, however, it needs no great discernment to realise that permanent way, engines and trucks under continual wear and tear must deteriorate, and that, however carefully they may be patched and mended, if it is no longer possible to make provision for regular renewals on a systematic basis, the cost of so doing will be felt all the more heavily at some future date.

The statistics given claim some interest; some of them are:—

Imports have decreased by 33,043 tons. Dura and flour account for 13,584 tons, and coal for 10,608 tons. Sugar was less by 5,937 tons. Exports increased by 88,010 tons, principally owing to 70,801 tons of dura having been exported. The export of simsim also increased by 6,004 tons.

Regarding passenger traffic, we are told that there was practically no tourist business in 1915, and the receipts under this heading have declined by £E5,964. The bad harvest in 1914 still had an effect on the fourth-class native traffic, which shows a loss of revenue of £E9,498, compared with last year. There are, however, says the report, indications that this traffic is now improving. On the total the receipts from the coaching traffic have declined by £E30,829.

Mr. Munari, the agent at Cairo of the Khedivial Mail Steamship Co., has been recalled to Italy for military service.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Nile flood is now rising rapidly everywhere.

The new Turkish Customs tariff is to be enforced from September 14.

Following the example of the Austrians, the Germans have organised at Sofia a bureau for the purchase of all descriptions of raw material.

The United States Consul at Patras reports that there is considerable demand in the district for ready-made garments of all kinds—men's, women's and children's. The ready-made suit in most popular demand is made of cheap material.

In the week ended June 22 1,479 bales British East African, 906 bales foreign East African, and 5,442 bales Egyptian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. In the same period the exports were 8,510, 1,059, and 2,086 bales respectively.

An amalgamation of cotton mills is reported from Italy. The concerns are those of Schlaepfer, Wenner and Co., at Fratte, near Salerno, and the weaving mills of Aselmeyer and Company, at Naples. The new company will be called the Cotonifici Riuniti di Salerno. The share capital, which is fully paid up, is 8,800,000 lire.

The commandant in the French zone in Morocco has ordered that all goods intended for Fez and Mequinez, which were not landed in a port in the French zone in Morocco, shall, on arrival at the ports named, be deposited in special stores, whence they shall not be withdrawn except on production by the consignee of a certificate of origin.

Profiting from the experience gained in the construction of the Kaid Bey branch breakwater, the Alexandria Municipality is considering an amendment of the scheme for the construction of a branch of the breakwater in the eastern harbour from Fort Silsileh. It has been decided to consult Mr. Luigi, an expert in construction work of that character.

The Board of Trade have collected more than 5,000 specimen catalogues of German origin. To enable British manufacturers to familiarise themselves with German methods of publicity, these may be inspected at the Foreign Samples Section of the Commercial Intelligence Branch, 32, Cheapside, London. The catalogues are printed in many languages, including Roumanian, Russian, Hungarian, and Greek.

The Roumanian Government has decided on the seizure of 250 empty goods wagons and six engines belonging to the Austro-Hungarian railways, which were sent into Roumanian territory in consequence of the Russian invasion of the Bukovina, together with six wagon-loads of ammunition, says a Reuter's message from Bucharest. The Roumanian Government several days ago again issued a rigorous prohibition of the exportation of petroleum, flour and other products to Turkey. All exportation to Bulgaria has also been suspended.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

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PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, July 6.

Currants.

The market has been quieter this week, partly owing to the available supply of good qualities being very small and partly owing to the firmness of holders in asking extreme prices for all kinds. Quotations are as reported last week.

Sultanas.

There has been a better demand during the week with a fair amount of business done at prices showing a slight advance from last week's quotations. It is expected that prices will soon be higher, and holders are not eager to sell.

Figs and Dates.

The market is fairly active, and prices are well maintained.

Seeds.

Linseed is dearer this week, with London-Calcutta afloat selling at 68s. 6d. to 69s., July-Aug. and Aug.-Sept., 70s.; Bombay, small grain July-Aug. is offered at 69s. 6d. Rape seed is dull, but prices quoted last week have not changed. Cotton-seed has declined, London-Egyptian afloat being quoted at £12 10s., and Sakelarides ditto £12 per ton. Canary seed had a better inquiry, quotations being 83s. to 110s. per 464 lbs.

Oils.

Linseed oil is dearer, spot pipes being quoted at £35, barrels ditto £36 landed terms. Cotton oil is quiet. Crude spot pipes £41 10s., refined pale pipes £44 10s., and barrels, sweet, £52 to £54. Rape oil remains unaltered at £48 to £50 for English refined barrels, while ordinary brown naked spot is nominal.

Oilcakes.

Cotton cakes: Owing to some fairly heavy arrivals of Egyptian the market has been somewhat depressed this week, and sellers of best brands quote at £9 10s. ex-quay and £9 5s. ex-ship, while English makes are unchanged at £9 10s. to £9 12s. 6d., with Bombays at £9 5s. per ton. Linseed cakes are extremely dull, with only small retail business passing at prices quoted last week. Rice Meal: A quantity of white Egyptian in store is offered at £9 15s., and second quality at £8 per ton; while Rangoon parcels afloat are quoted at £8 17s. 6d. to £9 ex-ship terms.

Locust Beans.

Market being quieter prices declined slightly, £10 10s. per ton whole and £11 10s. for kibbled.

BRITISH TRADE PRODUCTS.

We have received an advance proof of the interesting introduction to the annual special supplement of the London Chamber of Commerce *Journal*. The "Trade Products of the British Empire," as the supplement is aptly called, will be read with interest by all who are concerned with the development of British trade. Published for several years past, the supplement has consistently emphasised the fact that the British Empire can produce practically everything required by the Mother Country in the way of foodstuffs and raw materials for industries.

What will be particularly valuable in the supplement is a statistical review of the import trade of the United Kingdom in food products and raw materials for industries, special attention being given to the trade sources of these imports within the British Empire.

The tax on postal packets in Italy, both for the kingdom and for the Italian colonies, has been increased, as and from July 1. The increase varies according to the weight of the packets.

A Bucharest message states that the Bulgarian Government has issued a decree ordering the internment of all enemy subjects at present in Bulgaria and the sequestration of the property of commercial houses and industrial and other companies of enemy nationality.

Prominent Industries of India

The Announcements below are published to acquaint our readers with the opportunity India affords the keen purchaser.

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co.,Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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CYPRUS AGRICULTURE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nicosia, June 19.

Unfortunately, reports now show that the wheat harvest has given disappointing results, this yield being far smaller than was hoped, and inferior to that of last year. The wide plains of the Mesoria and Morphoa are the great producing areas, and although prospects were not so good recently in the former, it was not anticipated that crops would fall short in the latter. The outlook for the wheat supply of the island, therefore, causes some anxiety, and hopes are expressed that Government will prohibit the export of cereals. The failure, such as it is, is attributed in great measure to the parching heat-wave of May, which caused, also, no little injury to fruit trees, especially olives.

The grafting of wild trees—locust beans and olives—has proceeded in the usual rather haphazard manner. The Agricultural Department continues to do much useful work, in the matter of practical instruction in rural districts. It has sent experts to instruct villagers in the art of grafting. In many places the peasants are themselves skilful; but much still remains to be done in rendering vast numbers of wild trees fruitful. There is also a very large field for the cultivation of locust bean trees from seed, and the transplanting of young trees. Neglect to extend this profitable branch of industry is still largely due to the old obstacles, which still operate—the principal being want of water during the hot months, the ravages of goats, and malicious injury by villagers. The two latter evils have been dealt with by legislation, but full advantage cannot yet be taken of the law regarding goats, owing to ambiguities in the Act. These have been remedied by amendments during the session recently ended; but the latter have not yet received Imperial sanction, and so the evil drags on. In many places, too, villagers have not taken advantage of the law to exclude these destructive animals from their lands.

AGRICULTURAL COMMERCE IN EGYPT.

An indictment of Indian-made gunny bags and a eulogy of inexpensive American machinery were marked features of the proceedings at the third meeting of the Commission of Agricultural Commerce, held in Cairo on June 5. The question came up on a discussion regarding the possibility of making sacks in Egypt from "til" in order to replace, to some extent, the imported gunny from India. Naus Bey said that in previous years he had experienced great difficulty with Indian bags owing to defective sewing. The Société Générale des Sucreries et de la Raffinerie d'Egypte used about a million bags a year, which they now made themselves with the aid of inexpensive American machinery. The daily capacity of the plant is about 4,000 bags, and the plant did not cost more than about £700 or £800.

The president, Mr. Gerald C. Dudgeon, Consulting Agriculturist to the Ministry, said the manufacture of "til" sacks might become profitable if the raw material could be produced more cheaply, as there was good reason to believe it could. "Til," he said, was identical with Bimlipatam "hemp," which was used as a substitute for jute in the manufacture of many articles. Eventually it was agreed, on the suggestion of Mr. W. E. Kingsford, to experiment with a process designed by Mr. John Wells, formerly of the Mines Department, and to send the fibre to England to be spun.

A discussion followed on the condition of the dairying industry, in the course of which the president said the Ministry of Agriculture was considering possible developments in the making of butter and cheese. Many of the members remarked upon the decline of stock-raising. During the discussion on wheat and flour, the interesting point was made that although the value of flour imported in 1915 was less than that of the previous year by a million sterling, there had been little inconvenience, and they had been able to export more than 400,000 ardebs of wheat. This excellent result was due to the increased acreage placed under wheat in 1915.

TROUBLES OF BULGARIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 1.

Wool merchants in Bulgaria have lodged a protest with the Ministry of War because the military authorities have sequestered all the wool the former had in hand. The stocks were earmarked to supply the manufacturers of cloth who, in turn, were under contract to supply clothing in execution of war contracts. The dispute has been complicated somewhat by the allegation that illicit traders are at work and that they buy up what stocks remain at prices that are very much higher than those fixed by the Committee of Public Supply.

It is announced from Amsterdam that the big German banks have formed a syndicate, with a capital of 7,000,000 frs., to exploit the Bulgarian coal-mines.

The sugar supply has given out entirely in Sofia. The municipality has notified the inhabitants that in the complete absence of supplies petitions will be fruitless.

The Government has ordered that all sugar in transit through the country shall be detained, and 20 per cent. of the total be retained to help in the supply of public requirements. According to official statistics, the production of sugar in the country has fallen from 22,000,000 kilos in 1914-15 to 7,300,000 kilos in 1915-16.

Military service is becoming increasingly unpopular throughout the country. Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture complained in an official *communiqué* of the enormous number of petitions which had been received soliciting intervention to secure the exemption of the applicants from military service. The Ministry attributes "this unusual attitude of the male population to the mischievous writings which have appeared in some of the newspapers." To put an end to "these intolerable conditions," the Ministry has addressed a circular to the heads of the police instructing them to bring to the knowledge of the people the fact that no petition for exemption can be considered.

Between January 1 and May 18, 1916, large quantities of foodstuffs, all of which are mentioned in the official List of Articles of First Necessity, as well as articles required for the manufacture of military stores and equipment, have been despatched to Germany. The returns from the various Customs houses show that the total exports of the goods mentioned in the period aggregated about 33,300,000 kilos (32,500 tons approximately).

POST-WAR PREPARATIONS.

The Sub-Committee appointed by the Council for the Organisation of British Engineering Industry to report on engineering education and research (consisting of Messrs. A. P. M. Fleming, of the British Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company; J. G. Maxwell Garnett, Principal of the School of Technology and Dean of the Faculty of Technology, Manchester University; and Mr. Miles Walker, Professor of Electrical Engineering in the School of Technology and in Manchester University) have published their report. It indicates some of the changes which the Committee considers it most necessary to make in our present methods of educating engineers, suggests legislative and administrative means of effecting some of these changes, and points out the need for greatly increasing the volume of research in connection with the British engineering industry.

TO ASSIST BRITISH FIRMS.

The President of the Board of Trade has appointed a Committee to consider the best means of meeting the needs of British firms after the war as regards financial facilities for trade, particularly with reference to the financing of large overseas contracts and to prepare a detailed scheme for that purpose.

The Committee will consist of :—The Lord Faringdon (Chairman), Mr. B. P. Blackett, C.B.; Sir W. H. Clark, K.C.S.I., C.M.G.; Mr. F. Dudley Docker, C.B.; Mr. Gaspard Farrer; Mr. W. H. N. Goschen; Right Hon. F. Huth Jackson; Mr. Walter Leaf; Hon. Algernon Mills; Mr. J. H. Simpson; and Mr. R. Vassar-Smith.

Mr. Hartley Withers will act as secretary to the Committee.

SHIPPING NOTES.

The steamer Orleanian (2,293 tons gross register), which left New York on December 23, bound for Malta, has not arrived at her destination, and has been reported at Lloyd's as missing.

A message confirming the sinking of the Moeris (3,409 tons) has reached the Moss Line at Liverpool. It adds that three of the crew were killed, Chief-Engineer Smith, Greaser Hunt, and Fireman Brennan. The rest are safe. The Moeris was well known in Alexandria, having been engaged in trade between that port and Liverpool.

The Greek steamer Fofo, which stranded near Corunna last Thursday, has been floated. This is a most unusual success to achieve on the western coast of Spain. The vessel struck the rocks of Carromeiro Chico in Corcubion Bay, while bound from Genoa for Hartlepool with iron ore, some of which had to be jettisoned. The Fofo has been towed to Corcubion Harbour.

EGYPTIAN SHIPPING IN 1916.

According to the shipping returns for the first quarter of 1916, just published by the Ports and Lights Administration—considering the abnormal conditions imposed by the war—the shipping trade may be regarded as satisfactory. In January 95 vessels of a tonnage of 149,774 discharged 90,467 tons of merchandise, the figures of the corresponding period of 1914 being 295 vessels, of 566,142 tons, merchandize 384,194. Passengers this year fell from 9,256 to 710.

In February and March almost the same proportions were maintained, the statistics being (1914 first): vessels, 875, and 265; tonnage, 1,697,174 and 408,745; merchandize disembarked, 1,151,426 and 255,664; passengers, 29,862 and 1,894. These figures do not include transports and military stores, which have led to the greatest activity at Alexandria, Port Said, and Suez; and which have more than compensated for the falling off in the tourist traffic.

As to the vessels passing through the Canal, these totalled 598 ships, of a tonnage of 1,865,715 as compared with 1,323 ships of a tonnage of 4,276,787 in the corresponding period of 1914, military and naval movements not being included.

SHIPPING AFTER THE WAR.

Many French commercial men are imbued with the idea that France will take the place of Germany after the war, so far as shipping is concerned, and many articles have appeared in the Paris Press advocating the adoption of an energetic policy by the French Mercantile Marine. The views of the correspondent of *La Dépêche Coloniale* in the Persian Gulf will, therefore, be read with some little interest :—

"Without a great commercial fleet furrowing the seas of the world, France will experience a thousand difficulties in developing her colonial and economic enterprises," he writes. "Numerous steamers are absolutely necessary to bring about the desired result.

"British shipping has predominated for the past twenty years in the Persian Gulf, the French flag being seldom seen, except in the case of a few sailing ships. Before the war Russian and German steamers came regularly. At the present time Dutch and Japanese vessels frequent the ports. Such a situation cannot be other than regrettable, because the Messageries Maritimes have even discontinued the call at Bombay, which was once so frequent. It is now rumoured in French industrial centres that a French Persian Gulf Company has been formed at Paris, whose objects will be devoted to trade and shipping.

"It is to be noted that the seven ports of the Persian Gulf, so much neglected by us and actively worked by others, are the entry and clearance ports of Eastern and Central Arabia, all Mesopotamia, and three-quarters of the whole of Persia. A purely French firm, having its own steamers, factories, and agents, would make money in these regions, to the benefit of the prestige of France."

The total olive crop for the departments of the Marches, Umbria, Latium, Abruzzi, and Molise, with the island of Sardinia added, was 256,000 metric tons in 1915, compared with 220,000 tons in 1914.

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Engineering Notes.

Electricity and Agriculture.

The recently invented electrical process for the destruction of insect and germ life harmful to plants and trees will interest agriculturists, fruit and wine growers in Europe, where, owing to war restrictions, the necessary chemicals for spraying are not to be obtained, and valuable crops are damaged or totally destroyed by various pests. The electrical process takes the place to a great extent of the usual spray and other methods. It consists of applying a solution, say of saline water, to the ground to be treated, and then causing a current of electricity to pass through the soil, whereupon the gas generated will rid the soil of germs, larvæ, and insects without the least injury to vegetation. Where a larger area is involved, it has been found desirable to dig shallow trenches at opposite sides of the area to be treated, and the electric terminals are placed in these. An application of a somewhat more powerful current will rid the entire area of pests.

Propellers' Efficiency.

A very simple, yet most important, device has recently been invented by which the efficiency of propellers for steam or motor-boats can be substantially increased at only a small additional cost. The arrangement consists of putting a tip on the end of the blades of the propeller, the tip being nothing more than a piece of sheet brass brazed on at right angles to the blade, and standing up on the propeller on which the experiments were made to about an inch and a-half at the burrowing point and terminating about one and three-quarter inches long, tapered at that point to nothing. It is claimed that with this device the slip of the propeller is diminished, and that the speed of any relatively small boat can be increased. An experiment was tried on a motor-boat to which was fitted a propeller 16 inches diameter and 24 inches pitch. It is said that a considerable increase in speed in the boat was attained, and the fact that the propeller apparently had no backwash and vibration indicates that the design is on the right lines.

Electric Transmission for Automobiles.

One of the latest improvements in automobiles is an electric transmission system, which seems to possess considerable advantages. With this system the engine fly-wheel, clutch pedal, gears, starting and lighting apparatus, etc., are eliminated. The transmission unit consists of a generator, the field of which is bolted to the engine crank-shaft, and a motor whose armature is attached to the same shaft to which the armature of the generator is fastened, and whose field is stationary. There is no mechanical connection between the rear axle and the gasoline engine, but the torque of the engine is transmitted to the driving axle electrically, and the car is operated through what is in effect a slipping clutch. Instead, however, of wasting in resistances the energy generated by the slip, the power is utilised at intermediate driving speeds. The two armatures are identical, and both are fastened to a hollow shaft, which is attached to the propeller shaft. Change in speeds is accomplished by gradually decreasing the motor-field excitation and finally short-circuiting the generator brushes at high speed. The car is operated by a six-cylinder engine, which is started by the generator operating as a motor and taking energy from the battery. On the first car motion the field windings of the generator are connected through resistance, the control lever being placed in the first position. In the second position the generator field is short-circuited. In the third position resistance is switched into the field coils of the motor, thereby throwing a greater load on the generator, which is equivalent to tightening the magnetic grip on the armature. In the fourth position more resistance is put into the motor-field. In successive positions resistance is added until the seventh (high-speed position), when all the energy generated is utilised to drive the armature. When the car is running the electric transmission acts as a brake as the lever is turned to the neutral position.

The Lower Danube.

The delta of the Danube is enormous. Two of the mouths, in the Black Sea, are sixty miles apart, but only the smallest (the Sulina) is available for navigation. The port of Sulina is the headquarters of the European Commission, which regulates the navigation of the Lower Danube. This Commission was appointed after the Crimean War, when the Danube was thrown open to international navigation, subject to regulations established at the Vienna Congress. The Commission includes representatives of most European Powers, and has jurisdiction from the harbours at Sulina to the Iron Gates; it possesses a regular police, a flag, flotilla, and revenue. Up river, the Danube Steamship Company almost monopolises trade, two other rival companies having met with an untimely end in the Bankruptcy Courts of Bavaria and Hungary. On the Lower Danube English steamers are in the majority, then Greek, followed by Austrian and Italian. An excellent new channel constructed at Vienna has greatly facilitated navigation. This work took twenty-three years to complete, and cost thirty-two million florins.

River Dues.

The navigation dues fixed by the European Commission in 1898 are on a simple and ingenious scale. (1) All men-of-war, vessels of specially small tonnage, and tug-boats not employed as lighters, are exempt from dues: (2) All ships entering or leaving the harbour in ballast pay sixteen centimes per ton register; (3) Vessels unloading or loading at Sulina, or up the river, pay for each ton register on the following graduated scale: From 200 to 400 tons, 55 centimes in harbour or 1 fr. 10 cent. in the river; 400 to 600 tons, 75 cent. in harbour, 1 fr. 30 cent. in river; 600 to 800 tons, 1 fr. 10 cent. in harbour, 1 fr. 70 cent. in river; 800 to 1,000 tons, 1 fr. 20 cent. in harbour, 1 fr. 80 cent. in river; 1,000 tons, and upwards, 1 fr. 25 cent. in harbour, 1 fr. 90 cent. in river. Mailboats carrying passengers regularly pay 60 per cent. less; (4) Every vessel pays full dues on its first voyage each year, and on subsequent voyages only 88 per cent; (5) 100 fr. is charged for each vessel loading in Sulina Roads; (6) Lighters bringing them cargo pay 55 centimes per ton; (7) Every raft or float of timber putting to sea pays according to width and draught of water. These dues pay for all Commission works and improvements for lighthouses, pilotage service in the harbour, and up river to Braela. Companies employing their own pilots obtain a reduction of 20 per cent. on the up-river navigation dues. The revised regulations for the navigation of the Lower Danube were signed by the European Commission of the Danube in the month of November, 1911, and were finally issued on June 17, 1912. No alterations, however, of great importance appear to have since been made, but their revision for the protection of the Allies' trade, and against German projects, would be found to be effective in the forthcoming trade war.

ALEXANDRA PRIZE COURT.

The "Lutzow" (Ex-Cargo).

In the Supreme Court for Egypt, sitting at Alexandria in Prize, his Honour Judge Cator has delivered judgment in a case relating to cargo ex the s.s. Lutzow, the facts being set forth in the judgment as follows:—

These goods form part of the cargo of the German s.s. Lutzow, and are now in course of being sold. They belonged to two partnerships established in the Straits Settlements under two firm names. One branch, known as Rautenberg Schmidt and Co., did business in Singapore; the other, passing as Schmidt Kustermann and Co., traded in Penang. The partners in both firms are identical, and share equally in the profits of both. According to the declaration of Mr. Robert Sturzenneger, who supplies the foregoing information, there are three partners—Mr. Sturzenneger himself, a Swiss subject, resident at Scaffhausen, in Switzerland; Martin Suhl, described as of German nationality, born in Singapore and resident in Singapore and Penang for about twenty years, who is now interned as a prisoner of war in Australia; and Max Hasche, of German nationality, born in Penang and resident in Hamburg since 1909.

Assuming that Suhl, though born a British subject, has become German in the eye of the law, and has since acquired a trade domicil in British territory, and that the partners only do business in the Straits Settlements, prize law will deal with the property of the partnership as follows.—The share of Sturzenneger will be released to him as a neutral, resident in a neutral country. That of Hasche falls to be condemned as the property of an alien enemy, while that of Suhl, who is in a similar position to Hehlen in the Clan Grant case, will escape condemnation by reason of the fact that, although an enemy, he has a British commercial domicil.

The President of the English Prize Court has dealt with this branch of prize law so fully in the "Clan Grant" case (I. Trehern, 272) that it is quite unnecessary for me to travel over the same ground, and on the general subject of commercial domicil I have nothing to add to what I said in the Knauf case.

But the Procurator has raised a further question, which, so far as I know, is not covered by any direct authority. He contends that an enemy holding an interest in a house of trade in the enemy country is debarred from all benefit to which he would be otherwise entitled by reason of a commercial domicil in British territory. And he submits that in all probability Suhl is a partner in a firm which trades in Hamburg, for, on letter paper of his firm at Penang, below the words Schmidt Kustermann and Co., Penang, are printed in somewhat smaller characters the words Kautenberg Schmidt and Co., Singapore, and Schmidt and Kustermann, Hamburg.

Before I deal with this contention there is one point in relation to domicil that I wish to make quite clear. As I understand the law, a commercial domicil can only attach to individual traders. It can never be acquired by a partnership or house of business; and even when it becomes necessary to attribute a domicil can only be a civil or a quasi civil domicil, as described by Dicey in his "Conflict of Laws," and never the commercial

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domicile known to prize law. The distinction is of no consequence in the case of a partnership doing business only in an enemy country, and it might be immaterial in other cases if we released all goods attributable to a house of trade situate in British or neutral territory without inquiring into its constituent elements. But as we probe into its constitution, and make the release of goods depend upon the personal domicil of the individuals who compose it, clear thought demands that we should not attribute to a firm a quality which is only applicable to its members.

To deal now with Mr. Suhl's case. For the sake of argument, I will assume that the composition of the three firms trading in Penang, Singapore, and Hamburg is identical. Why should this affect Suhl's interest in goods attributable only to the Penang and Singapore houses? It seems to me that I can labour under no greater disability than his enemy character; and as that does not disentitle him to the advantage which, by the indulgence of our law, attaches to his commercial domicil in British territory, I think he can incur no further or special disability because he is also a member of a firm which does business in an enemy country.

The root idea of commercial domicil in any country is to place its possessor on the same footing as subjects of that country in regard to his business carried on there; and if a interest in a foreign house is to taint Mr. Suhl's share of a business in British territory, it seems to me that the Court will have to confiscate Mr. Sturzenneger's share on similar grounds, and would have to mete out the same measure even to a British partner resident in British territory if such there were.

Given that Mr. Suhl can establish a British trade domicil, I think the Court is not concerned with the nature of any of his trade interests elsewhere. But whether he has, in fact, such a domicil is another question, and the probability that he is a partner in a Hamburg house justifies a very minute inquiry as to his status in the Straits Settlements. The affidavit of Mr. Sturzenneger on this point does not satisfy me, and I must have evidence from a responsible British source as to his establishment, habits, and movements during the past few years, including the number and nature of any absences from the colony, coupled with an explanation of his internment in Australia.

Even if he can establish a commercial domicile in British territory, Mr. Suhl must not expect that his share will be released to him personally. I should propose to deal with it as I dealt with that of the claimant in Knauf's case, by carrying it to a special account in the Court books. But this is a question which can be discussed if and when Mr. Suhl satisfies the Court that he has British trade domicil, and the case must be adjourned for the production of the further evidence that I require.

I release the share of Mr. Sturzenneger as a neutral, and confiscate that of Max Hasche as an alien enemy.

"FUEL IN TURKEY."

Owing to pressure on our space, we have been compelled to hold over until next week the final instalment of Mr. Leon Dominian's paper which is to be read at the Arizona meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers in September.

COMPANY REPORTS.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.

The report of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Limited, for 1915 states that the total production was 34,961 tons of oil. Although the production was again insufficient to provide full employment for the refinery, the directors were able to arrange to work crude oil and distillate imported from other sources, for the refining of which £31,988 was received. The directors regret to report that the efforts to recover the production of the Gemsah wells Nos. 10 and 13 have resulted only in an intermittent production. At Hurghada, well No. 1, which became plugged with sand in October, 1914, was reopened in March, 1915, and produced until the end of April, when it ceased flowing. Since then a small, but regular, production has been pumped out of this well. Well No. 3 kept up a steady production during the whole of the year. In well No. 7 a strong gusher was struck in November, 1915, accompanied by much sand and mud, which periodically blocked the well. All efforts were made to obtain a regular production, and since February, 1916, the well has been flowing steadily at the rate of about 56 tons a day. Several new wells were started in 1915 at Gemsah, two of which have reached depths of 2,027 ft. and 2,370 ft. respectively, and at Hurghada, but none of them have yet reached a productive stage. At Dish tel Taba, which lies to the south of the Hurghada field, granite was reached in the only well commenced, making the prospects hopeless, and it has been decided for the present not to drill further in this territory. The war very greatly increased the cost of materials and stores required for the refinery and for the fields, and it has often been difficult to obtain the requisite supplies. The oil products were readily sold by the Asiatic Petroleum Co. (Egypt), Limited, at gradually rising prices, which to some extent compensated for the increased costs of production and refining. The receipts have been sufficient to enable operations to be continued without calling upon the shareholders for further capital, as was contemplated towards the close of last year. The Egyptian Government have expressed their appreciation of the arrangements which the company has been able to make; while the cordial relations prevailing between the Government and the company have rendered it unnecessary to send out a special representative, as was announced in a circular issued to the shareholders on October 15 last. The congestion at the North Basin, Suez, referred to in the report for 1915, was unfortunately continued during the year under review. Meeting, Winchester House, July 13, at 2.30.

United Egyptian Lands.

The report of the United Egyptian Lands, Limited, for the year ended March 31 states that on the Kom El Akhdar property the cotton grown by the purchasers of land and by the tenants has again been affected by the pink bollworm, and the crop only amounted to 1,200 cantars. This explains the increase in the arrears due by the purchasers, whose accounts have been charged with about £600, the expenses incurred in having their contracts transcribed at the tribunals. The supply of water for the property was insufficient, and on this account nearly 800 feddans remained idle which otherwise would have given crops. Steps have been taken to improve the supply of water, and it is hoped that this question of irrigation, which is so important, will shortly be settled in a way beneficial to the property. The revenue of the property has only been sufficient to leave a small balance after meeting the ordinary expenses, and in consequence the arrears due to the Mortgage Company of Egypt, Limited, under the two loans have considerably increased. The profit and loss account shows a loss of £E1766,682 m. The directors, however, point out that this account has been charged with the interest (£E1816,670 m.) due under the supplementary loan which was granted for the reclamation of "boor" lands, and which in previous years has been added to the cost price of the lands. No work in the nature of reclamation has been carried out on these lands during the last two years. The management of the properties continues in the hands of the judicial receiver with the approval of the secured creditors.

Malta and Mediterranean Gas.

The report of the Malta and Mediterranean Gas Company for the year ended March 31 shows that the balance of the general revenue account is £6,388. The directors recommend a dividend of 4 per cent., free of tax, on the ordinary capital, making 6 per cent. for the year, leaving £1,211 to be carried forward. Meeting, 11th instant, 11.30 a.m., 59 and 60, Gracechurch Street, E.C.

COMPANY NOTES.

Meetings.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields. — The annual general meeting will be held at Winchester House, on July 13, at 2.30 p.m.

Carmanian Iron Corporation.—The ninth ordinary general meeting will be held at 56, Cannon Street, London, E.C., on July 10, at 3.15 p.m.

Greek Iron Ore Corporation.—The eighth ordinary general meeting will be held at 56, Cannon Street, London, E.C., on July 10, at 3 p.m.

Alexandria and Ramleh Railway Co., Limited.—Dividend of 4s. per share, payable July 1 at the company's office, 17, Boulevard de Ramleh, on presentation of Coupon No. 13.

Dividends, etc.

Egyptian Markets.—Final dividend of 6 per cent., payable on and after June 30 at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Clement's Lane, London, E.C.

Port Said Salt Association.—Dividend of one shilling, payable at the office of the Credit Lyonnais, Alexandria, July 1, on presentation of Coupon No. 14.

Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields.—Warrants for debenture interest for the half-year to June 30 have been posted.

Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons notify that the coupons and drawn bonds of the Piræus, Athens and Peloponnesus Railway Three per Cent. bonds, due on July 15, will be paid on and after that date at their office, Austin Friars House, E.C.

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General.

Anglo-Persian Oil.—In reply to a member, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs stated in the House of Commons, last week, that he would cause a copy of the accounts of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, with the directors' report and balance-sheet for 1914-15, to be presented to the House of Commons. He said that the report and accounts for the year 1915-16 were still under preparation.

Sudan Plantations.—Speaking on June 29 at a meeting of the Central Mines and Investment Corporation, Limited, Sir Lionel Phillips said that the prospects of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Limited, might be considered satisfactory. Negotiations with the Sudan Government in connection with the development of the Gezira Plain would, he believed, shortly be resumed.

A decree passed recently by the Council of Ministers authorises the organisation of a new company, called "The Egyptian Land Company."

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for week, 100 tons (last week, 12 tons). Hurgada production for week, 436 tons (last week, 428 tons).

Baku Russian.—Week ended June 24: 83,300 poods.

Bibi Eibat.—Week ended June 18, 61,867 poods; week ended June 25, 62,000 poods.

British Maikop Oil.—Production last week, 2,613 poods (about 42 tons) crude oil.

European Oilfields.—Week ended June 25: 106,000 poods.

International Russian.—Production well on plot No. 107, four weeks ended June 24: 9,110 poods.

Lobitos Oilfields.—Production for June, 7,282 tons.

Maikop Pipeline and Transport.—Received for pumping, week ended June 17; 23,811 poods; week ended June 24, 49,979 poods.

North Caucasian.—Week ended May 24-June 6, 347,736 poods; week ended May 31-June 13, nil; week ended June 7-June 20, 287,634 poods. (Note.—Production was interrupted for about a fortnight by a strike at Grosny, which has now been settled.) Week ended June 14/27, 587,457 poods.

Roumanian Consolidated.—Week ended June 24: 739 tons.

Spies.—Week ended June 25: 133,750 poods (including 12,150 poods from ambars). Total, 4,045,515 poods, against 6,555,470 poods.

Ural Caspian.—Week ended June 22 141,142 poods.

Serbia, Montenegro, and the occupied part of Albania are now officially described in Austria-Hungary as "the occupied Slav Provinces." Engineers and surveyors have been instructed to prepare the plans of a net of railways, the building of which it is proposed to start immediately. The three lines will (1) lead through Bosnia and the Drina Valley, continue through Northern Albania, and terminate at Avlona; (2) connect Uskub with San Giovanni di Medua, and (3) continue the existing Salonika-Monastir Railway, *viâ* Resnia, Ochrida, and Ljes to Avlona. The concessions have been granted to a Hun banking syndicate, led by the Deutsche Bank of Berlin. These railways are to "constitute a new trade route to Egypt and North Africa."

The following statement, dated July 5, has been circulated:—The attention of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Limited, has been called to a paragraph which appears in numerous newspapers to-day to the effect that the Central Roumanian Petroleum Company in Roumania has received orders immediately to discontinue the export of petroleum to Germany and Austria-Hungary. The Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields wishes to point out that it acquired over three years ago the undertaking of the Central Roumanian Petroleum Company, and that there is no foundation whatever for the statement so published in the Press. The Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields has during the war neither sold nor exported any portion of its output to any enemy country.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Price June 30	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Ms. Bd., 1892	99	89½xd	74
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1909	80	66	47
Mty of Alexandria 4%. 1908	99	80	90½
Mty of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	—	62½
Egypt, Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93⅜	87⅛	87½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	79	79⅜
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	69	70
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	65	66
Do. 4½% State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80¼	75⅛	75½
Greek 5%, 1881	57	56	57xd
Do. 5%, 1884	56	54	56xd
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	51½	51xd
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	43	42
Do. 5%, 1890	56	53	53
Do. 4% Fndg. Ln., 1893	64	49	49½xd
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1902	77	66	65xd
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	75½	75½
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	51½
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	80	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913. Sc., £60p.	92	85	77½
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855	103	—	—
Do. 4%, 1891	94⅛	76½	78
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	68½	69
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	54	51
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65½	49	38
Do. 4%, 1909	69	47½	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	4⅜	4½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅞	7⅞	7xd
Do. 3½% Bonds Red.	80	69xd	69
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	83	71xd	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11½	11⅝
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	2	37/13
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	82/6	79,9
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	6	6⅛
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	6⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	3⅜xd	75/-
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5⅞	100/6
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	12⅜	12⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	6⅞
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	4⅛	4⅛
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	87⅛	88½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½% Debs., Ser. I.	89⅛	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅜	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	12	10
Do do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	13⅜	11⅛
Do do. 4% 1st Deb.	87	57	58xd
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	69	56xd
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	10⅛
Smyrna, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	74
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	—	55
LAND.			
Abonkir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	¾	1
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	95	14/6
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	⅛	—	89½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2½	2½
Do. Do. Def.	⅛	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	6	5⅞
Do. Pref.	4⅜	3⅜	62/6
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	9/-	8 9
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	88½	86/-
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	2/9	2/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	⅛	⅞
" " Founders	⅛	—	14/4½
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5% Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	7⅛	7xd
Do. 4½% 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	77½	77/-xd
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	9/-	7/9
Sidi Salem Co.	⅜	⅜	⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	⅛	15/3
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½	11⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½% 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	26/-	24/3xd
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99⅜	95	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	18/6	18/6
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	23/3	25/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Do. do. 4½% 1st Mt.	90	89	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	1½	1½

OIL.

	Price on June 28.	July 5.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/3	6/3
Anglo-Persian	21/9	21/3
European Oilfields	3/9	4/-
Roumanian	14 6	15/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	June 28.	July 5.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	443	—
Canal de Suez	4500	4495
Credit Foncier Egyptien	640	—
Turkish Unified 4%	58 50	59.50
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.50	—
Serbian, 1895	60.70	—

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Côtes du 23 Juin, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt	12⅜	to 12½
Tram. d'Alexandrie	94½	" 95
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£ 11½	ex coupn
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. 5½	" —
priv.	L.E. 3½	" —
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs. 126	" —
Bons de Panama	Frs. 93	" 94
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs. 59½	" —
Privilégiée	Frs. 90	" —
Chelkh Fadl	Frs. 75½	" —
Urbaines et Rurales	£ 2⅜	" —
Comptoir Financier and Commercial d'Egypte	£ ⅜	" —
Building Lands of Egypt	£ 1	" 1½
Union Foncièr d'Egypte	L.E. ⅜	" —
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4½	" —
Bonded Warehouse	L.E. 4⅜	" —
Unifiée	L.E. 80	" —
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 4¾	" 5
Fondateur	£ 23	" —
Pressage et dépôts	£ 28½	" 29
Nungovich Hotels	£ 2½	" —
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£ 4⅜	" —
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£ 3⅞	" —
Ord.	£ 21/-	" —
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£ 3½	" —
Egypt. Delta Light Railway	£ 5⅛	" —
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£ 104	" —
Jouissance	£ 154	" —
Egyptian Markets	24/6	" —
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs. 215	" —
Div.	Frs. 135	" 140
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs. 92	" —
Egyptian Salt and Soda	17/9	" 18/-
Crédit Foncier d'Egypte	Frs. 578	" —
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs. 301	" 301½
" 1903 "	Frs. 244	" 245
" 1911 "	Frs. 252	" 252½
Delta Land	£ ⅜	" ⅝
Port Said Salt	33/6	" 33/9
Cotton Ginners	£ ⅜	" —
New Egyptian	£ 8/3	" 8/6
United Land	P.T. 4	" —
Levant S.S. Co.	24/6 ex cpn.	
Fondateur	95/- ex cpn.	

Marché faible.

SUEZ CANAL DUES.

A further rise of 50 centimes (5d.) per ton in the Suez Canal dues is announced to take effect as from October 5, bringing the rate for laden ships to 7 frs. 25 c. (6s.) per ton, and for ships in ballast to 4 frs. 75 c. (3s. 11d.) per ton. The dues were raised as from April 1 last by 50 centimes, and the possibility of the present increase was mentioned at the annual meeting of the company held in Paris early last month. It was then pointed out that in consequence of the war the transit receipts last year declined by nearly 24 per cent. and the total receipts by nearly 27,000,000 frs. (£1,080,000).

In the years immediately preceding the war there was a steady reduction of the dues, and the increase now announced will raise the rates to the level of 1911.

CANAL RECEIPTS.

The Traffic Receipts of the Suez Canal have been as follows on the days named:—

	1915. Frs.	1916. Frs.
July 2	230,000	220,000
July 3 } July 4 }	530,000	520,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended July 1.	1916. Week ended June 29.
Cattle markets	414	441
General markets	359	359
Cattle markets closed	30	31
Receipts (£)	773	800
Total from commencement of year (£)	28,151	28,924

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended June 10, 1916.

	1915. £E.	1916. £E.
May 1-June 10	3,467	4,796
April 1-June 10	26,132	32,548

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.
Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.
Geo. Thomas and Co., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc, Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 271.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Greece does not seem destined to find the path leading back to a real constitutional régime a particularly smooth one. German intrigue has received a decided setback as a result of the firm action taken by the Allies, but it has by no means been eliminated. The Minister for War has found it necessary to issue a further order to the army prohibiting all officers from taking any part in political questions. But the influences at work may be clearly seen in the speech, quoted in these columns last week, which Prince Andrew saw fit to address to certain reservists on the occasion of their disbandment. He deliberately encouraged the soldiery to think politically, if not unconstitutionally. It is now announced that Prince Andrew and his elder brother, Prince Nicholas, have left suddenly for Denmark and Petrograd on a visit to their mother, the Queen Dowager Olga, who resides in Russia. Their tour, it is to be hoped, will enable them to envisage Greek politics from a broader point of view than they have been able to acquire at Athens.

The situation in Greece has been well summed up by the Russian Minister at Athens, who speaks of the two opposing sections of the Greek Press being busily engaged in digging the gulf deeper between the citizens of Greece. This moment in the world crisis, he points out, has been badly chosen for such a fratricidal campaign, for it is a time when every effort should be made for conciliation and enlightenment and real mutual understanding. Almost identical words have been used in these pages, in which it has been frequently contended that throughout the whole controversy the Allies have never once lost sight of the real interests of Greece. The régime instituted by the Gounaris and Skouloudis Cabinets, under which espionage was rampant and free speech and constitutional liberty were suppressed, could never be in keeping with Hellenic interests; it relied solely upon German support, financial or otherwise, for its continued existence. The Allied Powers insist upon the elimination of German intrigue, not the substitution of their domination for that of Germany's. They have no wish to interfere in Greek affairs, but could not stand by and see Germany taking charge of them. They invite the Greek people to resume control of their own affairs in their own interests. Now that the Allies have had to resort to the drastic measures entailed in the ultimatum presented to the late Greek Government, it would be inconsistent on their part to shrink from further interference, if necessary, to prevent the good so far accomplished from being undermined by a few Greek henchmen of a German paymaster.

On the other hand, no opportunity should be lost of refuting the assertions of the small clique of unfriendly Greeks that the Allies are set upon making themselves masters of Greece much in the same way as Germany has taken control in Turkey and Bulgaria. For this reason it is satisfactory to learn that the Greek officers at Salonika who were arrested for assaulting the editor of a Venizelist newspaper are to be handed over to the Greek authorities. It seemed likely at one time that the French might insist upon their rights in this matter, especially as the incident is typical of the attitude of mind of some of the officers of the Greek Army, who affect not to acquiesce in the Allies' occupation of Salonika. But when once French authority has been vindicated and the offenders placed under arrest, it is a tactful course to adopt to show confidence in the new Greek Government by handing over the officers to be dealt with by their own military authorities.

The Turks have so far not been able to get at grips with the Arab revolt, primarily owing to the sound tactics adopted in tearing up some hundred miles of the track of the Hejaz Railway. Meanwhile, the Arabs are making the most of the respite, and the movement is spreading. To the south of Mecca the Idrissi of Asir, who has been the object of several unsuccessful Turkish expeditions in the past, has made common cause with the Grand Shereef of Mecca, and has captured the town and fort of Kunfidah on the Red Sea, taking prisoners the garrison of eight Turkish officers and 190 men. It it reported that the Arabs as far north as Damascus are standing in with the Grand Shereef. If their support should take a practical form, the difficulties of the Turks in conducting operations in the Hejaz will be considerably enhanced. The Allies have a strong interest in taking measures to prevent the free movement of Turkish troops towards Medina. If they are unable to interpose any force in the way of the Turks and cannot hope to distract their attention by an attack elsewhere, it should at least be possible to supplement the damage already done to the Hejaz Railway by air-raids from suitable points on the Red Sea coast.

We welcome the signs of growing impatience over the Mesopotamian campaign, while regretting that there should be any cause for it. On another page we deal with the political importance of these operations, and suggest reasons why Great Britain cannot afford to allow

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the war in this part of the world to have an indeterminate conclusion and to be decided by the course of events in Europe. Criticism in Parliament and the Press is still inclined—not unnaturally, it must be admitted—to harp upon past shortcomings in the conduct of the expedition, under the uncomfortable suspicion that the conditions under which the force is still fighting leave much to be desired. There is reason to suppose that the whole equipment of the expedition has been at fault from the very beginning. In these circumstances the delay in publishing the despatches of the different Commanders-in-Chief and the report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the medical arrangements is particularly to be deplored. The Government cannot be surprised at the public showing a disposition to dictate how this campaign ought to be conducted in the face of its own inability to make up its mind on the subject. Any hope based on the transfer of the campaign from the charge of the India Government to that of the War Office have so far been disappointed. The same lack of interest seems to brood over the expedition, finding expression in the absence of reports and in the failure to extract despatches from any of the General Officers who have held command at one time or another, or to compel the two medical authorities entrusted with a special inquiry to submit their findings within a reasonable time.

According to information received by the *Russkoe Slovo* from Teheran, German agents are again showing activity in Persia. The news dates from June 21, and speaks of well-armed bands of Persian horsemen, recruited from the nomadic tribes, being mobilized with a view to taking the Russians in the rear as they advanced on Baghdad, while the Turks attacked them in front. There would seem to have been some miscarriage of the plan, for at the time when the horsemen were ready to strike the Turks were not in a position to play their part. Accordingly the Persians turned their attention to promiscuous brigandage, and are said to have started operations in the territory between Ispahan, Teheran, Sultanabad, and Kermanshah. The Russians have been successful in their first encounter with the tribesmen, but it is probable that the existence of these bands has helped to bring about General Baratoff's rather rapid withdrawal from the Turco-Persian frontier. In these circumstances it is perhaps fortunate that the original Turco-German scheme of a simultaneous attack on the Russians from the East and the West miscarried. The absence of news from Persia had encouraged the belief that the Russians had the situation well in hand. It is to be feared that the German agents profited from the lack of co-ordination between the Russian and the British authorities. When the former became too active for their peace of mind they escaped to Southern Persia. By the time the British were ready to deal with them the Russians had relaxed their hold on certain districts in the northern sphere in order to place as many troops as possible under General Baratoff's command. If the work of clearing Persia of Turco-German agents has to be carried out again, care should be taken that the Allies move simultaneously in their respective spheres.

The report of a rising in Montenegro, to which reference was made last week, finds confirmation in the advices received in Serbian circles at Salonika, according to which local insurrectionary movements have sprung up both in Montenegro and in Serbia. For the moment, however, it is not clear whether General Vechovitch, a former Minister of War, whose name was connected with the rising in Montenegro, is at the head of it. A *communiqué* issued by the Austrian Government admits that General Vechovitch is "at large," and that a price has been put upon his head; it is added that he is believed to have escaped into Serbia. According to the Austrian version, which makes no reference to a general rising in Montenegro, it was found necessary in the middle of June "to deprive General Vechovitch of all opportunity of exercising an unfavourable influence on his own countrymen." He was, therefore, summoned to leave the country and take up his residence in Austria-Hungary. General Vechovitch's reply to this summons, according to this statement, was to assassinate the bearer and then take to flight. All the male members of his family who had not previously fled were seized as hostages. It is, of course, impossible to place absolute reliance upon the Austrian version. The one fact that emerges from all the evidence is that conditions in Montenegro are desperate. A rising, however, would seem to have little chance of success, unless the Austrians had very materially reduced the strength of their garrison in the country. Even so, they will be in a position to suppress any movement before help can reach it from the outside world. A later report speaks of Cettinje having been burned by the Austrians. We must wait for confirmation of the statement before its accuracy is accepted. In any case there would seem to be good reason for pushing on with any arrangements that can be made for conveying relief to the destitute population of Montenegro. The view of the British Government is that, as far as official action is concerned, the matter is entirely in the hands of the Italian Government. Funds would, no doubt, be forthcoming from Great Britain, but Italy would have to make herself responsible for the distribution.

It was a happy inspiration to commemorate by a service in St. Paul's Cathedral those who have fallen during the present war in the defence of Serbia—Serbians and British, soldiers, doctors, and nurses. The chivalrous and philanthropic instinct of the British race makes no distinction between our Allies; its help is given to all alike according to their need and to the utmost of its power. But there are special reasons why the country should show how deeply the plight of Serbia has appealed to it. Belgium was overwhelmed before it was possible to strike an adequate blow on her behalf. The Allies, however, had ample warning of the fate in store for Serbia; but they failed to make the effort for her protection in time. Not until Serbia was almost entirely overrun did an Anglo-French force land at Salonika; its presence in comparative idleness at that port ever since has served to emphasise the failure to relieve the Serbians, for it has not yet found any other real work to do. Serbia, therefore, has been the victim of circumstances not altogether beyond the control of the Allied Powers. She is entitled to special consideration at the hands of the country whose Government pledged itself to give her support against an Austro-German invasion. The service at St. Paul's Cathedral told of a general appreciation of her peculiar position in the hearts of the Allies, and was an earnest of the resolve to see that the Serbians shall one day come into all that they have a right to consider their own.

The recapture of Mamakhatun, south-west of Erzeroum, indicates that the success registered by the Russians over the Turks last week in this sector was something more than a temporary check of the enemy's advance. It is more than six weeks since Mamakhatun fell into the Turks' hands, and its capture merely marked a fresh stage in the steady pressure which was forcing the Russians back towards Erzeroum. The latest *communiqués*, however, point to a very decided recovery on the part of the Grand Duke Nicholas's army. In the fighting between July 2 and July 8 the Turks lost 1,800 prisoners, while it is reported that large quantities of arms and ammunition mark the line of their retreat. It is to be hoped that the Russian success is the result of the arrival of considerable reinforcements, which will once more allow the Allies to advance on Erzinjan, and prevent the Turks from detaching any troops from this part of Asia Minor for service elsewhere. Signs that the Turks are feeling the stress of war continue to multiply. The process will be accelerated, if greater pressure can be brought to bear upon them simultaneously on every front. At the moment it has to be admitted that Great Britain is not pulling her weight in the Allied boat, as far as the war in this part of the world is concerned. Except in Mesopotamia, victory over the Turks may not be an end in itself; but it will prove of the utmost importance, if it results in detaching Turkey from Germany and deprives the Central Powers of the moral support they derive from the adhesion of the Bulgarians and Turks.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 29.

The Heat Wave.

We have for the past fortnight been in the throes of a heat-wave. A marked improvement has taken place this last day or two; fortunately so, for the conditions—intense humidity with an abnormally high temperature—were becoming almost more than even the most hardened old stagers could bear. Usually the great consolation during periods of protracted heat is that we are suffering for the good of the country; for high temperature, especially when it continues after sunset, promotes the growth of the cotton plant. This year, however, we are not quite certain that there will be this compensation for the discomfort we have suffered, as the high temperature was accompanied by excessive humidity, and the dread cotton-worm flourishes in direct proportion to the rise in the percentage of the latter.

The Mecca Revolt.

The news of the revolt of the Shereef of Mecca was very well received out here. Certainly no event since the outbreak of war has created such a state of suppressed excitement. Amongst the local elements the only ones who are at all worried or perturbed are the Nationalists, who are nowadays all Turcophile, and the Turkish students at Al Azhar. They realise that whether the movement succeeds or not the bottom will have been knocked out of the attempt made by Enver and Co. to proclaim a "jehad," and that the Moslem world will now begin to think that all is far from well with the administration of the Turkish dominions, especially the Holy Places. Except for that dissentient element, Egypt is quite sympathetic; indeed, some sections of the indigenous community are manifestly rejoicing. At Al Azhar the Syrians and Mesopotamians plumped unanimously for the Shereef, and it is a remarkable thing that outside Syrian Christians as well as Moslem Christians expressed delight at the movement. That may, perhaps, be understood, because it is a movement in the direction for which all Syrians have been agitating for some time—the autonomy of the Syrian vilayets, or, at any rate, their decentralization, from Constantinople—and they feel that it brings their desire within sight. The other elements in the world-famed University expressed lively sympathy with the Shereef, whilst the Egyptians, with characteristic caution, are disinclined to declare themselves until they see how the revolt progresses. At this early stage, then, in the proceedings at least 60 per cent. of the thinking population is openly for the Shereef; 30 per cent. is inclined to "wait and see," but quite prepared to support the movement as soon as it shows signs of success; and the remaining 10 per cent., being by nature Turcophile, is hostile. In these circumstances the course of events in Arabia is being anxiously watched; more especially will this be so as the time for the pilgrimage approaches, for the safety of the road to Mecca and Medina is entirely contingent on the re-establishment of the "gendarmerie," which the Shereef is striving to effect, and which must be directly dependent on the success of his armies in clearing all the elements hostile to his movement out of the districts in question. It is not quite clear whether the only two other chiefs who count in Arabia—Imam Yahya and Seyd Idrissi—have declared for the Shereef; but it is felt that, even if their traditional jealousy of one another and of all other rivals for supremacy prevents them joining hands with Shereef Hussein, their desire to seize this opportunity to strike a blow for their own interests will cause them to make a decision helpful to the Hejaz revolt.

Educational Reforms.

Following on the suppression of the Primary Certificate, owing to its unsatisfactory effect on the standard of work done in the primary schools, the Ministry of Education has introduced a further excellent reform by establishing what are to be known as "Higher Elementary Schools." These schools, broadly speaking, are to stand to the Maktabs in much the same relation as the secondary stand to the primary schools, and are intended to provide boys leaving the Maktabs and having no intention of continuing their studies after their fifteenth birthday with a more practical education than has in the past been afforded by the primary schools. The latter were the only "finishing" institutions open to Maktab pupils, but as they served merely as a preparatory course for the secondary schools they were not of much real utility to those pupils. In addition to this, the style of instruction given in them tended to imbue their pupils with an inclination towards clerical as opposed to agricultural, commercial, or industrial employment.

The "Higher Elementary Schools," from the nature of the scheme of work laid down for them, ought effectually to put a stop to this regrettable tendency. They are to be divided into urban and rural schools. In both categories Arabic will be the sole medium of instruction, and the usual school subjects will be taught. For the urban schools, however, lessons will also be given on materials, machines, and manufactures, and a large amount of training in manual occupations will be afforded the pupils; whilst the course in the rural schools will comprise, in addition, lessons in rural science and nature-study, practical agricultural work, and a certain amount of rural training. Each school will have a workshop attached to it, and, in addition, a plot of land will be allotted to each rural school, to enable the pupils to study and receive practical instruction in the various phases of country life.

These schools are not intended to turn out craftsmen or farmers, *quâ* such. Their object is to develop the minds of the pupils on practical, as opposed to the purely intellectual, lines to which the system hitherto existing has necessarily confined itself; to cultivate the "thinking hand"; to give them a more self-reliant outlook on life; and to develop the all-round capacities of the pupils, so that they will the better be fitted to carry out whatever work they may be called upon to do in after-life. The institution of these new schools is a laudable attempt to grapple with what threatens to become a serious problem, and it should go a long way towards stopping the swelling of the ranks of aspirants for purely clerical, and notably Government, employment, to the detriment of commerce, industry, and agriculture, which has of late years been an unfortunate feature.

Simultaneously it has been decided to establish a certain number of Higher Elementary Schools for girls. Many girls remain on at the Maktabs either because they are too young to enter one of the training colleges or because their parents, while not wishing them to proceed to one of those institutions, do not want them as yet to leave school. It is obvious that these girls are wasting valuable time, and the Ministry of Education has decided to transform certain of the girls' Maktabs into Higher Elementary Schools, where girls who have completed their Maktab course will receive practical instruction in domestic service and hygiene. They will thus have received a thorough grounding in these very necessary subjects by the time they are eligible for the training colleges or, more important still, when they return to their homes. This may be regarded as a further important step in the extension of female education in Egypt.

The Coptic Community.

During the past few weeks a certain amount of restlessness has been noticeable in the Coptic community. The cause is a grievance of long standing, going back as it does to the days of the late Riaz Pasha—the attitude taken up by the Patriarch in the matter of the internal affairs of the community. There has always been much discontent on the part of the majority of the laity at the manner in which these affairs, especially the Coptic Wakfs, have been handled. Up to about ten years ago everything was in the hands of the Patriarch. At that date, owing to the consistent complaints that were publicly registered, a body called the "Meglis Milli" was formed at the instigation of the then Prime Minister, the Copt Butros Pasha Ghali, to deal with matters of personal status, education, and Wakfs, an undertaking being, however, given to the Patriarch that the Meglis should not interfere with any of the Church Wakfs. The Patriarch, who resented this action, soon began making difficulties, and for five years very little progress was made. At last in 1912 new elections to the Meglis Milli were ordered, and it was arranged that it should restrict its activities to education and matters of

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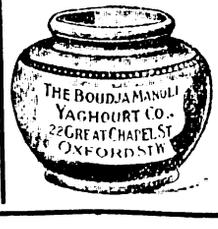
personal status, leaving all the Wakfs, private as well as Church, to the Patriarch. Still the latter was not satisfied, and continued energetically to obstruct the work, even going so far as to lock the doors of the council chamber, so that the Meglis could not meet. Complaints were made to Lord Kitchener, and at his instigation an effort was made to bring about a settlement. Unfortunately, the war intervened, and the negotiations lapsed.

What has now caused a resuscitation of the agitation is a somewhat scandalous matter concerning one of the principal monasteries. The abbot in charge was suspended some time ago by the Patriarch for having misappropriated a large sum of money belonging to the Wakfs attached to the monastery. This action pleased the laity, for, knowing all the facts, they thought they saw in it an indication that a change for the better was coming over the attitude usually adopted in such matters by the Patriarch. Judge, then, of their horror and disgust when about a month ago they learnt that the abbot had been restored to favour and reinstated without any explanation being vouchsafed. The monks of the monastery, who knew even better than the community what irregularities had gone on, were loud in the expression of their indignation, but the agitation proved unavailing.

The lay Copts consider this a good case on which to base the renewal of their claim for complete reform in the administration of their internal affairs. They demand that the jurisdiction of the Patriarch shall be confined to purely ecclesiastical matters, and that the Wakfs—which are worth £E1,500,000, with an annual income of £E100,000—as well as education and questions of personal status, shall be dealt with by a special office or administration, with a consultative council, and with direct responsibility to a high Coptic official appointed by the Government. In other words, they want an organisation to be created on the lines of the Ministry of Wakfs.

There is a good deal to be said for these demands. It would be only right that the community should have some regular and impartial channel through which questions of personal status could be settled satisfactorily. It is also only right that the community as a whole should benefit from the Wakfs belonging to it and left by its members, and that it should have some means of assuring itself that the funds are properly administered. At present no account of the administration of these Wakfs is rendered to anyone but the Patriarch, who is a very aged gentleman, entirely in the hands of his entourage, and no useful expenditure is made of the income, which apparently is either hoarded or swallowed up by the upkeep of the estates and the monasteries. If the Wakfs were administered by a responsible board it would be possible to do a lot of good work within the community and to extend education. Incidentally, it would be possible to create what the laity has long clamoured for—a college for the training of the Coptic clergy, who at the present moment, with a very few exceptions, are amongst the most ignorant members of the community, and whose low intellectual standard is resented by the mass of Copts as being inconsistent with the dignity of the great Church to which they belong.

Meetings have been held by prominent Coptic laymen and resolutions have been passed calling for the intervention of the Egyptian Government. Whilst, however, the community is at one on the point of the necessity of reform on the lines mentioned above, it appears unfortunately to be divided into two distinct parties in so far as concerns the putting into effect of this reform. One faction, consisting mainly of the older members, who remember the failure which their efforts encountered in the past, considers that as the chief obstruction, the Patriarch, is an aged man, and cannot have much longer to live, it would be wiser and safer to wait to introduce the reforms until a successor has to be appointed. The other faction, consisting of the younger members, thinks that immediate action should be taken. They say that they have already been put off for several years by the argument that the Patriarch has not long to live, and that they may quite possibly have some considerable time yet to wait before he goes the way of all flesh. In the meantime more wastage of funds will take place, and they point to the monastery scandal as an illustration of the danger of further procrastination. It is obvious that in these circumstances the Egyptian Government can take no notice of any petitions submitted to it. It could only intervene if it were requested to do so by the lay heads of the community and if it were assured that its efforts would meet with the active support of all elements of the laity. Until, therefore, the young Copts can persuade their elders to join hands with them in their appeal for immediate intervention it is to be feared that no outside assistance can be afforded the Coptic community.



THE WORLD-FAMOUS
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SUDAN MISSION TO LAKE TSANA.

(From a Correspondent.)

After an absence of some months, the Special Mission despatched by the Sudan Government to Lake Tsana for survey purposes, under the command of Major Hugh Drummond Pearson, R.E., Director of Sudan Surveys, has returned to Khartoum, having, it is understood, successfully accomplished its object. The party included Mr. A. B. Buckley, inspector of the White Nile Division of the Egyptian Department represented in the Sudan in connection with the Gezira canalisation scheme, Mr. O. L. Prowde, of the Egyptian Irrigation Service, and Major Thomson, R.A.M.C., who is stationed at Roseires, in the Province of Sennar.

Lake Tsana, also known as Tana and Dembea, is an immense sheet of water in Abyssinia, crossed by 120 deg. N. lat., 20 m.s. of Gondar (the Abai, or Blue Nile, issuing from its side) and having a superficial area of some 1,200 square miles. Although the sources of the Blue Nile, the river which gives its name to one of the most prosperous provinces of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and which was for a long time considered as the main river, were, as early as 1770, discovered by Bruce to be Lake Tsana, to this day the actual course of the Blue Nile between the lake and Famaka (on the Abyssinian-Sudan border) has never been accurately laid down. But enough of it is known to enable it to be said that the Tsana lake has but a small influence upon the Blue Nile water supply at any period of the year. This river is at its lowest in the month of May, when its discharge at times shrinks to practically nothing. It begins to rise in June, and attains its maximum about the end of August. The lake itself is surrounded by picturesque mountains, which, on a fine day, can be distinctly seen from Gallabat, where the Anglo-Egyptian joint flags were hoisted on December 7, 1898, by Colonel Collinson, C.B., although the Abyssinian flag was already flying on the fort there.

Lake Tsana, which is at an altitude of 5,700 ft. above sea level, and has a length of forty-five miles, receives the waters of the Blue Nile after flowing northwards at its south-west corner. Between the lake and the mountainous regions beyond rises the Rahad river, which, taking at first a northerly direction, after entering the Sudan, flows generally north-west in an extraordinarily winding bed to its junction with the Blue Nile, almost opposite the town of Wad Medani.

In the treaty made between Great Britain and the Empire of Ethiopia (or Abyssinia) at Adas Abeba, on May 11, 1902, it is agreed, in Article III., that "the Emperor Menelik II., King of Kings of Ethiopia," is not to "construct or allow to be constructed any work across the Blue Nile, Lake Tsana, or the Sobat River which would arrest the flow of their waters into the Nile, except in agreement with his Britannic Majesty's Government and the Government of the Sudan." It is hardly necessary to point out that this agreement is of the first importance, since whatever projects may be hereafter decided upon in connection with irrigation in the Sudan, it is clear that it is to the Blue Nile that the Sudan must look for its great Gezira scheme of irrigation, the White Nile being already ear-marked as the source of increased water supply for Egypt. It is not at present feasible, for political reasons, to adopt any scheme having for its object the formation of a reservoir at Lake Tsana.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, June 22.

The Allies' Demands.

June 21/9 will remain a memorable date in the history of Greece. Since the Western Powers put pressure on Greece, through her shipping, without informing her of the reasons that led them to take that course, and since their Ministers in Athens avoided any contact with M. Skouloudis, the Government had begun to realise that its position was very unsafe. That was why it proceeded, in the first place, to a partial demobilization; next, proclaimed a general demobilization; and finally, having been informed by the Legations in Paris and London that the measures taken and announced were aimed chiefly against itself, and that very severe pressure would be exercised by the three Protecting Powers of Greece, it decided to give in its resignation the day before yesterday (Tuesday). The Allies' Note was to have been presented this morning, but as the result of instructions received from Paris and London it was delivered yesterday at 1 p.m. to the Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, M. Politis, and was at the same time published in Greek in the newspapers and distributed at various points in the city. Although the public had been more or less expecting very stiff demands, the contents of the Note, and especially its character of an ultimatum, caused a species of panic, in view of the consequences that might follow if the Government—and especially the King—should refuse to submit. The public excitement was increased by the dispatch of troops and artillery to Phalerum, which seemed to indicate that it was intended to oppose a French landing. The Anglo-French Fleet had not arrived at the Piræus, its arrival being announced for this morning.

Happily—and thanks chiefly to the sagacity of M. Zaimis, who, having been called upon to form a Cabinet, had already been consulted by the King—at the last moment wisdom prevailed; and at a Council of Ministers held at the Palace, under the presidency of the King, it was decided that all the demands formulated in the Note should be accepted. M. Zaimis, having after this agreed to form a Cabinet, went at eight o'clock in the evening to the French Legation, where the other Ministers had assembled, and informed them that, having undertaken the formation of a Cabinet, he would fulfil the demands of the three Powers literally. A similar announcement was made to the Italian Minister, who had associated himself with the *demarche* of his colleagues.

The news, becoming known in the city at once, exercised a tranquillising effect upon the people, who had for many hours been in a most trying state of suspense. Thus Greece passed through a crisis which might have had consequences of the gravest kind, and might very easily have led up to a civil war.

End of a Reign of Terror.

The Note of the Powers, which, while dealing vigorously with the Government, evidenced much interest in, and sympathy for, the Greek people, has created an excellent impression. The demand for a general and immediate demobilization affords proof of the friendliness of the Powers, and the elimination of the Skouloudis Cabinet frees the country from a veritable nightmare. Under the late régime everyone felt suffocated; it was impossible to speak openly for fear of police spies and informers, who were spread all over the city, who kept watch on everybody, and who daily arrested supporters of M. Venizelos on the pretext that they had spoken against the King. It was an abominable régime, mediæval and reminiscent of the worst days of Abdul Hamid. There was always a police agent at the door of the Serbian Legation to take note of those entering or leaving the building; and the Legations of the Entente were watched day and night by police spies for the same purpose. The day before yesterday, on leaving the French Legation in company with Sir Francis Elliot, I noticed that we were closely followed by one of these police spies. On drawing the attention of the Minister to this fact I observed that the spy made off at a great pace. I should never have thought it possible that here in Athens, amidst a people intensely liberal in feeling, such a régime would have been tolerated. It is to such ignoble manœuvres and to the threats constantly made against the Entente Powers, by the Press and from the tribune of the Chamber and elsewhere, that one must attribute the measures taken by the Powers to protect their interests against the Germanophil Cabinet and to restore the constitutional liberty of which the Greek people have been deprived.

Thus, this Cabinet, which represented nothing and nobody, has inflicted a great humiliation on the country, and, pretending to support the King, has only lowered his prestige. Its members wished to show their zeal by being more royalist than the King, who, I am in a position to state, is not responsible for all the hostility shown to the Entente. M. Gounaris has been chiefly responsible for the harm done. He is a politician of the old school, resembling the late M. Delyannis, but without the moderation that M. Delyannis always showed to his political opponents when he was in power. M. Gounaris when he was President of the Council abused his powers. It is to be hoped, for the sake of this country, that he will not be the leader of the Opposition against M. Venizelos. M. Streit, the former Minister for Foreign Affairs, who follows a German policy from sincere conviction, would seem to be the man indicated to lead the anti-Venizelists in the Chamber. He is a man of great experience and fervent patriotism, but a gentleman, and incapable of employing in party polemics certain methods which are condemned by all modern ideas.

The New Cabinet.

As for M. Zaimis, he is a circumspect politician of experience and balance, who, having been called upon in all recent times of crisis for his country, has always saved the situation by his tact and sagacity. It was he who after the unfortunate war of 1897 made peace and negotiated the difficult financial situation. Amongst his Ministers, M. G. Rallis is one of Greece's most excellent politicians, by reason of his experience and especially of his upright and honourable character.

A LARNACA FUNCTION.

(From a Correspondent.)

Larnaca, June 26.

On Saturday, June 24, the members of the Larnaca Club gave a dinner in honour of Mr. C. B. Wodehouse, who has been Commissioner of Larnaca for about nine years, and who is shortly retiring upon pension. On account of the abnormal heat, the dinner was held at the Club, and the tennis court provided a cool and pleasant spot with picturesque surroundings. After the toasts of the King and the President of the French Republic had been honoured, on the proposition of the Chairman, Mr. T. J. Greenwood, Local Commandant of Police, the health of the guest of the evening was proposed in most felicitious terms by Mr. W. H. H. Thorne, President of the District Court. Mr. Thorne spoke of the pleasure it had been to him to work with Mr. Wodehouse for the past five years, of the entire absence of friction of any kind, and of the great ability with which the Commissioner had always carried out his duties. The next speaker, Mr. L. Z. Pierides, who was for many years the Commissioner's chief clerk, referred to the great interest Mr. Wodehouse had always shown in arboriculture, in the reclamation of marshes and in the making of roads, and to his efforts to establish village savings banks. Mr. Wodehouse's great work, Mr. Pierides pointed out, was the reclamation of the St. Lazarus Marsh, and its conversion from a noisome swamp and a breeding place for countless mosquitoes, in the heart of the town, into a pleasure garden full of beautiful trees. This work has not received the recognition that was its due, but it will remain for many years as a monument to the retiring Commissioner.

In proposing the toast of "The Ladies," Mr. K. W. Stead, Collector of Customs, paid a tribute to the hospitality and kindness always shown by Mrs. Wodehouse to the residents of the town and to any visitors, especially on those occasions when portions of the Mediterranean Fleet paid the port a visit.

Mr. Baldassarre, manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, who made a fluent and eloquent speech in French, mentioned that Mr. Wodehouse's son, who was once a police official in Cyprus, had been serving with the English Army since the beginning of the war. Mr. Watts, Assistant Director of Surveys, suggested that St. Lazarus Gardens should be renamed "Wodehouse Gardens"; and Dr. Badre thanked Mr. Wodehouse on behalf of the many refugees from Syria, who had been nearly two years in Larnaca and had received so much help and kindness from him.

Mr. Wodehouse, in replying, reviewed the twenty-three years he had spent in Cyprus, and referred with great feeling to his old and valued friend, Mr. Greenwood, with whom he had been associated for many years in each of the districts in which he had been stationed.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, June 28.

No mails have come from Constantinople during the past four weeks. Letters occasionally arrive through Switzerland, but are a long time on the way, and the latest received here is dated May 22.

Information of a later date has, however, come to hand, through official sources, to the effect that several British subjects were arrested in Constantinople on June 6, as a measure of reprisal. It is probable that the victims are some of those who have hitherto been unmolested, as Mr. Percy Wills is one of them. The names of the others are not yet known.

It is surmised that the "reprisal" referred to is connected with recent events in Smyrna. There are reports of troubles there; but it has not been possible to ascertain what has actually happened. It is known that aeroplanes have been dropping bombs on military establishments in Smyrna, and it is alleged that some damage has been done in the Turkish quarter. The Vali threatened retaliation against the English and French residents if the bombardment of the town did not cease; and it is said that some of the English have actually been sent to Aidin. The arrest of the British subjects in Constantinople is probably only a temporary measure, and they will possibly be released on the necessary assurances being given by the Allies.

A correspondent writes that on the whole the general situation in Constantinople has not much changed during the past six months. Coal is fairly abundant, and a steamer had recently arrived with a full cargo from Zunguldak.

Troops are constantly being raised and sent to the Caucasus front or to Mesopotamia. Enver has been on a tour of inspection, and has asked for reinforcements for the Caucasus.

There are the usual rumours of dissension in the Committee of Union and Progress, and the resignation of the Sheikh-ul-Islam and the Minister of Justice are reported, in connection, it is said, with certain changes which the Huns want to introduce in the Law Courts.

THE ARAB REVOLT.

The following extracts are from a letter written from Egypt by a Syrian correspondent who has followed closely the various phases of the Arab movement for independence. The writer first mentions that the Shereef of Mecca is said to be extremely cautious, and therefore unlikely to embark upon a course of action without first weighing the possible consequences carefully. He then goes on to speak of the Shereef's "proud and valiant" son, Emir Faisal:—

Emir Faisal has long been chafing under the Turkish yoke, lightly though it has lain upon the Arab shoulders. A few months before the war, while returning from Constantinople, where he had been attending the Parliamentary sessions as deputy for Mecca, a Christian notable made his acquaintance, and so won his sympathy that the Emir pressed him to come to Mecca as his guest. . . . In the course of the ensuing conversation he openly expressed his indignation at the fact of a handful of upstarts (as he qualified the Young Turks in power) trying to dictate terms to the noble descendants of the Prophet, and vowed that the day would come when their henchmen in Arabia would be turned out bag and baggage. . . . He is said to be fair, tall, and slender, with a thin beard, and a man of action, but few words.

The forces that rallied under the Shereef's banner are said to have been divided into three bodies—one under the leadership of his eldest son, Emir Faisal, distinguished for his prowess and horsemanship; the second under his second son, Abdullah, renowned for his diplomatic skill and sound judgment; and the third under his third son.

Emir Faisal has assumed the hardest task of laying siege to Medina, where the Turks are in great force, and have behind them the railway; while his brother Abdullah marched upon and conquered Taief, taking most of the Turkish garrison prisoners, and returning to Mecca victorious; and the third brother marched on Jeddah and reduced it by cutting off the water supply. The garrison there, numbering about 1,400, surrendered without destroying any of the rifles, guns, or ammunition, as it was threatened with vengeance. There was a battery of field guns, a quantity of maxims and rifles, with a lot of ammunition intact.

The fall of Medina is considered inevitable, as the Idrisi of Asir is said to have lent his support to the Shereef. As to the Imam Yehya of Yemen, the relations between him and the Shereef have always been of a friendly nature. The brilliant success of the Shereef is likely to secure the co-operation of the smaller chiefs, who up till now have been wasting their strength through mutual jealousies and rivalries. Indeed, the Arabs are a people who, when fired by enthusiasm for a great cause, may be swayed as one man and led from glory to glory.

THE STATE OF SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 30.

The orgy of destruction indulged in by the Young Turks in the Lebanon seems to have reached its climax in the arrest of his Beatitude the Maronite Patriarch and his trial before the court-martial at Aley, together with some of the bishops of that historic community. This report is published by no less an authority than the *Temps* of Paris; and although some incline to the belief that the information may have been derived from two private letters sent from Cairo to a spiritual dignitary in Rome, and based on the rumour then circulating that the Patriarch was arrested and the Bishop, Boulos Awad, appointed as Acting Patriarch, yet there is ground for fearing it may be true. The fact that only a short while before the Patriarch was said to have been received and sent off with honours on the occasion of his visit to Jemal Pasha at Aley cannot be taken as a proof of the falsity of this rumour; indeed, it is in accordance with Turkish tradition treacherously to lure on a victim before doing away with him. Furthermore, the recent decision of the Foreign Committee of the French Chamber to call upon the Government of the Republic to threaten the Turkish authorities in Syria with punishment for the unlawful acts of persecution they are committing against the defenceless civil population, and to take steps for carrying this threat into effect, may be taken as an indication of the extreme gravity of the situation in Syria. The French Government cannot allow the extinction of the Maronite clergy and the disappearance of the leading Maronites, who constitute their staunchest supporters in the Lebanon and Syria.

There are other considerations calling for prompt intervention. Plague and cholera are said to be working havoc in Palestine and Syria, and the Turks are reported to be quartering sick troops on the villages and towns without taking the slightest measures of precaution. The almost total absence of drugs and doctors adds to the hopelessness of the situation.

The Syrians everywhere are manifesting a most generous spirit in collecting funds for the relief of their compatriots, and in America some of the notables among them have succeeded in enlisting the sympathy of the highest official quarters. It is feared, however, that the mobilizing of these moral influences will not mend matters much. It is now weeks since the appeal was made to the President of the United States, and so far it is not known what has been the result of his negotiations with the Turkish Government. Even if they were successful, it would be weeks before material relief could be afforded, and the obstacles that the Turco-Germans will put in the way can easily be foreseen. An actual occupation would seem to be the only effective remedy. The freeing of Syria from Turkish rule is a necessary corollary to the campaigns now conducted in Arabia and Mesopotamia, inasmuch as it will complete the detaching of the Arab provinces from Turkey.

STARVING SYRIA.

A Reuter's message from Washington, dated July 6, reports:—The State Department has directed the United States Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople again to call the attention of Turkey to the fact that nothing has been done in regard to the request of the United States Government that neutrals should be permitted to feed the starving Christians in Syria. The Chargé d'Affaires is instructed to state that "the failure on the part of Turkey to heed the request has severely strained the relations between Turkey and the United States." Reports received by the State Department declare that from fifty to eighty thousand Syrians have already perished, and that the Turkish military authorities are still continuing to drain the food supplies.

Information from Palestine says that the Turks have called up all able-bodied men between the ages of 17 and 50. Cholera has now begun to make serious progress, and all the Government measures against it have failed.

In June the maximum shade temperature taken at a hospital in the Suez Canal zone varied from 94 degs. to 116 degs. In the hospitals the clinical thermometers had to be kept in ice water, and the readings were taken while the instruments were still under the patients' tongue.

The Postmaster-General finds it necessary to announce that in future all parcels for prisoners of war in Bulgaria and Turkey must be packed in wood, tin, canvas, linen, or similar material. Parcels packed merely in paper or cardboard will not be accepted at Post Offices.

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has been officially informed that the rising in Montenegro organised by General Vechevitch, the former Minister of War, has spread into the northern districts of Albania, and that the Austrian troops have retreated from the Montenegrin villages towards Cettinje.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 17.

Russian Troops on Roumanian Territory.

On the night of June 11 the inhabitants of a number of villages in the extreme north of Moldavia, especially of that of Mamornitza, were awakened by the sound of heavy gunfire in their vicinity; and it was soon discovered that the region had been occupied by Russian troops, who were waging a regular battle with the Austrians across the Bukovinian border. The engagement continued part of the night, the village of Mamornitza suffering considerable damage from the shell fire. A number of casualties are reported among the natives. The Prime Minister, having been duly advised, convoked a Council of Ministers, to which King Ferdinand was hastily summoned from the Danube, on which he was touring with other members of the Royal Family; and a division from Botoshani under the command of General Patrashco was sent to the scene of the combat. The Russian troops withdrew on representations being made by the Roumanian General to the Russian Commander. Commissions of inquiry have been sent to the spot by the Russian as well as the Roumanian Governments, apologies have presumably been offered and accepted, and, according to the official version the whole affair is due to a mistake on the part of the Russian forces, which in the heat of the combat retreated across the Bukovinian frontier without being aware that they were passing on to Roumanian territory, the boundary not being well defined at this point. There is at least one other version, not official.

It is not known what number of troops were involved, though there is talk of at least several regiments. The Russians are said to have had considerable losses, the Austrian casualties being, of course, unknown.

It is interesting to note that, apart from the German-bought Press, the violation of Roumanian territory on the part of Russian troops caused but little indignation —and that among the few. This attitude of the public is significant. The general impression is that a similar mistake on the part of the Austro-Hungarians might be productive of different results.

War Refugees.

Whether Czernowitz has fallen or not is uncertain at the moment of writing, but all the localities east of the Pruth have been occupied by the Russians, and the city itself seems to have been invested on three sides. The administrative authorities have retired to Dorna, and evacuation on the part of the garrison appears imminent. Meanwhile an exodus of the civil population is taking place, many inhabitants having been deposited by train and other vehicles at Itzcani and Suceava on the Roumanian frontier. These and other places along the frontier are said to be occupied by 40,000 refugees, mostly old people, women, and children. They are camping in the streets and public gardens, and are reported to be suffering great privations. The Roumanian authorities are considering the advisability of sending them relief.

June 21.

Two Public Meetings.

A large meeting took place in the Dacia on Sunday morning at the instigation of the Committee of the Unionist Federation, at which a number of speeches were delivered, all directed against the policy of neutrality and advocating active participation in the war on the side of the Entente. M. Také Jonescu spoke with his usual eloquence and lucidity, and finally recommended his hearers to disperse quietly, promising a further meeting at a near date. The Prefect had taken unusual steps to prevent disturbances. The garrison was called out in addition to the police force, special troops being posted about the German and Austro-Hungarian Legations and in the vicinity of the Palace.

While the meeting of the Unionist Federation was in progress a large crowd was collecting on the Boulevard Carol around the statue of Costake Rosetti, to celebrate the centenary of the birth of this great patriot, who was one of the leading figures of the generation of '48. Delegates from all parts of the country were present, and speeches were delivered by several members of the Government, including the Prime Minister.

Austrian Refugees.

The Austro-Hungarian Government is reported to have requested the Roumanian Government to permit the passage across Roumanian territory of Austrian officials, who left the town of Czernowitz as soon as the Russian occupation became imminent. These people will, it is said, be conveyed by special trains from Burdujeni to the frontier point Palanka, where they will gain Hungarian territory.

M. Themistocle Bocaucla, a well-known Czernowitz lawyer of Roumanian nationality, is said to have been appointed by the Russian command as mayor of the Bukovinian capital.

The War and the Weather.

In Moldavia there have been heavy rainfalls, followed by floods, which have submerged innumerable villages. Many victims are reported, and great damage has been caused in agricultural districts. In other parts there have been violent hailstorms, which have destroyed the harvest completely. Hailstones the size of hen's eggs were picked up. There is a widespread belief that we have to thank the terrific Russian artillery fire for the inclement vagaries of the weather.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN BULGARIA.

(From Our Bucharest Correspondent.)

Mrs. Take Jonescu, who has taken our prisoners in Bulgaria under her protection, now disposes of some thirty thousand francs, which have been contributed for their relief. A concert given by Mrs. Take Jonescu in her own drawing-rooms brought in about 1,500 frs., and the "Regal" Cinema gave a special representation of English films, sent out by the British Government, for the same charitable purpose, thus swelling the fund by another 3,000 frs. The British Prisoners' Fund has sent out £120.

It would be unfair to refer to this point without mentioning the names of two ladies who have supported the scheme with complete devotion and untiring energy. These are Miss Fifield and Mrs. Rook Carnegie. I understand that the latter has collected through her personal efforts more than half the total amount of the fund.

In a previous letter I referred to the individual parcels which have been made up by these ladies with the help of other members of the British colony, each containing a number of very useful articles, carefully selected, and packed in neat red bags. Some four hundred of these have now reached Philippopolis. Parcels are now being sent through from time to time containing tea, sugar, cocoa, chocolate, macaroni, semolina, jam, tinned fish, etc. But I hear that clothes are still wanted, especially trousers.

Mr. Vopicka, the United States Minister in Bucharest and Sofia, continues to take the most friendly interest in our prisoners. He has recently returned from Sofia, where the Ministers for War and for Foreign Affairs had promised him that they would have all the British prisoners sent to Philippopolis within fifteen days. He has likewise prevailed upon the authorities to improve the prisoners' fare; for they were apparently only getting haricot beans and rather indigestible meat at one time. Mr. Vopicka has promised to return to the charge in the event of these improvements not being realised within a reasonable time.

Mr. Einstein, who did so much for the prisoners, is at present in England on leave, the United States Consul, Mr. Murphy, remaining as acting diplomatic agent.

It is satisfactory to hear that The Near East has been instrumental in putting prisoners in touch with their families in England, as in the case of Captain Harris, who, I am told, has received assistance from his friends as a result of the notices which appeared in these columns on April 14 and May 5. I seize the opportunity of reminding prisoners' friends that cheques, crossed "Bank of Roumania," can be sent direct to Mrs. Take Jonescu, Strada Atena, 25, Bucharest, who will, on behalf of the prisoners, make purchases such as experience has proved to be most useful.

Reuter's correspondent at Bucharest telegraphs (July 4):—An offensive from Salonika, which especially interests Roumania, is looked for with a certain degree of impatience, and would be hailed with joy.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

A MEMORIAL CATHEDRAL FOR CAIRO.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The death of Lord Kitchener has deeply affected the plans which we have been gradually developing for the erection of a cathedral in Cairo, and I venture at once to ask your kind help in making our position known.

For some years past All Saints', the old Anglican church in Cairo, has been totally inadequate for our needs. After prolonged and careful consideration, the congregation and church committee decided some time ago that it must be rebuilt, owing to the fact that the structure is beyond hope of satisfactory and permanent repair, the accommodation is not nearly enough for our congregation, and the increasing noise from a main street just outside the windows most seriously affects the quiet, the worship, and the devotion of our services.

Then, more than a year ago, it fell to my lot to point out that, with the proclamation of a British Protectorate over Egypt, and the growing importance of our position in the country, something more was required than the mere rebuilding of a parish church. I suggested that the time had come for the erection in Cairo of a church worthy of our religion and our name, that would be a mother church to the other British communities scattered up and down the Nile Valley. It seems strange to many that in Cairo, the biggest city in Africa, larger than all but two cities in the Empire overseas, the capital and seat of government in Egypt, where every other Church—Coptic, Greek, Roman Catholic, Armenian—already has a cathedral, the Church of England alone has none. Such a church would be as much a witness and a symbol of our Christian faith to the people of Egypt as is the cathedral in Khartoum to those of the Sudan. To ourselves it would be not only a symbol, but the outward expression of our inward faith, the centre of our religious life, and a new and perpetual incentive to worship.

The Anglican community took up the suggestion very heartily, and plans were being gradually matured, when a new and almost overwhelming incentive was added. The old church itself bequeaths to us the graven memorials of many gallant deeds—Kassassin, Tel-el-Kebir, Toski, the Nile Campaigns—and then came a name that will be even more deeply burnt into the memories of us all—Gallipoli.

None who were here then will ever forget the dreadful processions that came back to fill our hospitals—and, alas, our cemeteries—the shattered remnants of the men who had spent long months of training here, whom we had learnt to know, and for whom—none can testify to this with better knowledge than I—the British residents spent themselves to the uttermost.

From Gallipoli they came, from the Canal, from the Western desert frontier, and from Mesopotamia, too, so that the old valley of the Nile, lined with graves through immemorial ages, now shelters the sons of thousands of distant homes—British, Indian, Australian, New Zealand, South African, Canadian, West Indian. Does anyone wonder that we had already decided that our cathedral should enshrine the immortal memory of our brave dead?

Then while we were planning, came the news that Kitchener himself was dead; to all in Egypt not merely the Secretary of State for War and hero of a hundred fights, but the man every one of us—British or Egyptian—relied upon and loved as friend.

This is not the time to dwell upon what our project has lost, in the death of the man who—more powerfully than any other—would have helped us when his great war task was over, but it leads us to rely with all the more confidence on the kindly support of friends throughout the whole Empire who value the work accomplished by him for our country, and who would wish to see a fitting memorial erected in the land with which his name has been so long and so closely identified. There must be many who responded to his call for a college in memory of Gordon at Khartoum who will now respond to the call for a cathedral in memory of Kitchener of Khartoum at Cairo.

British residents in Egypt are already giving, and some large contributions have been received, but we are fully conscious that we cannot accomplish our purpose without other aid. A strong Building Committee, under the presidency of the High Commissioner, Sir Henry McMahon, has been formed to assist me in the working out of all plans, and further details will be published later. Contributions may be sent to me direct, to the Governor of the National Bank of Egypt, in Cairo, or to the Manager of the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, London, E.C.

We shall probably not attempt any actual building until after the conclusion of the war, but we ask for gifts now, especially as all such gifts will help both our project and the steady prosecution of the war, for we have decided to invest all we receive in Exchequer Bonds or other war securities which may be issued.

I am, etc.,

RENNIE MACINNES,
Bishop in Jerusalem.

Bishop's House, Kasr-el-Doubara, Cairo,
June 29, 1916.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A TURKISH POET.*

The translation of poetry is always a difficult task, and it is very rarely accomplished satisfactorily. To a skilled translator it may be a comparatively easy matter to convey the poet's thoughts exactly to the reader; he may even, if he be extraordinarily gifted, succeed in reproducing some of that delicate play upon words and with shades of meaning which are so baffling in, for example, Arabic poems; but if he essays to do these things in lines that shall scan correctly and rhyme truly he is, in practically every case, attempting the impossible. His difficulties are probably greater in the case of turning Oriental poetry into English verse than in any other. Dr. Léon's knowledge of Turkish and of English fit him to undertake such a Herculean labour with as much chance of success as any living scholar; but, frankly, we cannot say that he has succeeded. He gives us (one feels) the thoughts and ideas of the poet with a good deal of accuracy; and since these thoughts are often elevated and noble, this is something to be thankful for. But in aiming at rhyming lines the translator hampers himself sadly, and occasionally the results are far from happy. Thus, in the poem "Sleep and His Brother Death" the first verse runs:—

Upon the just dawn'd world, the new-born infant opes its eye,
In wonderment, to gaze on what before it there may lie,
Then weary of the sight, e'en tho' it be but e'er a peep,
Doth nestle on its mother's bosom calmly there to sleep.

Which is not happy. We like best of all the translations "The Ever-closed Door," of which the first verses are as follows:—

There is a door to which I've found no key,
There is a veil thro' which I cannot see,
Much talk, much toil, and speculation free
There is, and then—the end of thee and me.

'Tis strange, yet true, of many myriads, who
Have pass'd, long since, that door of darkness thro',
Not one has come to tell to me, to you,
The road o'er which we have to travel too.

This, one of Sheikh Haroun Abdullah's most popular poems, as Dr. Léon tells us in his Introduction, certainly does bear "a striking analogy" to some of the *Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam. Dr. Léon adds:—

Inasmuch as the poem of Omar Khayyam is 400 years older than that of the Sheikh, and as Persian poetry has always been popular in Turkey, and Haroun Abdullah was well acquainted with that language, it is quite within the bounds of probability that the writer of the *Dayma Qapalli Qapassu* was acquainted with the Rubaiyat and influenced thereby. This, however, does not in the least diminish or detract from the beauty of his poem. Like a skilful jeweller, he has so cleverly and artistically re-set the gem, in so elegant and appropriate a setting, that its pristine beauty is enhanced and improved.

As to that we are not in a position to judge. But we like Dr. Leon's Introduction, which gives a sympathetic sketch of Sheikh Haroun's life, and helps us to understand the poems much better than we could otherwise do. The poet was one of the most famous sheikhs of the Mevlevi Dervishes, and his life was full of ups and downs, as the lives of all poets in the East seem to be. Exiled on account of one of his poems, which was regarded as reflecting on the Sultan and his Court, he was restored to favour as the result of another, and was "loaded with honours" in true Oriental style. His love story is pretty, though sad; and he was clearly a man of fine character and lofty ideals.

Gratitude being a rare virtue, it is pleasant to find Dr. Léon, who "experienced . . . many kindnesses" at the hands of the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid, declaring in his Preface that he will "always cherish feelings of affection, gratitude, sympathy, and respect" for his Imperial patron. Most of the translations in this little book, we learn, were made at Yildiz Kiosk. They will certainly repay perusal, and we are grateful to Dr. Léon for giving us the opportunity of making acquaintance with them in this form, since we cannot do so in the original.

* "Sheikh Haroun Abdullah: A Turkish Poet, and His Poetry." By Henri M. Léon, M.A., Ph.D., etc. (For La Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-Arts.)

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Here is a true story of the Gallipoli affair, which may now —I trust!—be told without arousing the ire of the Censor. As to the principal actor in it, he died ere the withdrawal; and in any case he would hardly object to my telling of his prowess, even if he still lived. For he was a mule, a white mule—outwardly; but his heart and his thoughts were indescribably black and hopelessly evil. Those who were brought into contact with him—usually involuntarily—called him The Whited Sepulchre and other, much worse, names. He killed four men, and it was no fault of his that the score was not a larger one. From all this I conclude that he was not an Asiatic mule, but an American. For your Asiatic mule may be tricky, cunning, and lazy, but he is seldom downright vicious, and as a rule has no homicidal instincts. The American variety, especially the South American variety, I am given to understand, is a holy terror in nine cases out of ten. And no doubt The Whited Sepulchre was a native of the New World. At any rate, he was as wicked and full of vice as that yellow horse which Mr. Kipling has immortalized in "The Day's Work."

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Well, The Whited Sepulchre was employed on one of the most famous "beaches," where the friend who told me the story was also stationed; and the constant attentions of the enemy's artillery did nothing to improve his temper. In the intervals of dodging shells and thinking out plans for murdering more men he fought other mules and ate any camp equipment or stray cartridges that he could find. And his disposition became daily more wicked. Then one day he put the British Army—or a distinguished fraction of it—to rout. My friend described the incident thus: "We were sitting about in a comparatively safe spot near the foot of the cliffs when we saw a General walking in our direction, accompanied by an Aide. Their course took them close to The Whited Sepulchre, and we watched events, not without interest."—My friend, I may remark, belongs to the Senior Service.—"The mule backed, in that suggestive way some mules have, and then things happened rapidly. The next thing we saw clearly was the General sprinting for all he was worth; while his Aide described a graceful parabola, which finished in the shallow water." "And the mule?" I asked, after inquiring respectfully after the General's fate and learning that he escaped with his life. "Oh," said my informant, "he died shortly afterwards. He was shot; and nobody ever felt quite sure whether it was a Turkish bullet or one of our own. But we all cheered no end."

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As I have mentioned before, many of our countrymen who knew the Turkish Empire in those distant and happy days "before the War" are now turning to good account the knowledge acquired on journeys undertaken in the interests of science, of archæology, or of business, and even on mere pleasure trips, just as our friend the enemy is doing, of course, and very rightly, in the interests of *his* country. Sometimes some of these gentlemen have droll experiences when they run across an old acquaintance. Thus on one occasion an archæologist, who is now—well, not an archæologist for the time being, having been sent ashore at a certain point on the Turkish coast, with a sufficient escort to make his inquiries profitable, recognised in the *Kaimakam* who received him (not too willingly) an old friend. The caller, who is not given to standing on ceremony, greeted the official cordially, expecting prompt recognition. But the *Kaimakam* merely blinked like an owl, and "thought there was a mistake. He had not the pleasure of the Englishman's acquaintance." Thereupon the latter adapted himself to the situation, and proceeded with his investigations. But presently chance threw him and the *Kaimakam* together for a minute with no observers near. At once the Turkish official beamed and grasped the other's hand. "Forgive me," he whispered, hurriedly. "Of course, I remembered you at once. But I did not think it would be wise to acknowledge it before witnesses. It might get me into trouble, you understand." Poor man!

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A leading illustrated weekly presented its readers recently with one of those pictorial relief maps which are now ordinary features of such journals. It showed Arabia and the neighbouring countries, and the pilgrim routes to Mecca and Medina were prominently marked. Some of these routes were undoubtedly correctly shown; but in other cases, it seemed to me, the artist had allowed his fancy to have very free play. He may be right and I may be quite wrong; and what follows is written not with any desire to criticise, but in the hopes that some reader able and willing to set my doubts at rest may be kind enough to do so. The first route, then, which rouses my curiosity is one marked "Pilgrim Route from India," which is shown as running from Karachi to Muskat and thence overland, following the coast as far as Ajer, and on by way of Riadh. Now, it is perfectly true that there is a recognised "road" which follows this line, but I have never heard of any considerable number of Indian pilgrims making use of it, and, frankly, I do not believe they would dare to face its risks and hardships. The second doubtful route is one marked "Alternative Pilgrim Route" (from Teheran), by way of Shuster, Busreh, Koweit, and Riadh again, to Mecca. The same objection applies to this route as to number one, I fancy. The third route that raises doubts in my mind is the "Pilgrims' Route from E. Africa, etc.," which is shown as striking boldly up from Aden through the highlands to Sana and Taif. This is admittedly a feasible, if difficult (and costly!), route to follow; but I doubt whether one pilgrim "from East Africa, etc.," follows it for every hundred who go by sea to Jeddah. The fact is, unless I am much mistaken, that most of the overland routes to Mecca are too dangerous for any but the very poorest pilgrims to follow them as a rule, and that an overwhelming majority of the pilgrims to-day prefer the sea route. Of course, the Hejaz Railway does, in normal times, carry a number of pilgrims, and many *hajjis* toil along the route through Sinai and the Hejaz. But the other routes have lately, I fancy, fallen into disrepute, and are so little used by the pilgrims that I fear the artist's neat arrow-headed lines are rather misleading.

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Another feature of the same map that worries me is that Persia is shown as a kind of vast hollow, a sort of Eastern Holland. Towering mountain ranges are marked, correctly, along the coast of the Gulf, extending right up to Tiflis, and other, lesser, ranges are shown on the northern and eastern frontiers. But these mountains are so drawn that they give the effect mentioned above. As a matter of fact, the greater part of Persia is a high plateau, from 2,000 to 6,000 ft. above sea level, with numerous high mountain ranges—as much unlike Holland as it well could be.

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I have read with lively sympathy some extracts from a letter written by a member of the Anzac Corps, protesting against "some of the English newspapers and their infernal soft-soapy 'Anzacs' articles." The writer and his friends are frankly "fed up" with these journals, and he declares that "the way they record our little aches and pains—a petty raid on the Boches' trenches, padded up with such rot as 'These giant athletes leaping the trenches,' makes one sick." I am not surprised that he and his fellows feel that way about it; such journalism *is* nauseating. But the sentence in his letter which warms my heart to him is what follows: "It is all on a par with the daily drivel in the same papers about the petty doings of the actresses and chorus girls." It *is*. And the wonder to me is that any paper can print such stuff. The interest in our Australian and New Zealand fighting men is legitimate enough; but if anything could kill it, it would be the "drivel" of which the writer complains; and to be put on the level of the "actresses and chorus girls" is indeed an insult.

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From time to time we are informed that cargoes of coal continue to find their way from Zunguldak to Constantinople, that the service of steamers on the Bosphorus is being maintained—even improved, according to one report—and that the electric trams are maintaining a regular service. These reports alternate fairly regularly with others, according to which the city is practically in darkness owing to a shortage of coal and of oil, and the trams are at a standstill. It is rather confusing, and we can only hope that when the war is over we shall find that some trustworthy person in the Turkish capital has been keeping a full diary which, being given to the world, will enable us to form a correct, if belated, opinion on the true state of affairs. In the meantime I suspect that there is some truth in both classes of reports. No doubt coal from Zunguldak does reach Constantinople more or less regularly; but in all probability the bulk of it is commandeered by the military authorities, to keep the munition factories, etc., going. But it is clear that private individuals find it not only difficult, but practically impossible, to obtain either coal or oil. Here is a brief extract from the letter of a correspondent who is fortunately placed for receiving trustworthy news of the city—"Some of the trees in one of the lovely gardens on the Bosphorus, belonging to a Robert College professor, have had to be cut down for fuel, since it was impossible to obtain coal or kerosine." There is a fact that speaks for itself. It is to be hoped that the tree-felling has not been carried out extensively on the shores of the Bosphorus; for that would mean robbing the scenery of one of its chief charms.

CORSAIR.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT
23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.
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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. July	1916. July.		1334. Ramadan	5676. Tamuz
14	1	Friday	13	13
15	2	Saturday.....	14	14
16	3	Sunday	15	15
17	4	Monday	16	16
18	5	Tuesday	17	17
19	6	Wednesday	18	18
20	7	Thursday	19	19

Thursday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince George of Greece, Duke of Sparta, who was born in 1890.

Wednesday being the birthday of the King of Serbia, the Hon. Sir Arthur Walsh visited the Serbian Legation with a message of congratulation from King George. A service was held at the Russian Chapel, Welbeck Street, and there was a reception at the Serbian Legation.

The King and Queen of Montenegro, accompanied by Princess Xenia and Princess Vera, left Bordeaux last Friday for Vichy.

H.H. the Sultan of Egypt favours some useful institution, such as a maternity hospital, with a medical school for women, as the Egyptian memorial to Lord Kitchener, and is prepared to head the subscription list with £500.

Prince Nicholas and Prince Andrew of Greece left Athens on Monday for Denmark and Petrograd, viâ Messina, in order to visit their mother, the Queen Dowager, who resides in Russia.

Princess Zoutzo, the wife of the Roumanian Military Attaché to the Legation in Paris, arrived in London on Monday on a short visit.

M. Pashitch, who left Paris for Nice last week, proceeded to Rome, where he arrived on Sunday.

Dr. V. Marinkovitch, Serbian Minister of Agriculture, arrived in London last week from France.

H.E. the Roumanian Minister visited the Foreign Office on Monday afternoon and was received by the Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. H.E. the Greek Minister was amongst the callers at the Foreign Office the same day.

Lady Maxwell's condition was not quite so satisfactory at the end of last week, and she was unable to go to Ireland. On Sunday she underwent another slight operation, but is now progressing as favourably as can be expected.

M. de St. Aulaire, the newly appointed French Minister to Roumania, arrived in London from Tangier on Monday.

Lieutenant-Commander Harry Pirie-Gordon, R.N.V.R., had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Saturday morning, when His Majesty conferred the Distinguished Service Cross upon him.

Sir David Semple, Director-General, Public Health Department, Cairo, left Egypt for England on leave at the end of last month.

FRENCH, English, Spanish, Italian, German, Scandinavian Languages, Greek, etc., rapidly taught by natives.
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Διερμηνεῖς κ.λ.π. Δίδακτρα μέτρια.
Lyceum Institute, 85, New Oxford Street, and 64, Haymarket.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of June 26 announces: Lewa Bernard Pasha, Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government, will spend a month in Cairo and Alexandria, and then depart for Europe on leave.

Madame Slavko Grouitch, who is now in America collecting funds for the starving Serbians, expects to return to England in the autumn.

The King has granted to Mr. Charles Greenway, chairman of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited, authority to wear the Insignia of Grand Officer of the Order of the Lion and the Sun, conferred on him by the Shah of Persia.

Lieutenant Charles Carol MacNamara, Royal Irish Rifles, who is reported wounded, was in 1908 employed with the Egyptian Army. He was gazetted to the Staff last March.

Egyptian papers received by the last mail announce that the marriage was to take place on July 3, at St. Mark's Church, Alexandria, of Major Vernon Jarvis, of the Cairo City Police, and Miss Itala Tedeschi, the daughter of Mme. Veuve F. Tedeschi.

M. A. Radovitch, Prime Minister of Montenegro, accompanied by Sir Roper Parkington, was the guest of the Lord Mayor at luncheon at the Mansion House on Wednesday.

On Sunday afternoon a special Intercession Service for Serbia was held in the Chapel Royal, Savoy. The Rev. Hugh B. Chapman officiated. Serbian hymns were sung by M Voyiflad Yanic, and the Rev. H. J. Fynes-Clinton delivered a short address on Serbia.

Last Friday evening, at the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, in the presence of the Serbian Minister and other visitors, received about 300 Serbian boys who recently reached this country. Most of them have lost their parents and are now being educated in England.

An interesting little ceremony took place at General Headquarters of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force recently when General Sir Archibald Murray by command of the King conferred upon Lt.-Colonel Vitale di Pontagio, Italian Military Attaché with the Expeditionary Force, the insignia of an Honorary Companion of the Distinguished Service Order.

Mr. Louis Raemaekers has presented to the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund a cartoon for the Committee to use in any way they think fit.

Sir Peter McBride, Agent-General for Victoria, Australia, has presented to the Prime Minister of Montenegro a cheque for £800 to be expended in the alleviation of distress among the Montenegrin refugees, this amount being part of the proceeds of a collection which was made in Victoria on "King George's Day," June 2.

The Athens correspondent of the *Morning Post* writes that the departure from Greece of Commander H. S. Cardale, R.N., who has been recalled by the British Admiralty for service at home, has called forth sincere expressions of regret in Greek naval circles, from Admiral Coundouriotis down. Commander Cardale had nearly completed four years' service in the Greek Navy, during which time he had done valuable work, both on active service afloat and in organisation on land. On the outbreak of the present war he obtained leave of absence from the Greek Government, and at the request of the Serbian Government proceeded to Serbia, where he took command of the Allied naval forces, with headquarters at Belgrade. He was with the Serbian troops at the evacuation and reoccupation of that city in November-December, 1914, and organised the defences of the place. After his return to Greece he was appointed Director of the new School of Naval Reserve Officers, which he practically organised, and during the absence of Vice-Admiral Mark Kerr acted as chief of the British Naval Mission.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

H.E. the Serbian Minister (M. Matheas Boshkovitch) has left London. He goes with regret and leaves behind him many friends. He will not at once take up a new post, but will go to France for a very necessary holiday. He has worked strenuously since the war began and needs rest and change. After his holiday he will take up a new post under the Serbian Government at Corfu. We understand that M. Yovan Yovanovitch, formerly Serbian Minister in Vienna, has been appointed Serbian Minister in London.

Vice-Admiral Sir Richard H. Peirse, K.C.B., M.V.O., has been appointed Naval Member of the Central Committee of the Board of Invention and Research. He became a member of the Ordnance Board in 1907, and was Inspector of Target Practice from 1909 to 1911. He served during the Egyptian and South African wars, has commanded the First Battle Squadron, Home Fleet, and was Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station, and was last year on service in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (June 22):—

Mr. Hearst, late British Consul in Sofia, having obtained permission to leave Bulgaria, is now in Bucharest awaiting further orders.

Mr. Rook Carnegie has been appointed Acting Vice-Consul in Bucharest in place of Mr. Schöndorff, whose death had caused the post to become vacant.

At its meeting on June 28 the Egyptian Council of Ministers approved of the appointment of Mr. Hayler, the Sultanian Counsellor, as Acting Judicial Adviser during the absence of Sir William Brunyate on leave.

Captain Hugh Massie Blomfield, son of Sir Massie Blomfield, formerly Director-General of the Egyptian Ports and Lights Administration, after getting through the whole of the Mesopotamian relief campaign without a scratch, has been appointed Assistant Political Officer to Colonel Knox at Busreh. Captain Blomfield is in the Buffs.

Bimbashi W. L. Clinton, Camel Corps, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army on reversion to his unit in the British Army.

Mr. F. Atterbury, of the Sudan Slave Trade Repression Department, has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam while employed as Commandant of Police in the newly occupied District of Darfur.

The *Hestia* learns that Captain Baron von Senarclens-Grancy, the German Naval Attaché at Athens, has been transferred to Washington to succeed Captain Boy-Ed, who was recalled on the demand of the United States Government.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Charge for Announcements under this Heading is 2s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTHS.

PRICE.—On July 6, at Wyaston Grove, Ashbourne, Derby, the wife of Major Sir Francis Price, Bart., Glamorgan Yeomanry (attached Egyptian Army), of a son (William Russell Rose).

RALLI.—On July 7, at 1, Livingston Drive North, Liverpool, to the wife (*née* Vlasto) of Alexander C. Ralli, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

KITCHENER—BLUCK.—On July 8, at St. John's Church, Chelsea, London, by the Rev. J. H. Harvey, assisted by the Rev. W. C. Ward, Capt. Henry Hamilton Kitchener, R.E., Royal Flying Corps, son of the late Lieut.-General Sir F. W. Kitchener, K.C.B., and Lady Kitchener, to Winifred Esther Everest, eldest daughter of the Hon. A. W. Bluck, M.C.P., and Mrs. Bluck, of Hamilton, Bermuda.

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OBITUARY.

SIR EDWIN H. EGERTON, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

The Right Hon. Sir Edwin Henry Egerton, formerly British Ambassador at Athens, died in London last Saturday morning, in his seventy-fifth year. He entered the diplomatic service in 1859, and his connection with the Near East began in 1881, when he went to Athens as Secretary of Legation, and when he twice acted as Chargé d'Affaires. From April to September of 1884, and from July, 1885, to January, 1886, he was Acting-Agent and Consul-General in Egypt, having been meanwhile (March, 1885) promoted Secretary of Embassy at Constantinople. During the years immediately following his time was spent chiefly in Paris; but in 1892 he was promoted to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of the Hellenes, and he remained in Athens till the end of 1903. His tenure of the post coincided with a difficult period, which witnessed the Cretan insurrection and the disastrous Græco-Turkish war, and his services to his Government were of great value. He had a close personal knowledge of the country, of which he visited almost every part, and he took an active interest in the British School of Archæology and its work. From Athens he was sent to Madrid, and thence, in 1905, was transferred to Rome. In December, 1908, he retired.

He was made a C.B. in 1886, and promoted K.C.B. in 1897; was made a K.C.M.G. in 1902; and in 1904 was sworn a Privy Councillor. He married, in 1895, Olga, widow of M. Michel Katkoff and daughter of Prince Nicholas Lobanoff Rostowski. His only son was killed in action a few months ago.

ADMIRAL D'ARCY-IRVINE, K.C.B.

Admiral Sir St. George D'Arcy-Irvine, has died at Aix-les-Bains in his eighty-fourth year. A son of the Rev. G. Marcus D'Arcy-Irvine, he was born on May 23, 1833, and entered the Royal Navy in 1845. During the early stages of the Crimean War he served in H.M.S Megæra in the Black Sea, and at the landing at Eupatoria he was in command of part of the Naval Brigade. The next year he was on service in the Baltic, and at the close of the war he was awarded the Crimean medal with clasp, the Baltic medal, and the Turkish medal. In 1862 he was senior lieutenant of the Doris, the escorting ship on the Eastern tour of the Prince of Wales. In the Turco-Russian War of '78 he was in command of the Hotspur in Besika Bay and up the Dardanelles, and in 1882 he took part in the bombardment of Alexandria, commanding H.M.S. Penelope. For his services on this occasion he was made a C.B., and was given the Egyptian medal and the Khedive's bronze star. This terminated his connection with the East, but he afterwards did good work as second in command of the Channel Squadron (1888-89). He became rear-admiral in 1888, vice-admiral in 1891, and admiral in 1897, in which year he was placed on the retired list. In 1902 he was promoted K.C.B. He married, in 1868, Katherine, the only daughter of Vice-Admiral Sir Horatio Austin.

LIEUT.-COLONEL P. W. MACHELL, C.M.G., D.S.O.

It was announced last Friday, unofficially, that Lieutenant-Colonel Percy Wilfred Machell, C.M.G., D.S.O., of Crakenthorpe Hall, Westmorland, commanding a battalion of the Border Regiment, was killed on July 1, while leading his men in an attack. The news has been received with feelings of the deepest regret both in this country and in Egypt, where Colonel Machell had spent many years of his life, and where he had numerous friends.

Born in 1862, he was the son of Canon Machell and the Hon. Emma Machell, sister of the eighth Lord Middleton. He was educated at Clifton and Sandhurst, and joined the Army in 1882, as a lieutenant in the 56th Regiment. Two years later he went to Egypt with the Nile Expeditionary Force, thus beginning a connection with the country which was to prove a long one and one full of honour for himself. In 1886 he joined the Egyptian Army, and he was in command at the capture of Fort Khor Moussa, for which he was awarded the Order of the Osmanieh (4th Class). Subsequently he took part in the actions of Gamaizah and Toski and the capture of Tokar, these services securing him two clasps, the Order of the Mejidieh (4th Class), and the Bronze Star. In 1891 he was appointed to command the 12th Sudanese Battalion, which command he held till 1895. In the following year he became Inspector-General of the Egyptian Coastguard, and in 1898 he was appointed Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, a position which he filled with conspicuous ability for ten years. Amongst other things he accomplished was the weeding out of numerous favourites of the Khedive from various departments of the Interior; and the mudirs he introduced were men of a better class, and worked harmoniously with the English inspectors. He was also instrumental in making the Provincial Councils of real use and in getting some work out of the local municipalities. By the natives generally he was much liked. In 1902 he was awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Mejidieh. In 1908 he left Egypt and returned to this country. For some time he served as an Alderman of the London County Council, and he was also a Justice of the Peace for Westmorland.

On taking up his appointment with the Egyptian Coastguard he had retired from the British Army, being placed on the Reserve of Officers. But on the outbreak of the present war he raised, formed, and trained the battalion of the Border Regiment which he commanded, and in November of last year he went to the front. Last May he was awarded the D.S.O., as recorded in these columns (June 9). He married in 1905 Countess Victoria Gleichen, daughter of H.S.H. Prince Victor of Hohenlohe-Langenburg. He leaves a son, who was born in 1908.

In a letter to the *Times*, Lord Cromer writes: "Colonel Machell has been numbered amongst those who have lain down their lives in the service both of their country and of the civilization of the world. Like so many who have done invaluable but unostentatious work, his name was but little known to the mass of his countrymen. That is an additional reason which prompts me to testify to the admirable services which he rendered as virtual head of the Ministry of the Interior in Egypt. Firm, just, genial, and thoroughly straightforward, this fine specimen of an English gentleman gained the sympathy and respect of all alike, and especially of the natives of Egypt, to whom he became endeared. Germany, with all her erudition and highly organized system of education, cannot produce Imperial agents of the type well represented by Colonel Machell. To us they constitute national assets of priceless value."

Major Frederick Christian Heneker, Leinster Regiment, attached Northumberland Fusiliers, has been killed in action. Born in 1873, he joined the Leinster Regiment in 1894, and was promoted lieutenant in 1896 and captain four years later. From 1901 to 1905 he was employed with the Egyptian Army, and from 1909 to 1913 he was an officer of the Corps of Gentlemen Cadets at the Royal Military College.

Second-Lieutenant Francis (Frank) Barnes, of the King's Liverpool Regiment, who was killed in France, was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Barnes, of Wavertree, Liverpool, and before the war was in the Accountancy Department of the British-American Tobacco Company at Liverpool, and at one time represented that concern in Constantinople and Trebizond.

Among the Alexandrians who have recently met their death on the French front is Arthur Ecclestone, the eldest son of Mr. Ecclestone, who has resided at Alexandria since 1884.

Major J. Leadbitter Knott, who has been killed in action, was the last surviving son of Mr. James Knott, founder and managing director of the Prince Line. All the sons, three in number, have now sacrificed their lives in the war—two in France, the other at the Dardanelles—says a Liverpool contemporary. Thirty-three years of age, Major Knott, who was deputy managing director of the Prince Line, joined the Colours shortly after the outbreak of war. He was looked upon as the prospective Unionist candidate for the Hyde division. His home was at Wylam-on-Tyne. He had been in France twelve months. A short time ago he was awarded the D.S.O. for gallantry on the field, and recently he was placed on the roll of magistrates for the City of Newcastle.

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THE MESOPOTAMIAN CAMPAIGN AND ITS OBJECTIVE.

Having discovered a weak spot in the long Russian line stretching from Trebizond to Central Persia, the Turks are making the most of their opportunity. When it was realised that Turco-German intrigues were proving a menace to Persian neutrality and to the Indian frontier, the Russians set columns moving in Persia with a view to breaking up any hostile formations in the country and to restoring order at least in the North. One of these columns under General Baratoff found the enemy organisation, based on Kermanshah, more formidable than had been expected, and was compelled to undertake a definite campaign in Western Persia. An unbroken series of successes led the Russians to Hamadan and Kermanshah, and thence on to the Turco-Persian frontier near Khanikin. For a moment it looked as if the road to Baghdad had been left open for them; but the force which had approached the border was altogether inadequate to advance against a city so strongly held, and before reinforcements could be brought up, the Turkish command at Baghdad, benefiting, no doubt, by the capitulation of Kut, which freed a number of troops, was able to turn the tables on the Russians. During the last few weeks the Russians under General Baratoff have been steadily pressed back by superior numbers. Kasr-i-Shirin, Kerind, and now Kermanshah have in turn been evacuated. The Russians, evidently realising that there was little hope of the early arrival of reinforcements, have wisely decided to avoid a repetition of the history of Kut, and have preferred to impose upon the Turks the embarrassment of lengthening lines of communications, while shortening their own. This retirement is unfortunate, if only for the effect it will have on the local population. Their belief in the Russians may be temporarily shaken, for the Turks will probably be at pains to impress upon them by approved methods that they have indeed "put their money on the wrong horse." In itself the Russian withdrawal is of small military importance. There is no definite objective that the Turks are likely to reach, the capture of which would have an important bearing on the main operations, such as would have been the case, if Baghdad had fallen into Russian hands. On the other hand, until the sequence of events belies the expectation, we may count on the Russians arresting the Turkish advance before it reaches Hamadan and eventually rolling it back.

The proper co-ordination of the military efforts of the Allies in the Middle East calls for a very vigorous thrust on the part of the British Mesopotamian Expedition at this moment with a view to relieving the pressure on the Russians in Western Persia. Baghdad has been proclaimed far too emphatically as the British objective in this region to allow the campaign to come to an end before British troops enter the city. It would, therefore, be a grave mistake to regard the Mesopotamian Expedition now as merely a side issue of the European War. Whatever it may have been in its origin, it has become, owing to the course which the operations have taken, an entirely distinct enterprise. On the battlefields of Europe the Allies are fighting for the cause of liberty and justice among the nations. In Mesopotamia—no good purpose can be served by attempting to hide the fact—the issues at stake are British prestige throughout the whole Arab world and the future peace of India. If the resistance of the Central Powers collapsed to-morrow and the Allies dictated peace a few days later in Berlin, the Middle East would remain largely unaffected in its estimate of British power, and would base its future attitude towards Great Britain on the facts of which it has been able to take note itself, namely, that the British were flung back from Ctesiphon by a Turco-Arab force, were compelled to capitulate at Kut, and were unable to register a decisive success against the Turks. In these circumstances there can be no question of the Mesopotamian campaign being an unimportant appendage of the European war. It can only be regarded as a separate war, albeit a small one, and it requires to be treated as such. In other words, thanks to the way in which the campaign has been handled, or mishandled, Great Britain cannot afford to rely upon the Allies' ultimate success in Europe covering up failure in Mesopotamia, but must see the expedition through to a victorious finish, if there is to be lasting peace in the East as well as on the Continent. We are not concerned now with the antecedents of the campaign, or with the question whether it was necessary or advisable to advance beyond Kurnah in the first instance. The salient points are that a British force has matched itself against the Turks and their Arab levies in this region, and that it has been so far unsuccessful. Before the campaign can be allowed to come to an end failure must be wiped out, and this can only be done by the entry of British troops into Baghdad.

In the great majority of campaigns it may not be in accordance with military instinct for a belligerent to announce too clearly his actual intentions. With regard, however, to the Mesopotamian expedition, which, after falling back from Ctesiphon, is once more advancing, or trying to advance, up the Tigris, military considerations can hardly claim to impose reticence on the subject of the original British objective. On the other hand, in view of the sound dislike of military authorities towards the dissipation of strength, there is a danger that at this period of the European war the policy of merely holding the Turks while the final issue is being fought out in Europe may commend itself to a General Staff which has its hands full already, and prides itself on being freed from the shackles of political considerations. A clearer appreciation of all the factors in the situation, we hold, will prove that for once in a way political considerations, or rather the sole issue now raised by this particular campaign, must determine the military plans. The late Under-Secretary for War was right in contending that "it is undesirable to make public any information regarding the strength or dispositions of the British troops on the Euphrates line, or the intentions of our command in that quarter." These are details of military operations which must be kept as far as possible from the knowledge of the enemy. But the nation has the right to require that its interests in these regions shall not be sacrificed or even prejudiced by failure on the part of the Government to understand the issues at stake. In the face of all that has happened in Mesopotamia, including the despatch of an expedition ill-equipped and the absence of satisfactory measures for its reinforcement, there is a natural anxiety lest ignorance in high quarters should make the supreme blunder of all, and lay up a serious heritage of trouble for a time when the world is looking forward to an era of peace. No one asks that military secrets should be revealed, but it should be possible to allay the public anxiety lest Mesopotamia and the importance of its campaign should continue to be ignored. In many quarters the feeling is entertained that, if the steps that ought to have been taken to retrieve the mishaps of this expedition had been taken in time, General Lake's force would have been in a position to render timely aid to our Allies, now being pressed back in Persia.

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EIGHTEEN YEARS OF JUDICIAL REFORM IN EGYPT.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

Recently I announced the forthcoming retirement of Sir Malcolm McIlwraith from the post of Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, which he has held since 1898. Somewhat appropriately he concludes his report (just published) on the work of the Ministry of Justice for the year 1914-1915 with a brief review of the reforms effected during the past eighteen years in the judicial and administrative machinery of the country. The changes involved by the declaration of a British Protectorate in the place of the previous Ottoman suzerainty, and the creation of a Sultanate of Egypt, which will undoubtedly affect the Department of Justice as much as, if not more than, any other administration in the country, "mark the end of an epoch in Egyptian history and the commencement of a new era," when a more or less complete upheaval of the system existing hitherto may be expected; and Sir Malcolm gives this review, as he says, "not assuredly in any boastful spirit . . . but simply as a possibly convenient record and reminder of the principal landmarks in the recent history of judicial institutions in this country." The review is divided into four main heads, viz. :—Law Reform, Native Tribunals, Mixed Tribunals, and Mehkemehs and Meglis Hasbys.

The most important law reform has been that carried out in the criminal jurisdiction. The Native Codes, which are founded on the French, are an adaptation made in 1883 of the Mixed Codes of 1876. They proved very unsatisfactory, and in 1898 it was decided to revise the Penal and Criminal Procedure Codes. This work took five years, and the new codes, "which were largely the work of Mr. (now Sir William) Brunyate," and were well received by judges and lawyers, included the introduction of a First Offenders' Law, more rational treatment of juvenile offenders, the complete recasting of the provisions concerning Recidivism, Attempted Complicity, etc., and the modification of the procedure in regard to Appeals and Provisional Execution of Sentences. In 1905, as a natural sequel to the provision of better treatment of juvenile offenders, Children's Courts were instituted in Cairo and Alexandria, and the Adviser mentions that the first judge selected to deal with these cases was the present Minister of Justice, "one of the most distinguished of our younger magistrates," H.E. Sarwat Pasha, whose report on the first year's workng of the courts contained observations "which have served as a most useful guide to subsequent judges in these courts." Three years later a Vagrant Children Law was passed, giving power to magistrates to send to the reformatory for an undefined period, not extending beyond their eighteenth year, waifs and strays found begging in the streets, whose surroundings were corrupting their morals, or who showed signs of precocious criminal tendencies. This law has had very good results. In 1908 the system of indeterminate sentences for habitual offenders was introduced, and dangerous criminals were segregated to special establishments for indefinite maximum periods. Other important penal law reforms were the promulgation of a Law of Criminal Conspiracies, in 1910, a Law for the Repression of Usury, in 1912, and a Law of Unlawful Assemblies in 1914. In the civil jurisdiction the most important reform undertaken was the revision of civil procedure, which was commenced in 1906. The discussions were somewhat protracted, but the first fruits were produced in 1909 by the promulgation of a law regulating the practice of the profession of experts, who play a prominent part in the procedure of the Native Tribunals, and whose freedom of action had been a very unsatisfactory feature. This was followed in 1910 by the institution of a Preparatory Judge in all the central courts for the clear settlement of the issues for trial and the acceleration of procedure. Both these reforms have proved most satisfactory. In view of the imminence of an extensive judicial reorganization and the necessity of undertaking a more thorough and systematic revision of Civil Procedure, a large representative Commission was constituted in 1913, and the work done by the previous revisors was taken over by it.

In regard to the Native Tribunals, the policy pursued by the Ministry "has been one of gradual decentralization." When this jurisdiction was first started centralization was somewhat excessive, owing to the scanty element available to form an efficient native magistracy, but thanks to the subsequent development of legal education it was found possible in 1892 to transfer jurisdiction in all cases of misdeameanour from the three-judge chambers of the Central Tribunals, which numbered seven, to some thirty Summary Tribunals, each composed of one judge, sitting all over the country. For the first time it became possible to deal effectively with misdeameanours, and in 1904 a further step was taken in the direction of decentralization by the establishment of Markaz (District) Tribunals sitting in every Markaz of the country and presided over by a peripatetic judge, who was able to dispose of all police offences and most petty misdeameanours in the locality where they were committed. These judges had fairly extensive powers, and a distinctive feature of the reform was that the enquiry and prosecution were entrusted solely to the police instead of to the Parquet (Public Prosecutor's office). The next step was the institution of Assize Courts in 1905. These were composed of Appeal Court judges, who sat monthly and disposed of all crimes, without appeal save on points of law, the prisoners being committed by Committing Magistrates instead of by the Parquet as formerly. That the innovation was bound to be more satisfactory than the previous organization was certain; for up to then prisoners had been tried in first instance by the Central Tribunals, from whom an appeal could be made to the Court of Appeal in Cairo, which, in practice, took its decision on the papers only. Everyone agrees that the new organization, which owed to Lord Cromer its introduction in the teeth of strong opposition, has proved a marked success, both as regards the greater guarantees of justice and increased celerity of trial. In connection with the latter feature it may be pointed out that the average interval between the commission of the crime and the final sentence on the offender is to-day 106 days, as against 230 days under the old organization. Further decentralization was effected in 1912 by the institution of Cantonal Courts, due to the iniative of Lord Kitchener. These courts, which are composed of unpaid notables, sit in the villages and dispose of petty civil cases up to £E5 in value, in conformity with local usage; and also punish minor contraventions. "Justice is thus brought very much nearer to the doors of the people." With the introduction of these courts the previous Markaz Courts disappeared except in the Governorates, their powers reverting to the Summary Courts, and a Summary Judge was established in every Markaz where there is now also a Parquet. The manner in which decentralization has been carried out may be gauged from the fact that, whereas in 1898 there were 43 Summary Courts, with 105 judges and 95 members of the Parquet, to-day there are 90 of these courts, with 172 judges and 182 Parquet substitutes, with, in addition, 236 Cantonal Courts. Reference to the Native Tribunals would not be complete without some mention of the School of Law, where the future magistrates are educated. Up to 1899 instruction was given only in French, but in that year an English section was introduced. To-day the influx of French-speaking students has practically stopped, and the last of them will receive their diplomas in 1918. It is interesting to note that, whereas in 1898 there were 73 students in this school, with fourteen lecturers, to-day the number is 238, with no fewer than 27 lecturers.

In regard to the Mixed Tribunals, the hands of the Ministry have been considerably tied by the Capitulations, under which not even the simplest changes could be effected in legislation without the consent of fifteen Powers. The Powers were induced to consent to the formation of International Commissions "composed of their Diplomatic or Consular Representatives in Egypt, assisted by their senior judge of the Mixed Tribunals as technical adviser." But this was a very dilatory way of dealing with questions of legislation, for the judges were usually too occupied with their tribunal work to give much time to the Commission. All the same, certain important improvements were effected, such as the promulgation of a Pre-emption Law, a Law of Pawnbrokers' Establishments, a Law of Bankruptcy, introducing the system of composition and conferring criminal jurisdiction on these Courts in the case of bankruptcy offences, a Law of Expropriation for purposes of public utility, and a Stock Exchange Law, validating bargains in "Futures" and regulating Stock and Produce Exchanges. For many years a scheme for the amalgamation of the Land Registries and the introduction of a system of Registration of Title was studied by the Ministry; but it aroused very strong political opposition, and the assent of the Powers could never be obtained to this very necessary reform. As the Judicial Adviser says, "if one of the most defective branches of the law in Egypt and the most fertile source of lawsuits is the uncertainty of titles to real property, the responsibility for this state of affairs cannot be laid at the door of the Ministry of Justice." It was obvious to all that the machinery of legislation by International Commission was quite impracticable for a country developing so rapidly as Egypt was doing, and efforts were made to get the Powers to agree to some more simplified procedure for the amendment of mixed legislation. It was not, however, until 1911 that at length H.E. Rushdi Pasha, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, managed to obtain the assent of the Powers to the establishment of a Legislative Assembly of the Mixed Courts, composed of the Appeal Court Judges in general meeting supplemented by the senior judge of each of the Treaty Powers not already represented on the Appeal Court Bench. This assembly received power to amend and add to the Mixed Codes without touching any question dealt with by the Statute of Judicial Organization. The Egyptian Government has the exclusive right to initiate legislation, and the Powers can demand a reconsideration of any project within three months of the date at which it was approved, any project not promulgated within three months after that period being deemed to have lapsed. The new machinery "has proved a very useful institution in practice," and under it certain long-awaited reforms have been effected, notably a revised law for the expropriation of immovables, for the *revendication* of movables and for the abolishing of the dilatory procedure known as "defaut faute de conclure," to which must be added the now famous Homestead or Five Feddan Law establishing the immunity from seizure and sale of small agricultural holdings not exceeding five feddans. As the general application of this latter measure has "been retarded by the necessity of giving time for the liquidation of the existing situation there are not at present sufficient data for judging of its efficacy."

The reform of the Mehkemehs has always been a delicate problem owing to the opposition of persons interested in hindering reforms or to the natural susceptibilities of the people

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As far back as 1899 an attempt was made to modify the constitution of these courts by introducing into the Supreme Mehkemeh two Moslem judges from the Native Court of Appeal, who would sit with two Ulema under the presidency of the Grand Kadi. But this proposal "was declared to be incompatible with religious principles and had to be abandoned. Yet, despite the opposition to any tendency towards amalgamation of the lay and religious courts, and as a result of persistent efforts on the part of the Ministry, considerable improvements have been effected in the organization and procedure. First, the Mehkemeh Bar was reorganized in 1900. Then regulations were issued in 1907 simplifying the procedure for the execution of judgments, thus assisting poor suitors, especially women, in the recovery of debts. In 1909-1910 an important reorganization of procedure was effected, and whilst the existing courts were redistributed, much of the old formalism was swept way, a more reasonable tariff of costs was introduced, and the hearing of cases was much accelerated. In addition, the Kadi has been empowered to commit to prison for a period not exceeding one month persons possessing adequate means who disobey an order for the payment of alimony to their wives and children. "In view of the prevalence and the facility of divorce in this country, and of the peculiarly helpless position of the Mohammedan wife whom her husband is tired of and declines any longer to support, the utility of some measure of coercion in such cases is self evident," and it is satisfactory to note that although some hesitation, due to past experience, was at first felt in regard to entrusting the Kadi with such powers, they have been judiciously used and have proved remarkably efficacious. Finally, the Ministry started in 1898 on the task of classifying and indexing the Mehkemeh Archives. The latter, which contain title deeds of great importance, were in a chaotic state, and it was often difficult to find documents. The work of reorganization took until 1911, and an idea of what it entailed can be gathered from the facts that 78,000 registers "facilitating searches for the last 400 years," and 32,000 general registers containing deeds of all kinds, "thus rendering it easy to make searches back to the origin of the Mehkemehs themselves—a period of remote antiquity"—were indexed, and 700,000 files of lawsuits and 1,000 miscellaneous files of various kinds were classified chronologically. "All kinds of deeds can now be produced in a few minutes, whereas such searches formerly required weeks, and sometimes months, and, even then, were not infrequently ineffectual." In addition, a Training College for Kadis was inaugurated in 1901. The organization of the Meglis Hasbys, which look after the fortunes and persons of minors and lunatics, etc., has also been tackled; but, although some alterations have been carried out and matters have been improved, the only solution admitting of any permanent and satisfactory improvement in the present treatment of these cases is that they should all be dealt with by the ordinary law courts, where, if errors and abuses did occur, "they would certainly not be so numerous, and supervision would be more effective." A revised code of Personal Status had been prepared by a committee of competent persons, but the war broke out, and financial considerations prevented anything further being done in the matter. In view, however, of the grave abuses which go on at present to the detriment of the weakest classes of the community, "it is greatly to be hoped that it will be one of the first matters to be reconsidered when the political and financial conditions again permit."

The foregoing is necessarily but a rough outline of the judicial reforms introduced since 1898, and it does but scanty justice to the efforts made by the Anglo-Egyptian legal authorities to purge the administration of all the inefficient and corrupt elements which pervaded it two decades ago, and to secure to the people, without distinction of class, a simple and easily accessible form of justice, which, in the peculiar circumstances, had hitherto been unknown to them. One could fill reams with the details of the difficulties that had to be overcome, the abuses that had to be eradicated, and the intrigues on the part of interested parties that had to be counteracted. At times, it seemed quite hopeless to try to attain the desired object, but courage, dogged perseverance, and patience have triumphed over the traditional inertia and conservatism of the East, and the marked improvement noticeable to-day in the tone of the judicial administration of the country, in the methods of dispensation of justice, and in the attitude of the people towards the various jurisdictions, as compared with the state of affairs eighteen years ago, constitutes an achievement of which Sir Malcolm McIlwraith and his successor, Sir William Brunyate, who has had a prominent hand in all the reforms, may, together with all the other members of the Ministry of Justice, feel justly proud.

The Alexandria Municipal Delegation has approved a proposal for raising funds for the erection of a statue to Lord Kitchener in the city and for giving his name to the Bab-es-Sharki Garden.

A disturbance is reported to have been caused in Belgrade owing to the Governor commanding the clergy to hold mourning services on the anniversary of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand's death.

The efforts of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund to provide succour for the half million people in Montenegro have met with gratifying success, mainly through the labours of the Fund's chairman, Sir Roper Parkington, and Mr. A. Devine. The consent of Austria to carry out relief work has now been obtained. The Allies are desirous that steps should be taken to guarantee that none of the food reaches enemy hands, and it is considered probable that America will act as overseer of the operations. It is proposed that the relief expedition shall start from an Italian port.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Mesopotamia Papers. July 11.

Viscount MIDLETON asked when the papers relating to the Mesopotamian campaign would be published.

The Marquess of CREWE said that further examination of the paper which it was proposed to publish had shown that the military objections to certain portions were stronger than was at first believed. He understood that the delay in publication was due to that cause only.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Turks and Arabs. July 6.

Mr. TENNANT, replying to Sir J. J. Jardine, said: It is, of course, undesirable to make public any information regarding the strength or dispositions of the British troops on the Euphrates line or the intentions of our Command in that quarter. Reports have been received that, owing to local dissatisfaction with Turkish actions, disturbances broke out at Kerbellah about April 22, and continued until May 14, when a Turkish force sent from Baghdad attacked the inhabitants. The attack, however, failed, and the Turks were compelled to retire in the direction of Baghdad. During the fighting on May 14 the Turks are reported to have bombarded and seriously damaged the sacred domes of Kerbellah. No report has been received of any rising of the Arabs near Babylon. Some irregular marauders have recently given us trouble both north and south of the Hamar Lake. These have been dealt with effectively, as announced in the War Office communiqués issued on June 16 and 30.

Mohammerah-Khoremmabad Railway. July 10.

LORD ROBERT CECIL, replying to Colonel Yate, said that the military situation in South-western Persia had rendered any further development of the scheme for the Mohammerah-Khoremmabad railway impossible for the time being. When the local situation improves further steps will be taken in consultation with the Government of India.

The Kut Relief Expedition.

Mr. FORSTER informed Mr. Peto that the dispatches relating to the Kut-el-Amara relief expedition, and particularly to the action fought under General Aylmer on March 8, had not yet been received by the War Office.

Our Troops in Mesopotamia. July 12.

Captain AUBREY HERBERT asked the Prime Minister whether he would give a day for the discussion of the conduct of the campaign in Mesopotamia.

Mr. ASQUITH: I do not think that the present moment is opportune for such a discussion, but I will, of course, bear my hon. friend's question in mind.

SIR E. CARSON: Is this House and the country never to get at any time reports of what is going on in Mesopotamia? May I also ask whether these reports are being purposely kept back, and whether the right hon. gentleman does not know that there is amongst a considerable portion of the people who have connections with men in that country the very gravest anxiety as to the negligence that has taken place in reference to the whole of the operations in Mesopotamia?

Mr. ASQUITH: There is no desire to keep anything back. The House is entitled to have, and I hope will have, the fullest possible information about it. No one is more desirous than the Government that the matter shall be fully and thoroughly discussed, but I do not know that this is a particularly opportune moment. The suggestion that we are burking discussion is entirely unfounded. The condition of the troops in Mesopotamia is engaging our whole attention, and the most careful steps are being taken to remedy defects proved to exist and to supply immediate necessities.

SIR E. CARSON: I shall put a question to the right hon. gentleman early next week, and in the event of my not getting an answer I shall ask leave to move the adjournment of the House.

CAPTAIN AUBREY HERBERT: May I ask whether the right hon. gentleman does not think that it would be in the national interest now to fix the responsibility for the economy that has governed and hampered the whole of the Mesopotamian campaign from its initiation to the last few months—to fix the responsibility on the individuals concerned?

No answer was returned.

THE MESOPOTAMIA OPERATIONS.

The Secretary of the War Office made the following announcement last Friday:—A report has been received from General Sir Percy Lake to the effect that marauders in Turkish pay have lately occasioned some trouble on the Tigris front. About Sanna-i-Yat (north bank of the Tigris) there was some reciprocal activity during the night of June 29-30, without any special incident or particular result. The general situation remains unchanged both on the Tigris and the Euphrates line.

Climatic conditions in Mesopotamia are particularly trying at present, but some improvement in this respect may be anticipated when the *shamal* (north-west wind) sets in. It is already overdue.

According to the Athens *Hestia*, demonstrations are being made by disbanded Greek reservists with a view to influencing the coming elections. The *Hestia* hints that these demonstrations are being engineered, and says that their effect must be to increase the difficulties of M. Zaimis.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

On Going to the Devil.

Last Friday the *Morning Post* published a despatch (dated June 24) from its Athens correspondent describing the presentation of the Allied Note and its effect in Athens. The general feeling was one of intense relief and a spirit of "cheerfulness, even of gaiety," was to be seen in the crowds. The writer concludes his article as follows:—

Of course, the Press supporting the late Government (which, as I have pointed out more than once hitherto, is identical with the Press subsidised by the German propaganda) has not ceased to fulminate against the "brutal insult" offered by the Allies to Greece's independence and sovereignty as a State. It is hardly worth while noticing these hireling diatribes. But one article in the *Nea Himera* deserves mention, as this journal claims with some reason to voice the sentiments of the Palace. It is entitled "The Greek People Master of Its Destinies," and in tragic language informs the public that by the terms imposed by the "brutality" of the three Powers the Greek people are now once more "in control of their destinies," and that if M. Venizelos should be returned to power by the new elections and should again disagree with the King upon the country's foreign policy King Constantine, "who has thus far twice saved Greece from great disasters by his wise and patriotic policy, will no longer exercise his constitutional right of veto," but will let the country go to the devil in its own way. This apostrophe to the nation, with its implied threat and its indirect admission that up to the date of the Allies' ultimatum the Greek people were *not* masters of their own destinies, is naïve, to say the least. And there is every reason to believe that if the Greek people must go to the devil they would rather do so in their own way than in anybody's else's. If this article may be taken as indicating a change of heart upon the Throne of Greece, and King Constantine proposes to keep his activities hereafter within the spirit of the Greek Constitution, this will not be the least of the benefits accruing to Greece through the "high-handed" interference of the three Protecting Powers.

A Word for the Greek Point of View.

In an article entitled "The Position in Greece," which he contributes to *Country Life* (July 8), Mr. George Lamley emphasizes the fact that Greece is "for all practical purposes an insular kingdom." This has its advantages, but also its disadvantages, and for Greece the disadvantages are very great:—

There is not a town of importance that could not be destroyed by modern battleships, nearly all of them being on the coast, and Athens itself less than four miles from the sea. As recent events have shown, a strict blockade is just sufficient to reduce the capital to submission, if continued for a few weeks; but even if a reserve of grain were accumulated, so that it could hold out for a long period, the idea held by many Greeks, and expressed by some of their papers, that neither France nor England would dare to bombard Athens for fear of damaging the Parthenon and the other magnificent ruins on or near the Acropolis, betrays a woeful ignorance of modern gunnery. It is true that the modern city lies behind the Acropolis, and is screened by it, but most of its principal buildings are from half a mile to a mile away from any of the great monuments of antiquity, and the latter would therefore not run the slightest risk of damage. Their opinion, however, is an unconscious tribute to our higher culture, for they tacitly admit that the question of damage to the greatest works of ancient art the world possesses would have had no weight with the Germans.

Another point to be taken into consideration in fairness to the Greeks is that "we do not hold the command of the sea in the Eastern Mediterranean in the same way that we do in the North Sea, and that the Austrians have one of the finest naval bases in the world, the Bocca di Cattaro, less than 300 miles from the nearest point of the Greek coast . . . and that there was always the risk, if Greece joined in the war on our side, that the Austrians might break through, and, running down the coast, wreck vengeance on the practically unprotected ports of Patras, Corinth, and the Piræus, and even on Athens itself." The risk, one thinks, is a very slight one, but perhaps it looms large in the eye of the Greek. The writer considers that the anxiety of nearly every Greek to keep out of the war "is quite understandable."

With the object-lesson of Belgium before them, deliberately designed as it probably was to exert a deterrent influence on all the smaller states whose sympathies might be with the Allies, and later on that of Serbia, close at their doors, no Greek would care to incur the hostility of Germany, who had it in her power to overrun and devastate Macedonia with her own or Bulgarian troops, and seriously threaten Thessaly and Epirus and the northern provinces; and to face at the same time, as previously pointed out, the risk of naval attacks by the Austrians.

Again, the Greeks have not forgotten their long struggle for independence; there are few in the country "who have not to mourn some relative or friend who lost their lives or have been permanently disabled, either in their war with Turkey in 1900 or in the wars with Turkey and afterwards with Bulgaria in 1912 and 1913." And the writer asks:—

With such memories, is it to be wondered at that many patriotic Greeks wish to keep out of the struggle if possible, although their sympathies are strongly with the Allies, and in spite of the temptation held out to them of adding to their kingdom some of the territories now under foreign rule in which the major portion of the inhabitants are Greek? Those who consider the Greeks are guilty of base ingratitude in not throwing in their lot with the three protecting Powers, to whom they owe their existence as an independent state, should weigh these facts carefully, and will then probably admit that there is much to be said for the Greek point of view.

"A Forgotten Force."

Under the above title *The Times* on Wednesday devoted a leading article to our Mesopotamian Expedition. It presses for publication of papers, but declares: "Our principal concern just now is the improvement of the condition of the troops in Mesopotamia." There would certainly appear to be room for improvement, if complaints received by *The Times* "from the troops themselves, from their relatives at home, from correspondents in India, and from persons who have returned to this country from the Tigris, regarding the condition of the force and its frequent lack of necessaries," are well founded:—

The force appears to be rationed upon principles which would be appropriate for operations in Spitzbergen in mid-winter, but a different scale of diet is required in Chaldean deserts when the temperature is considerably above 100 degrees in the shade. The men would, however, put up with rations of any sort, if they only got them regularly in sufficient bulk; but we gather that the work of the commissariat on the Tigris is uncertain and irregular, and we receive frequent allegations of scanty food. The troops in Mesopotamia feel, moreover, that while necessaries are sometimes denied them, they receive a very inadequate share of the "comforts" which are showered upon the forces in France and elsewhere.

As to the question of transport, we read:—

Failure of the transport arrangements is at the root of all our difficulties in Mesopotamia, and there is absolutely no excuse for the want of foresight which was shown. The characteristics of the Tigris are almost as well known in India as those of the Thames, and the reckless way in which this expedition was allowed to expand without making proper provision for river transport is quite unpardonable.

The whole subject of the expedition, says *The Times*, calls for searching inquiry.

More light ought to be thrown upon its inceptions, the unwarrantable enlargement of its objects, the obscurities of the decision to advance from Kut to Baghdad, the mishandling of the relief columns, the deplorable failure to save General Townshend, and the continued use of the force. The Government do not appear to have made up their minds about what they hope to achieve in Mesopotamia, any more than they made up their mind about the Dardanelles.

Arab Views on the Arab Revolt.

The *Egyptian Gazette* (June 27) translates from the *Ahram* portions of an article by Sheikh Hamid Ibrahim, who discusses the Shereef of Mecca's declaration of Arabia's independence. After referring to the various views taken of the event, the writer proceeds:—

Yet arguments cannot change the established fact that the people of Arabia have for a long time past longed to attain independence, and made various efforts to secure it, owing to the misrule and injustice of the Turks. Their attempts failed on previous occasions because every one of their Emirs thought himself fit for the leadership. Matters have now changed. The present movement has been started by an Emir whose superiority cannot be doubted, for he is the influential descendant of the Prophet and the inheritor of the wisdom, courage, and prudence of his worthy ancestors of the Koreish and Abd Munaf. All other chiefs must bow before the Grand Shereef of Mecca, and follow him in the realisation of the long-cherished hope of Arab independence and the revival of the old glory of the people. . . . Those among Moslems who have a sense of fair play will see that the Shereef's movement is only right. It cannot be disapproved, for all that the Moslems of the world desire in this respect is to have a safe path in the Hejaz to the Holy Shrines, and it is to be hoped that the pillage and robbery which prevailed in the Holy Land of Islam will henceforth cease to exist under the independent rule of the greatest Arab Emir.

In its next issue (June 28) the *Gazette* gives a translation from an article in another native journal, the *Ahaly*, dealing with the same subject. The writer considers that the two principal reasons that induced the Shereef to take his momentous step were: (1) that "the Governors who had been entrusted with the administration of Arabia did not know how to deal with the people of that country, and they failed to establish public security on a sound basis"; and (2) that "the Arabs have found themselves oppressed in this war owing to

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the fact that they live in a country of poor resources which relies essentially on imports and the pilgrimage season." He continues:—

When the Ottoman Empire was blockaded by the Allies Arabia was left without any external profits, and its inhabitants then felt the oppression befalling them. As there was no war between the Arabs and the Allies, the former saw no harm in emerging from their situation to remove that oppression. It is evident that this serious movement, the echo of which is now rumbling throughout the world, would not have occurred had Turkey remained out of the arena of the war and refrained from following the Germans in a campaign where she has no real interests to serve.

Turkey's "Cynical Adventurers."

The *Spectator* (July 8) detects signs of "a reaction in the attitude of the British people towards Turkey," and welcomes these signs thus:—

Because at Gallipoli the Turks happened to be somewhat more chivalrous fighters than the Germans when opposed to British and French troops, and were willing to make arrangements to succour the wounded in the land between the trenches, a sort of tradition grew up that the Turks were gentlemen and clean fighters, and our Turkish enemies became almost popular. This was a great mistake. The gentlemanly behaviour of Turkish officers at Kut and Gallipoli cannot make us forget the horrors of the Armenian massacres or condone the action of the Turkish Government in selling themselves to Germany. If Enver Pasha and the crew of cynical adventurers who surround him were to be allowed to retain their hold upon Turkey it would be an evil day for this country. It is quite possible that when they begin to realise that they put their money on the wrong horse in supporting Germany attempts may be made by them to save their own skins, and obtain security to continue to oppress not merely the Christians of Syria and Asia Minor, but that great Arab population to whom they have proved almost, if not quite, as cruel masters as they have to the Christians.

A Plea for Action.

Writing in the *World* (July 11), Mr. West F. de Wend-Fenton urges strongly that the Allies should take vigorous action in the Balkans. His article is entitled "The Urgency of a Balkan Offensive," and the following extracts will serve to indicate the writer's line of argument, which certainly seems a sound one:—

Even if she were to sustain far more decisive defeats on the Western front than she has experienced at present, or, indeed, than seem within the bounds of possibility at the time of writing—even if Russia continues to deal staggering blows in Galicia and the Bukovina—so long as the "Balkan Zug" runs merrily on its way between Vienna and Constantinople, so long as German and Austrian influence is dominant in the Balkan Peninsula, so long as the Franco-British force is cooped up in Salonika, the German High Command can reassure the nation by pointing out triumphantly that all the combined might of the Allies has not been potent to restrain the creation of a "Mitteleuropa" whose tentacles are in a fair way to extend from Hamburg to the Persian Gulf. If this position is allowed to continue—and at the present moment there has been no serious attempt made to overthrow it—British naval supremacy will exist only in name, and no amount of trade conferences or commercial agreements among the Allies will have the slightest effect in destroying the Teuton dream of Pan-Germanism.

If we wish to avoid another disastrous war before the ink is dry on the treaties which will mark the end of the present conflict, we must prevent the creation of the Mitteleuropa of Tannenberg, of Liszt, of Naumann, and of Helfferich. We shall only succeed in that by force—not by conferences or tariffs—and the force must be applied in the locality where the danger lies.

If we wish to check the permeation of the Balkan Peninsula by the Central Powers before it has gone too far we must make an upward move from Salonika. Directly this is started, Roumania will pour troops over the Bulgarian frontier as she did in 1913. Bulgaria will be pulverised, Austria will be threatened in yet another vital spot, and the one outlet from the ring which is encircling the Germanic Powers will be effectually closed. It is not too much to say that a successful offensive in Macedonia—which would be assured of the co-operation of Roumania from the moment of its inception—would do more to shorten the war than half a dozen brilliant successes on either the Eastern or the Western Front. . . . Once a definite advance against Bulgaria is made by the Allied troops, Roumania will let loose her long-pent-up forces over the frontier, and the rest will be easy. An upward move from the Balkans, in conjunction with General Brusiloff's advance in Galicia, would be the last nail in the coffin of the tottering Austrian Empire, and, moreover, its moral effect in Turkey would be so pronounced that the Turks would probably seize the opportunity of definitely relinquishing a struggle which has long been distasteful.

A successful offensive from Salonika would exercise a decisive influence on the war. Continued stagnation there will mean that Germany will develop her plans for the domination of the Near East until their overthrow will present almost insuperable difficulties. Are we to sit by with folded hands, or shall we strike when the blow may well prove a *coup de grâce?*

Concerning El Islam.

To the *New Age* (July 6) Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall contributes the first of a series of articles, "Islam and Progress," which promises to be both interesting and instructive. In the course of his article Mr. Pickthall remarks, parenthetically, that educated Moslems "are generally much better informed concerning the theory and practice of Christianity than are educated Christians with regard to the teaching of Islam." This is certainly true, and equally certainly deplorable—at least as regards those who are brought into contact with Moslems and those who judge Islam on very insufficient data. These articles, therefore, should be of real value if studied carefully and with an open mind. Mr. Pickthall's opening paragraph is a challenge:—

The opinion prevalent in Christian countries with regard to El Islâm is that, as compared with Christianity, it is a religion essentially unprogressive, and, to some extent, degrading to the human intellect. Nothing could be further from the truth. The sort of lethargy, comporting ignorance and superstition, which has weighed upon the Muslim masses for the last three centuries is the result of historical circumstances very similar to those which darkened Western Europe in the period before the Renaissance. It has little more than a geographical connection with the Mohammedan religion; and now, with the revival of a scientific education, it is at an end. It would be a serious mistake to suppose, in view of the relatively backward state of the Islâmic world, that El Islâm itself is unprogressive in the modern meaning of the word. How can it be, when one reflects that modern progress is the outcome, not of Christian doctrine, but free thought, and that Islâm, unlike Christianity, prescribes free thinking as a duty for believers.

Again, he tells us that—

In El Islâm the mind of each individual man is entrusted with that authority and jurisdiction which in orthodox Christianity is reserved for a close priesthood; man's mind is God's vice-regent upon earth, with full liberty of judgment over everything which it is capable of understanding. Only God, the great encircling mystery, is outside its faculty of comprehension or imagination, and must remain the object of devout belief and holy fear.

The subject is, of course, highly controversial, but Mr. Pickthall writes on it with much restraint, and what he writes is full of interest.

Articles to Note.

"On the Turko-Egyptian Front," by Nimrod, in *Chambers's Journal* (July).

"The Gallant Serbians," by Oliver Bainbridge; and "Lord Kitchener of Khartoum," by Lieutenant-General F. H. Tyrrell, in the *Asiatic Review* (July).

"The Rising of the Arabs," by A Forty Years' Resident in Turkey, in the *World* (July 4).

"The Prophet of Serbia's Renascence: Life and Work of Ivan Mestrovitch," by George Glasgow, in the *Christian Commonwealth* (July 12).

SERBIAN NEEDLEWORK.

An interesting collection of Serbian needlework, embroidery, handwoven carpets, etc., is on view this week at the premises of the Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, S. Kensington, where it can be seen each afternoon from 3 o'clock to 6. Most of the exhibits are the work of Serbian refugees at present in Corsica, but there are also examples of antique embroidery and dresses lent by Lady Paget and others. There are close on 4,000 Serbian refugees in Corsica, and the Relief Committee has sought to find them an employment interesting in itself, which should enable them to supplement the grant made by the French Government, and which might be the beginning of a permanent industry if people in England and France can be sufficiently interested. The artistic needlework and embroidery of Serbia has a history dating from about the ninth century, when a French princess married a Serbian king, and introduced it into her new country. She took with her ten ladies, all expert needlewomen, and from them the other ladies of the Court learned the art. In the survivals of the needlework and embroidery of that early period there can still be found a modified fleur-de-lis and other evidence of the French origin of the art. The Turkish invasion and conquest introduced a new element, of which the effect can be seen down to our own day; from this, however, the Serbian needlewomen are now emancipating themselves, and in the embroidered towels, etc., now on view the principal foreign influence that can now be traced is that of Russia. The starting of a new work always has its difficulties. In this case there were difficulties first of getting the right kind of wool, and next with regard to dyes. Aniline dyes are not used, and the refugees thought there was little prospect of their finding in Corsica the plants from which they are accustomed to prepare dye-stuffs in their own land. However, the plants were sought for, and the bright colouring of the embroidery on view is the evidence that they were found.

H.E. the Serbian Minister (M. Boshkovitch) formally opened the Exhibition on Monday last. He said it was a pleasure to think of the refugees being found some of their own national work to do. But he was sorry there was not among them one of the professional carpet-makers of Pirot, for he would have remembered or originated so many designs. The thanks of the Serbian Legation were due to the ladies who had originated the work in Corsica.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

It has long since been recognised that when the war comes to an end there will be many problems in regard to our commerce and industry which will require solution, and which will be very difficult in the solving. The matter has attracted a great deal of attention, and it is no secret in the City that very strong representations were made to those who sit in high places, and also that the authorities readily admitted the necessity for action, as readily, indeed, as commercial people themselves. There were difficulties in the way of immediate action at the moment, many of them connected with questions of grave national importance, which first had to be settled. But the matter was tackled eventually, and, as stated in THE NEAR EAST last week, the President of the Board of Trade appointed a Committee "to consider the best means of meeting the needs of British firms after the war as regards financial facilities for trade, particularly with reference to the financing of large overseas contracts, and to prepare a detailed scheme for the purpose."

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On the whole, the names of the Committee will be regarded as satisfactory, although I confess to unbelief in respect of the usefulness of Sir William Clark, lately returned from India, where for five years he was an indifferent Member for Finance and Commerce in the Government; the selection of Lord Faringdon, better known as Sir Alexander Henderson, is unexceptional, and the same may be said also of Mr. Dudley Docker, Mr. J. H. Simpson, and Mr. W. H. N. Goschen. As to the others, we must "wait and see." Their names stand high in British commercial and industrial councils—a fact which speaks for itself.

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I want to say this, however—the Committee will not achieve a maximum of success. It is an incomplete body—that is, unless only firms in the United Kingdom are to be assisted. If that is the case, nothing more is to be said. But can it be so? Surely in the Dominions, in the Colonies and Dependencies the problem to be attacked will be as acute as it is in the United Kingdom. Are our friends oversea to be left to fend for themselves? Let us remember that they have all borne their share of the heat and burden of the day: they have carried burdens, made sacrifices, suffered restrictions in trade, and consented to divert their energy and skill to unknown fields. When the war is over they will have to retrace their steps, and it will be a costly proceeding. It will be argued, perhaps, that that will be a matter for the Dominions and the Colonies themselves. Well, suppose we concede that—for the sake of argument only—is it to be argued, further, that the Mother Country is without responsibility? It is obvious that on this Committee there should have been overseas representatives, the work should have been regarded as Imperial in the widest sense of the word, and no corner of the Empire should have been left out of account. By all means let Australia, and India, and Egypt, and South Africa, and all the rest of them finance their own people, as far as may be; but an Empire Committee would have arrived at a more comprehensive estimate of what the real need will be than the merely parochial body that has been evolved.

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In the July number of *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review* there is a forcible and informing article dealing with this question of capturing German trade, and although it is general in terms the principles it enunciates are on sound lines. "We require organisations abroad as sentinels of British business at every centre where markets exist," says the writer. "It is surely incumbent on the Board of Trade, the Foreign Office, and our Chambers of Commerce to prepare the way now; but it is equally incumbent on our manufacturers, shippers and traders to study the possibilities of establishing agencies abroad where markets can be greatly developed." But my suggestion goes farther than that. The Board of Trade and the Foreign Office are all very well in their way, and their help will be useful; but in this matter a healthy and vigorous Chamber of Commerce will be able to do more by a simple agreement between its members in a day than the official bodies will accomplish in a year.

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My commercial and industrial friends in Egypt, who learned to disapprove of German methods before the war, will be prepared to adopt any straight strategical proposition designed to prevent the Huns from regaining any of their old ascendancy when the armed conflict has ended. Frankness is necessary in this important matter, however, and it is frankness, not ill-nature, that leads me to observe that in Egypt there are so many trading firms and persons not of British nationality that special efforts will be necessary if the Germans and Austrians are to be kept in the outer darkness when the rest of the world will once more be walking in the light. It is not to be expected, perhaps, that aliens will take up our quarrel for us, and let us be thankful that we are strong enough to do without them; but it will almost be useless for British concerns in Egypt to restrict their relations with the Huns if others resume their old trade relations with them. I believe this point of view will appeal to all my readers, who, I am sure, will be able to exert an influence over their non-British but non-enemy neighbours.

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Those who know Egypt and the East generally will agree with me that sentiment plays a great part in our relationships with our neighbours. All else being equal, there is a tendency to ignore racial differences in the desire for amity and good-fellowship. If all things *were* equal, it would be desirable that this benevolent attitude should continue; unfortunately, however, that is no longer possible if we are to do our duty to our own people and to our Allies. It is unthinkable that the men who have desolated wantonly and ruthlessly some of the fairest lands in Europe, who have committed excesses of which even hardened men of the world can only speak with bated breath, who have torn up and repudiated the most solemn compacts, can ever again be treated with friendship and confidence. That is the case in brief against the Hun. It is important to remember, too, that the German and Austrian soldier of to-day will be the merchant and trader of to-morrow. Will you trust them? I think not. Furthermore, reasonably careful men will utterly decline to trust those who do, which is a reason to include among the Huns all those who are prepared to deal with them. Therefore, I say, the motto of Egypt should be—"Watch your alien neighbour," and for its Chamber of Commerce, "Don't wait for the Foreign Office."

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The statement—which lacks official confirmation up to the time of writing—that the Powers of the Entente are prepared to assist the Greek Government in a loan has aroused much interest in Great Britain. I need hardly say that we have in this country many who are interested in the Greek loans, and that if default were to be made in respect to these many British investors would stand in as considerable losers. I hope the circumstances will "justify" steps to be taken which will enable the Government at Athens to meet their obligations. Meanwhile the drawing for repayment at par of £29,000 5 per cent. bonds of "the Privileged Company to Protect the Production and Trade in Currants" is an indication that fair financial weather is setting in, and I hope the indications will materialise into the more substantial fact.

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I wonder what the few British shareholders in the Oriental Railways Company think about their investments therein. As stated elsewhere in this issue, the dividend of 5 per cent. of last year has been repeated—it has been declared, at least—and it has been arranged that the coupon £T1 1/10 shall be payable at the rate of 31¾ crowns in Austria, 22¼ marks in Germany, 22 fr. in Switzerland, and 110 piastres in Turkey. It will be seen that our Allies share in the cold exclusion imposed upon us. I suppose it is another case of that very philosophical reflection, "After the war!"

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One of the most practical reports submitted to the Board of Trade for a long time is published in the *Journal* for July. It is from Mr. D. A. Cameron, C.M.G., Consul-General at Alexandria, and he recounts some interesting experiences for the benefit of firms hoping to do business in Egypt. Mr. Cameron emphasises the advantage to be gained by the use of travellers and by direct business rather than by correspondence, which "often leads to litigation or to the annoyance of cutting losses." The report is printed elsewhere in this issue. It is worth reading, and will speak for itself.

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Friends of Roumania will have learned with much satisfaction that, consequent on the fine wheat harvest, the financial position of the country has been still further improved. On July 3 the stock of gold in the National Roumanian Bank amounted to 500,000,000 frs. This means that the circulation of notes is covered in the proportion of 66 per cent., which is double the legal minimum. Securities have risen on the Bourse, the feeling throughout the country is confident, and the people are prosperous. The Government have been wise enough to steer clear of the commercial trap which contracts with Turkey would have involved, and I am waiting hopefully for the news of developments at Bucharest which will be of profound interest in this country.

COMMENTATOR.

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Trade After the War.

The Attitude of British Traders in Egypt and the Near East Towards Enemy Aliens.

There is some fear, perhaps, that people will grow tired of the eternal cry that is being made regarding trade after the war; it is our failing that we are inclined to begin a campaign with enthusiasm, only to relax effort and energy when we imagine that we have achieved a measure of success. To that failing we must attribute the established fact that in the last twenty years we have permitted our trade rivals of Central Europe to overwhelm us in certain markets, and to establish powerful monopolies in certain profitable lines. Particularly since the war broke out it has become fashionable to lament that our rivals—now our enemies—obtained their ascendancy not because they were better traders than we are, but because they are entirely unscrupulous, were never afraid to exceed the bounds of proper conduct, and utilised subterfuge and intrigue to the fullest possible extent.

Now, this indictment is true. On the other hand the statement that the success of our enemies is entirely the result of their malpractices is a fairy tale, good enough, perhaps, for those who know nothing of trade possibilities; but only a poor jest to those who know the markets of the world, and who are brave enough to admit the almost amazing ineptitude British merchants and traders have displayed in the last few years.

Unprofitable Recriminations.

The time must not be wasted in unprofitable recriminations, however. We must put an end to laments and reflections. All the indications point to the fact that we have awakened to the need of sharp, definite, and immediate action; and it is in this that our only hope of commercial and industrial salvation lies. We begin to-day with the knowledge that we have closed the markets of the world, temporarily, at any rate, to our enemies; with that knowledge there must be a definite realisation that at the end of the war those markets will again be open to all who care to enter them. A great deal of wild and hysterical talk has been indulged in, mainly that we have got the German out and that we are going to keep him out. That is sheer unadulterated nonsense; and those who believe it are living in a fool's paradise. The German will come in as surely as one day the war will end, and it is that event against which we must be prepared. We must not ignore the fact that the German is preparing for it.

"Great anxiety appears to prevail in Germany in regard to the prospects of obtaining, after the war, the supplies of raw materials required for German industries, which they have hitherto so freely obtained from abroad," the *Journal* of the London Chamber of Commerce told us in its recently published "Trade Products Supplement." "Commercial interests in Germany have demanded that the peace treaties must include provisions to ensure that German importation of raw materials shall not be placed at a disadvantage," the *Journal* continues. "These statements will afford encouragement to those who desire that the raw materials produced within the British Empire shall not in the future be placed freely at the disposal of German industries to the disadvantage of the commercial, industrial, and manufacturing interests of the peoples of the British Empire and of our Allies." That ought to be the text of all the sermons on commercial policy that are being, and will be, preached in the Empire. First, Germany will make a desperate effort to re-establish her position as a buyer of raw materials in overseas markets; and, second, British producers abroad must be induced, first, to supply the needs of British consumers. Absolute boycott, of which we have heard so much recently, is an economic heresy; preferential treatment for our own people is another matter, and a very important matter, too.

The Neutral Trader.

In the Near Eastern markets this question will assume important dimensions; and it will be a difficult question to handle. We cannot hope that aliens will be impressed particularly by the need of British markets and manufacturers. Greece and all the Balkan States—all producers to a more or less important extent — have suffered greatly through the restrictions imposed by the war, and their solvency will depend almost entirely upon the rapid reconstruction of their overseas trade. Naturally, their first efforts will be in this direction, and they will accept the best markets they can find. Free competition, therefore, will be the rule so far as their products are concerned.

The case should be different, however, in Egypt and other territories in which British influences are supreme, although it is a serious fact that, in all the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean, the foreign trader is a potency it would be folly to ignore. We need not enter upon a discussion of his methods of business, nor need we speculate regarding his attitude towards the various belligerents; whatever these may be, we may be sure that he, like his compatriots at home, will take a purely personal view of the possibilities of the post-war situation, and will allow no sentiment to interfere with his trade development. Let us realise that before we begin our work of preparation, or when the time comes we shall find that we are once more hopelessly left. "Nothing for nothing and very little for sixpence" is a pretty general gospel all the world over; and we shall find in the future, as we have found in the past, that the alien trader, let us say in Egypt, is a pretty expert exponent of it; and it must be acknowledged also that he would be foolish not to live up to it. But that by the way.

Near Eastern Resources.

It is not necessary to enter into a detailed description of all the raw materials produced in Egypt which British manufacturers require, for they will suggest themselves readily enough to readers of THE NEAR EAST; they are as many as they are diverse in character, and the production is increasing with their importance every year. Cotton, cotton-seed, gum arabic, wool, oil-seed cake, and ivory are some of the products in question, and all of them are important to our manufacturers beyond words. Since the war began exports of these products to the United Kingdom have increased to an enormous extent, as the figures of trade returns for 1914 and 1915 will show.

Here are some of the figures :—

COTTON.

In 1914 Egypt sent to the United Kingdom 3,361,021 centals of cotton, valued at £13,682,095. From the Sudan came 21,683 centals, valued at £80,573.

In the following year our imports were :—Egyptian, 4,484,908 centals, of the value of £15,186,631; Sudan, 55,045 centals, worth £176,291.

COTTON-SEED.

The imports from Egypt of cotton-seed in 1914 were 213,879 tons, valued at £1,735,778. Last year (1915) these figures had increased to 393,922 tons, which were valued at £3,343,497.

OILSEED-CAKES.

Egypt exported to the United Kingdom in 1914, 73,560 tons of this by-product, and in the following year increased its shipments to 106,537 tons, the respective values being £374,239 and £698,492.

GUM ARABIC.

Similar developments are to be noted in respect of gum arabic. In 1914 the exports to the United Kingdom were 78,718 cwt., of the value of £148,646. In 1915 the figures were 87,454 cwt. at £160,318.

WOOL.

The figures regarding wool are also illuminating. Exports to the United Kingdom in 1914 were 4,196,348 lbs. of the returned value of £136,955. In 1915 the exports were 6,526,462 lbs., worth £209,973.

It will be seen from these returns that not only are the resources of Egypt in regard to an important class of raw materials very considerable, but that with the outbreak of the war Great Britain was able to take over the output which would have, in normal times, gone to the German and Austrian markets. There need be little fear that the advent of peace will limit Britain's capacity for consumption; on the other hand, it is probable that our manufacturers will be prepared to increase their takings. In many of the industries in which the products specified are used as raw material there are proceeding developments and extensions which will demand larger supplies. On the other hand, it must not be forgotten that whether or not Germany has accumulated large stocks of manufactured goods, ready for dumping on her old overseas markets, there is little reason to doubt that her masters of industry are organising themselves with the view to replenishing their stocks of raw materials, and this is what we must be prepared for. All the old methods of chicanery and sharp practice, the insidious under-cutting of which the German is so perfect an exponent, the old treachery, and the same propaganda of untruth and innuendo—these are the weapons against which the British trader will have to contend, against which even now he is preparing.

The Task in Egypt.

The task of the British subject in Egypt will be difficult—that is, if he intends to be loyal to his birth and breeding. The alternative would be to take the less troubled way of non-resistance, to admit the enemy-alien, and his agent, on equal terms with his own people, and to accept all the risks which such a proceeding would involve. A great deal depends upon the choice which our own people will make in this connection. If it is the latter the German will get back all that which we hope he has lost. He will be subsidised by his Government, he will be in a position to enlist the services of capable buyers, and his manufacturer at home will be able again to compete, with all the old unfair advantages, with our own factories and mills.

Perhaps, the greatest difficulty to be met with will be the secret agent. There is only one known way of countering this class of gentry, and that is to make it incumbent upon every purchaser to disclose his principal and the destination to which his purchases will be shipped. That is not a matter altogether for the law, but for the British trader, who is, or ought to be, strong enough to insist upon open trade. It would be necessary to embark upon an educational campaign among those who are unable, for various reasons, fully to understand what the rehabilitation of the German would mean. If such a campaign were to be conducted with discretion and ability it ought to succeed, for it would be an easy matter to state a case against the German that would appeal irresistibly to every man who has suffered from oppression.

Steps are being taken in many British oversea Dominions and Colonies to make certain the position after the war. India, Australia, South Africa, and Canada are all busy devising the restrictions which are to be placed on the Hun trader when once again he presents himself—with humble and obsequious mien, but with craft and cunning—begging to be admitted to the old good-fellowship. British traders in the Near East for their own sakes, not to speak of the common weal of the Empire, should not stand aloof from this movement.

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SUDAN BUDGET FOR 1916.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 25.

At the beginning of the current year the Sudan Government issued a circular to its departments to the effect that, pending the publication of the new Budget, they should confine their expenditure within the same limits as those laid down for 1915. The issue of this circular was taken as an indication that the financial authorities were encountering some difficulty in framing their estimates. The Budget has now been published, and whatever difficulties lay in the way have been successfully overcome, for the estimates balance with an assessed revenue of £E1,542,500.

That it has been found possible to balance the Budget without any deficit reflects very great credit on the officials concerned. The Sudan has always been and still is in a very special position. As has been explained on more than one occasion in articles reviewing the financial situation of the country—and more especially in The Near East of March 19, 1915, on the occasion of the analysis of the estimates for 1915—the country for fourteen years was enabled to establish its budgetary equilibrium solely thanks to the annual subvention given to it by the Egyptian Government. In 1913 that subvention was abruptly stopped and the Sudan had to stand on its own.

Unfortunately for it, a period of low floods and short rains set in, followed by the outbreak of war, and so the proper expansion of its revenues, which had been a remarkable feature of the previous decade's administration, could not continue to the same extent. Further, it had no reserve fund in the proper sense of the word, for the Egyptian subvention had never been more than was necessary to balance the estimates, which were always closely controlled by the Egyptian authorities. Capital works of an urgent nature, which could not be provided for in the ordinary Budget, had to be debited against the comparatively modest sums which the wonderful expansion of the revenue gave as a surplus every year, so that, when the Sudan was accorded its financial emancipation in 1913, it had nothing in hand against the inevitable rainy day.

In point of fact, in the years before the subvention was stopped the Sudan always showed a deficit in its final accounts. It was only the Egyptian contribution that saved it from a debit balance; for instance, at the end of 1912, when, with a Budget estimate of £E1,302,950 and a subvention of £E163,000, a surplus of £E97,301 was shown. That in the following two years actual surpluses of £E35,289 and £E12,203 respectively were obtained was due entirely to the skill with which the financial authorities handled the situation and took advantage of every good opportunity that offered itself.

In reality it would have been the easiest thing in the world to have shown an even greater surplus, but that would undoubtedly have been at the expense of the ultimate welfare and the efficient administration of the country. The Sudan, all said and done, is still in a very backward and transitory state, and just as a boy in his youth must not be stinted of food or opportunity to develop his mental and physical faculties for fear of his growth being stunted and his not being able to hold his own in the fight for existence when he reaches man's estate, so in the case of the Sudan any restriction of expenditure necessary to its development at the present stage of its existence might very likely, and most probably would, have put its eventual development back to a very serious extent. This is what the financial authorities have ever had to bear in mind, and they have found that the progress made by the country has been so rapid that willy-nilly they have had to meet the demands made from time to time upon them, although the state of the Budget may not have appeared to justify those credits.

The great difficulty in drawing up the Budget for 1916 reposed in the fact that the authorities were convinced that a limit to the curtailment of the expenditure consistent with prudence had been reached. They had to take into consideration that, albeit the trade of the country had undergone and was still undergoing great development, nevertheless the war very probably might continue to set the same obstacles in the way of its deriving the full benefit of that development as had been experienced during the past eighteen months; for instance, there is a fear that the difficulty in the matter of finding ships for the export of the country's products may increase in the near future instead of diminishing, and that consequently, whilst the Customs and Railway receipts, which are the main items in the revenue, may not attain their proper proportions, the holding up of large stocks may affect the tax collections. In addition, extra expenditure has been forced upon the Sudan Government owing to the temporary cessation of the credits rendered available by the £3,000,000 Loan which was floated in London three years ago. This loan was, it may be remembered, mainly for the purpose of carrying out the great irrigation works, the undertaking of which, it was generally recognised, was vital to the welfare of the country. Apart from the fact that the war had stopped these works, and so has put back the date of the fuller development of the country's resources, the Government has been obliged to provide money for the keeping in order of such of the initial work as had already been completed, for it was obvious that any neglect in this respect would have serious results when the more important part of the project eventually came to be resumed, and would entail much more additional expense than is represented by the cost of upkeep.

Such being the case it at first appeared inevitable that a deficit would have to be budgeted for. Happily, before a definite decision had been come to, reports were received from the provinces and departments which showed that an improvement had set in and that a more optimistic view might reasonably be taken of the revenue prospects. In point of fact, at one time it looked as if the accounts for 1915, which according to the Budget, should have balanced, would show a deficit. Affairs have, however, improved so much that a small surplus will result.

The authorities therefore proceeded to recast their Budget, and whilst exercising the same caution and prudent foresight as have characterised their administration during the past eighteen years, they considered that the situation justified a slight raising of the railway and steamer rates to compensate for the extra cost of coal, etc., and consequently an increase in the revenue estimates to meet the increased general expenditure.

Compared with the estimates for 1915, the Budget for 1916 shows an increase of £E141,500 in revenue and expenditure. The main increases under revenue are Railways by £E140,000 and Customs by £E30,000, but provincial receipts, which are mainly made up of royalties and animal, land and date taxes, are estimated to yield £E55,600 less. On the other hand, expenditure shows the following increases, Provincial by £E12,044, Railways by £E117,058, whilst Steamers decrease by £E7,739 owing to reduction in the services due to the shrinkage in the traffic as a result of the war.

Whilst in the current estimate the authorities have in certain items allowed for the maximum expansion on both sides of the account, and in others there is still a margin, and whilst past experience has shown that in the actual results expenditure has always been less than and revenue generally has exceeded the estimates, we cannot entirely rely on such features repeating themselves under present conditions, when the war makes it difficult to foresee what the morrow has in store for us. There is, indeed, no disguising the fact that the situation will require most careful watching and handling. There is, however, no reason to be despondent, and, given ordinary luck, added to the financial and commercial acumen displayed by Bernard Pasha and his able staff in overcoming the obstacles set up during the past three years, we may rest assured that all will go well with the Sudan during the coming year, and that, whatever happens, the country will be kept in a state that will enable it to take the fullest advantage of the opportunities for commercial and economic expansion which the cessation of hostilities will undoubtedly afford to it.

TRADE OPENINGS.

The Army Finance Department, Cairo, invite tenders for the supply of fourteen tons of candles to be delivered c.i.f., Alexandria or Port Said. Date, September 5, 1916.

The Director of Personnel and Equipment Department (Supplies Office) invites tenders for the supply of photographic material required, for a period of one year commencing on August 1, 1916, and ending on July 31, 1917, for the Ministry and the Identification Service of the Ministry. Date, August 1, 1916.

EGYPTIAN INSOLVENCIES.

We take the following from the report for 1915 of the Ministry of Justice, Egypt, presented by the Judicial Adviser :—

There was some increase in the number of bankruptcies declared last year, viz., 273, as compared with 216 in the previous year. This figure, however, is considerably below that for 1912-1913, viz., 380. There were 392 other bankruptcies pending at the commencement of the year, so that the Tribunals had to deal with 665 bankrupties altogether. Of these, 214 only were terminated, as against 293 in 1913-1914 and 474 in the year before.

The Tribunals delivered, in the course of the year, 271 judgments on applications for a declaration of bankruptcy, as well as 1,045 special judgments dealing with various matters in bankruptcy cases. During the year 187 applications for preventive compositions (*concordats préventifs*) were made, but composition was granted in 105 only.

In a memorandum dated October last, 1915, the Import Trade Association (Association du Commerce d'Importation) returns to the suggestions and proposals already put forward by that body, with a view to remedying certain defects of the existing law of bankruptcy. In my report last year I dwelt at some length upon the more important of these suggestions, and I need not, therefore, discuss them further.

On the subject of composition, however, the association raises an interesting point on which a few words may be said here. According to the authors of the memorandum, the majority of creditors which passes a composition is frequently an artificial one. What happens is that relatives or friends of the debtor acquire the rights of some of the creditors, on terms undoubtedly more advantageous to the latter than those offered to the mass, and so are able to vote, in place of their assignors, for propositions of arrangements which would not have been accepted without their intervention. The matter is dealt with in Italy by Article 15 of the Law of May 24, 1903, which excludes from voting on the composition all creditors related to the debtor up to the fourth degree as well as all persons who acquire their claims by assignment or adjudication during the year within which the composition is proposed, and all assignees of claims who have acquired their rights after the summoning of the creditors.

These devices evidently constitute a serious fraud, with which it would be advisable to deal here, if possible, whenever general legislation in such matters becomes practicable, as in a new law of bankruptcy.

There is an increase of 1,389 in the number of commercial cases, which reached the figure of 4,588 cases, as compared with 3,199 in 1913-1914.

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The exportation or re-exportation of sheepskins from the French zone in Morocco has been prohibited.

The late Mr. E. A. Cohan, head of Messrs. H. E. Moss and Co., shipowners, left net personal estate of £674,545.

A Simla message, dated July 10, states that trade between Indian ports and Jeddah is now permitted without restrictions.

It is reported from Athens that the Entente Powers have offered to lend 30,000,000 drs. to the Greek Government to meet the expenses of demobilisation.

Messrs. Gray, Dawes and Co. have admitted into partnership Messrs. William Langridge and Arthur Reiner, both of whom have for long been associated with the firm.

The *Telegraaf* (Amsterdam) says that the Allies are contemplating measures to prevent Dutch cotton goods from being exported to Roumania, "as it has been proved that goods consigned thither are either intended for Germany or are stopped in Germany under pretext."

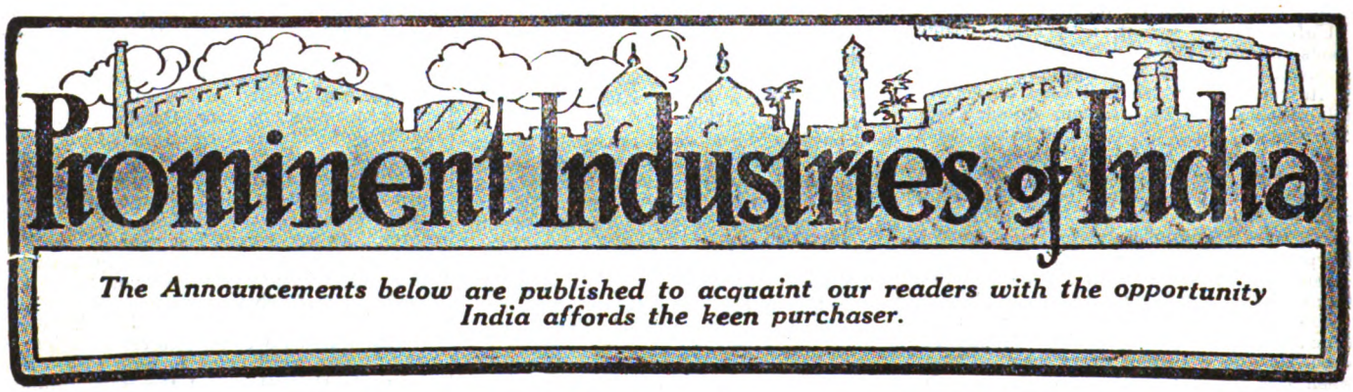
It is estimated that the area sown under wheat in Roumania for the season 1916 is 4,862,278 acres. This is an increase of 1 1-5 per cent. on last year's acreage and 6 1-5 per cent. above the average of the past ten years. A later telegram, dated July 4, states that the wheat harvesting has nearly been completed, and that the crops are excellent in quality and quantity.

Thanks partly to the development of its art industries (writes *Drawing*), the population of Egypt has risen to the occasion of replacing advantageously many things of use and beauty which were formerly imported from enemy countries. Greatly owing to the efforts of Mr. W. A. Stewart, the technical training of the native population has been reorganised on historical and ethnological lines. The textile industry is very prosperous, and the technical schools initiate students into designing for the loom. Carpets are in great demand, and the art schools receive more orders than their present organisation can supply. Great prosperity is evidently in store for Egypt's art industries, and this prosperity will help the greater prosperity of the British Empire.

TO EGYPTIAN TRADERS.

Mr. D. A. Cameron, C.M.G., Consul-General at Alexandria, writes to the Board of Trade *Journal* that the stringent rule in force which prevents British subjects from leaving Alexandria for abroad without having their passports viséd at the British Consulate-General in Alexandria has afforded him the pleasure of meeting many commercial travellers. Their statements are all to the same effect, namely, that if a firm hopes to do good business in Egypt, it is worth its while to spend £100 to £150 a year on sending out a competent agent to make the annual contracts and to judge of the opportunities for business. They agree that this is really the most satisfactory system, and that they easily cover their expenses by obtaining orders which, in their absence, would not have come to their firms.

H.M. Consul-General adds that too much stress cannot be laid on the fact that during the last thirty years all the big British business houses in Cairo or in Alexandria have begun with the visit of an agent who has settled down quietly and gradually created an establishment. On the other hand, the appointment by correspondence of a stranger as agent is much less satisfactory, and often leads to litigation or to the annoyance of cutting losses.



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FUEL IN TURKEY.

The Oilfields of Mesopotamia.

(*Concluded from page 212.*)

The paper to be read at the Arizona meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, in September, by Mr. Leon Dominian, of New York, a well-known authority on mining questions in the Ottoman Empire, is concluded to-day.

Last week's instalment of this important paper carried us to an analysis of the oilfields in Mesopotamia.

Proceeding southward from Alyak on the Great Zab, the important wells of Gayara are attained. The supply of oil at this point is believed to be considerable. The fuel flows from numerous sources, forming oil lakelets which attain 200 ft. in diameter. The quality of the yield is stated to be excellent, the oil being particularly free from sulphur and brine. Thick deposits of asphalt are also found in this locality. The southern end of this deposit reaches El Fatha Defile, where the Tigris passes through Jebel Hamrin. Here bitumen exudes abundantly in long threads, which darken the whitish-coloured limestone cliffs. The heavy flow of oil throughout the Gayara district has enabled the natives to create a refining industry, which, although primitive, satisfies local needs.

West of Gayara lie the ruins of ancient Hatrae, known to the Arab dwellers of the region by the name of El Hadr. Here a number of unexploited oil springs are met in the vicinity of the settlement.

At Baba Gurgur, in the low sandstone and conglomerate ridges surrounding the town of Kerkuk, an area of about fifty acres constitutes the site of primitive operations by the natives. The oil collected here is derived from pits dug to a depth of about 4 m. It is shipped to Baghdad and all of Eastern Mesopotamia. This locality is noted for the abundance of natural gases escaping from the vicinity of the springs. It owes its Arabic name of "father of murmurs" to this phenomenon. During 1901 a fire, which spread to the entire field of work, caused the suspension of the small native industry. Refining of the oil is also undertaken here by the natives. From a technical standpoint this district is interesting chiefly on account of the presence of alabaster and salt, the association of which with hydrocarbons has been noted in Sicily

High-grade Oil.

High-grade petroleum is derived at Guil. Although crude methods of refining are in vogue at this locality, the burning qualities of the final product are such as to lead the natives to prefer it to imported brands. This does not appear to be the case at Nimroud, however, where the oil is impure and almost black in colour throughout a band of 800 m. in length, from which it flows into the river.

A rich field is found at Tuz-Khurmatli, where a heavy flow of oil can be observed for a distance of over one mile along the right bank of an affluent of the Shatt-el-Adhaim.

Deposits of asphalt attaining a total depth of 4 m. to 5 m. are found at this point. In spite of the quantity of the oil, the consumption is limited to local needs and occasional unimportant shipments in sheepskin bags to neighbouring villages.

To the south-east of this favoured locality the springs of Kifri appear at a distance of about two miles east of the settlement and at the foot of Neft Dagh (Naphta Mountain). Here, again, an asphalt deposit about 6 ft. in thickness surrounds the springs.

Flows of minor intensity yield their product in the Jebel Oniki Imam, and at Zahru, on an island in the Chabur district. The last-named locality is credited with abundant reserves, upward of thirty oil rivulets having been counted along a river front eight miles long.

In the vilayet of Baghdad the environs of Hit have been exploited for oil and bitumen by the natives since time immemorial. The occurrences are found south of the village between two wadys—the Kubessah and Mohammedieh. Two of the largest springs are seen at about one mile's distance from the town. They present the appearance of circular ponds, from which naphtha bubbles up with gas. Shallow reservoirs are also provided for the water, the evaporation of which leaves salt, which is a valuable product to the natives. The alluvial plain is dotted in this locality with grey buttes, from the base of which asphalt is emitted at a temperature of about 25 deg. C. The viscous product trickles slowly towards the river over previously deposited layers of the same substance. The oil flowing from the natural wells in this region is accompanied by intensely saline sulphurous waters. The same phenomena can be observed at Ramadieh, about 20 m. farther south. At Naphata, in the same district, the quality of the oil deteriorates, according to the testimony of the natives. Hit is also the centre of a native boat-building industry, which provides coracles and rafts for fluvial navigation. Bitumen is used extensively for calking these vessels. The shipwrights buy it from the gatherers in the form of small cakes, which the Turks call "Karasakiz" and the Arabs "Jir." It is applied hot, after having been melted over a fire made in the ground in close proximity to the primitive shipyards, and after having been reduced to proper consistency by admixture of sand and earth.

The Mendali Basins.

Perhaps the most important of the Mesopotamian basins is found at Mendali, at a short distance north-west of the town. Observers concur in admitting that copious flows are noticeable in this locality. A dozen springs from which oil is emitted with considerable force exist here. The high-grade character of the petroleum is revealed by the refined product, which has excellent burning qualities, in spite of the crude process by which it has been obtained by the Arabs. The wells were worked in 1888, and the product transported to Baghdad in skins on camels. A certain quantity of the product was exported to India for consumption by paint dealers in the preparation of their colours. The oil was used for lighting purposes in its crude state until superseded by refined foreign products. At present oil is refined by the natives at Mendali according to the methods used at Gayara. In addition to the foregoing localities, oil is reported from Zacho, Saad, and Doyat, in the vilayet of Mosul, as well as from Darondieh, Kizil-Rubati, Yakouba Ana, and El-Haim, in the vilayet of Baghdad. Ainsworth also records a site of oil springs in his "Table of Sites on the River Euphrates," as occurring between Shifat and Deir, north of the point of confluence of the Khabur River. It might be added here that the Mesopotamian oil question was a "burning" one during the work of revising the Turco-Persian frontier in 1913. As a result of agreements reached by the two countries involved, the springs at Chiarsukh are now in Turkish territory, as well as at Kasr-i-Shirin, in Persia.

The Chiarsukh springs occur at the foot of the Koh-i-Ahengeran, along an anticlinal fold which fringes the Chiarsukh River. The oil flows, accompanied by brine and ozokerite, from sandstone strata underlying marls. An insignificant native industry is based on the existence of the fuel. It is proposed to pipe the oil from this area to Baghdad.

At Kasr-i-Shirin a small English refinery is operated. Its output supplies the requirements of the Kermanshah and Hamadan trade.

The Persian wells are encountered at Shuster, whence the product is collected at a tank station south of the town on the Karun River. A pipe from this point carries the flow past Mohammerah to the Abadan refinery. Oil is also obtained at Bender Hormuz, south-west of Shuster.

The Mesopotamian oilfield should not be regarded as an isolated basin. There is reason to believe that it is merely a part of a vast oil-bearing belt, which can be traced in Burmah, the Mekran, and Quatta, whence it proceeds to the Persian Gulf, and is prolonged northward through Mesopotamia and Armenia to the highly developed Russian districts of the Caspian Sea. The occurrences described above constitute sufficient indications of the probable existence of considerable quantities of the liquid fuel. Nevertheless, abundance of flow at the surface cannot be considered as evidence of vast subterranean reserve. The data of experience culled in the exploited fields tends to prove that steady flow is to be preferred to copious jets. The intensity of folding within the fringe of Tertiary rocks lying east of the oil region might, perhaps, provide criteria of economic value. At all events it yet remains to be seen whether the maximum yield will be derived from the Mesopotamian Valley itself or the petroliferous region extending farther north.

European Turkey.

In European Turkey, oil exists in the Tertiary formations north of Gallipoli. The district was visited and described by Lieut.-Colonel T. English. This observer states that oil was obtained in fair quantity from borings about 300 ft. deep at a distance of forty miles south-east of Keshan, close to the junction of Deli Osman River and Milos Brook. The locality is situated at 320 ft. above sea-level. The flow of oil was accompanied by excessively saline waters. Its specific gravity was determined at 0.825, and its paraffin contents at 10 per cent. The oil-bearing formations extend for a distance of 15 m. between Sarkeui and Ganos and attain a thickness of about 1,000 ft. A small variety of *Melanopsis* was found in them. North-east of the exploratory drill holes, the same rock series occur as far as the village of Milos, where they are capped by conglomerates containing *Planorbis* and *Cyrena*.

During the past few years American and Russian exporters of oil have built great hopes on the Mesopotamian market. One of the consequences of the important reclamation work undertaken by the Turkish Government in the region, has been that a large number of oil engines and pumps have been imported into the district for irrigation purposes. By the end of 1913, 500 engines averaging 10 h.p. were operated in southern Mesopotamia. Five to seven-inch centrifugal pumps and 7½ h.p. kerosene engines are in constant demand for irrigation purposes. The crops raised on the lands irrigated by these engines are valued at present at 1,500,000 dollars annually. It is believed that the employment of these engines will increase, and that the imports of oil into the district will also be heavier. At present about 100,000 cases of petroleum are imported annually from the United States.

The construction of the Baghdad railway, which of late has proceeded very satisfactorily, will undoubtedly stimulate the development of the region. The line traverses the eastern part of the basin. Trials have been made in recent years to use oil as fuel on German railroads, and it is stated that the results have been satisfactory enough to induce the railway company to build large storage tanks.

The growing use of oil as a fuel and its actual replacement of coal in many regions—the entire Pacific Coast from Alaska to Peru is a notable instance—attaches more than ordinary interest to the Mesopotamian field. As a power generator oil tends to supplant coal on sea, the present tendency being to increase the number and size of ships operated by internal combustion engines. The "Wotan," a motor ship equipped with a 2,000-b.h.p., 2-cycle Diesel motor, with tank space for 6,750 tons of oil, besides 900 tons of bunker oil and 100 tons of water could recently be seen in New York harbour. By the year 1912 one-third of the ships in the active list of the British Navy were run either entirely by fuel oil or supplementarily to coal. The problems involved in the safe storage and thorough atomization of the oil appear to have been satisfactorily solved.

[The previous instalments of this paper appeared in our issues of June 23 and June 30.]

A Bucharest correspondent writes:—

"General satisfaction has been caused among vine-growers by the announcement that England was prepared to send Roumania eighty wagons of sulphate of copper. This material had been bought by Roumania some time ago, but, having been claimed by the French, its exportation had not been authorised."

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

The Submersible Cargo Boat.

Undue significance has been given to the achievement of the German submersible boat Deutschland, in crossing the Atlantic with a few hundred tons of cargo. Her performance in escaping the vigilance of the Allies' fleet is really more significant. Once she eluded the Argus and emerged in the Atlantic safely, her voyage thence to America was nothing remarkable, for it has been done before, though in the opposite direction, by other and smaller submarines. Two months ago it was reported from America that the Hamburg-Amerika Line had made arrangements for a trans-Atlantic submarine service between Hamburg and New York; and it was mentioned that the first submersible boat would arrive on July 4, but one or two of the German papers characterised the report at the time as "fantastic nonsense." The arrival, therefore, of the Deutschland within a few days of the date mentioned has created considerable surprise. How far the German plans for a trans-Atlantic submarine service can be realized one cannot say definitely. We live in an age of surprises. But while a submarine service may be very effective in relieving a blockaded country with an extensive coastline in an open sea, such as the British Isles, France, Spain, and Portugal, Italy, Greece, the South Mediterranean coast, etc., a similar service, especially "trans-Atlantic," for helping Germany and Austria-Hungary, which have comparatively only narrow "windows" on seas commanded by their enemy, is, if not "fantastic nonsense," a very doubtful enterprise.

The Ship.

The Deutschland, according to reports, is 300 ft. long, with 40 ft. beam, and is propelled by 600 h.p. Diesel engines. She carried, again according to reports, 1,000 tons of cargo, chiefly drugs, dyestuffs, and mails, "including an autograph letter to the President from the Kaiser"! Now, supposing that this boat is of the Krupp submersible type, which is largely used in the German Navy, with a reserve buoyancy (the difference of displacement on the surface and submerged) of, say, 30 to 35 per cent., there will be water ballast carried in a special compartment at the bottom of the hull, and also tanks which form a kind of shoulder on each side of the main hull. With the machinery and other accessories, this boat could not have carried more than 350 to 400 tons of cargo. However, the Deutschland is perhaps one of the smallest of the submersible liners, and her return will be watched with great interest.

Germany's Shipping Preparations.

Whether it is intended to act as a paregoric for the Germans to mitigate their distress, or as a scare to disturb the Allies' plans for the economic war, the statements of Herr Ballin, in an interview with the *Berlinske Tidende*, regarding the building of great liners in Germany, must not be taken altogether as mere brag. This personal friend of the Kaiser said that as a proof that Germany was not inactive regarding her trade after the war he might instance that the Hamburg-Amerika Line is at present building a ship, the Bismarck, the largest ship in the world, of 56,000 tons; also the Tirpitz, of 32,000 tons, and three other ships of 22,000 tons each, at the Vulcan Works. At Bremen no fewer than nine ships are building, four of which, with 18,000 tons capacity, will be the largest freight steamers in the world. At Tecklenberg two freight steamers of 17,000 tons each are being constructed for traffic through the Panama Canal. The Norddeutscher Lloyd is building at Dantzig two big, fast steamers, the Columbus and Hindenburg, of 35,000 tons each, and twelve smaller ships of 12,000 tons each. The Bremen-Africa Line is building six, the Hansa Line eight, and the Kosmos Line ten ships, the sizes of which vary from 9,000 to 13,000 tons. Therefore (according to Herr Ballin's statement), in all fifty-four large liners are building, the smallest of which is 9,000 tons and the largest 56,000 tons.

Cum Grano Salis.

From a technical point of view the simultaneous construction of so many big ships in a country is nothing extraordinary; but in Germany, where, at present, every shipbuilding yard is fully occupied with the construction and urgently needed repairing of battleships, cruisers, torpedo-destroyers, submarines, and a variety of other war-vessels and accessories, and where, as it is well known, there is not enough skilled labour to cope with such important and urgently needed war-work, the alleged building of so many large ships for trading purposes after the war must be accepted with caution. In the meantime, it may be asked if the Germans are so sure of securing victory why are they so very anxious to build under such difficulties new merchant ships while their big liners and freight steamers are intact and safe in American and other neutral ports? Evidently they are not so sure of their victory, nor of re-acquiring their ships.

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RAILWAYS IN PERSIA.

In the House of Commons on July 10 Colonel Yate asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs why, considering that the Russian railway from Julfa to Tabreez, in the North of Persia, had been completed despite the war and disturbed local conditions, no progress had been made with the British concession for the Muhammorah-Khurramabad railway in South Persia, which, at any rate, could have been laid as far as Dizful; and, if the British Government were too much engaged to take the matter up, would the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs hand over the political control of Southern Persia to the Government of India.

Lord Robert Cecil replied: The military situation in South-Western Persia has rendered impossible for the time being any further development of the scheme for a railway from Muhammorah to Khurramabad.

METRIC SYSTEM.

Speaking at the London City Corporation at a recent meeting in support of a resolution advocating the adoption of the metric system of coinage and weight, a member said that a British consul had reported as an undoubted fact that the preference which Germany had obtained over Great Britain as regards railway material was mainly owing to the existence of metric classification. When peace came, continued the speaker, the competition of the Central Powers for the markets of the world would be fiercer than ever it had been in the past. Even now factories were piling up stocks which German and Austrian travellers would offer to our customers in terms of weight and measurement which they would understand. Why should not British travellers do the same?

ALEXANDRIA PRIZE COURT.

S.S. Annaberg (ex Cargo).

His Honour Judge Cator, in the Supreme Court for Egypt sitting at Alexandria in Prize, has delivered the following judgment (extracts) in a case in respect of cargo ex the s.s. Annaberg:—

In this case the claimant, Knauf, is a German who, prior to the outbreak of war, resided and traded in Australia, and is now interned in that country. Had he been a British subject the Procurator would have released his goods; but as he is an enemy, the Crown submits that, unless he can show that he has no German domicile, his property must be condemned.

I think this contention is based upon a certain confusion of ideas as to the meaning of the word domicile. The word is a term of art in English law. There are times when it becomes necessary to determine the country in which a man has, or is deemed to have, his permanent home, and that country we call his domicile. It may be a domicile of choice, for it is open to everyone to choose his own home, or it may be one of origin, but a domicile of some kind he must have. This domicile, which, for convenience, following Dicey, I will refer to as civil domicile, is founded in intention. It is generally accompanied by residence, but residence alone does not constitute civil domicile. To ascertain this domicile is sometimes no easy matter, but I need not enlarge upon the tests and presumptions which the law employs to decide the question, or the difficulties which may attend such enquiries.

Quite apart from his civil domicile, prize law recognises another relationship which a man may have with a country by trading in it. This relationship is usually termed a "trade" or "commercial" domicile. Here intention plays but a minor part. The intention to trade is usually patent from the conditions, and it will be but seldom that such questions of intention will need to be determined as came before the Court in the case of the Harmony (2, C. Rob. 312). Commercial domicile is a loose cloak easily assumed and as easily discarded. It is acquired by the mere act of residing and trading in a country. It is lost so soon as a man gives up his residence and trade. It is a creature of circumstance rather than intention. So much so that it is quite possible for a man to have a civil domicile in one country and, at the same time, to be possessed of a trade domicile elsewhere. Residence, which is immaterial to the conception of civil domicile, is essential to constitute a trade domicile, using that term in the sense generally attributed to it in the text-books. But the residence must, I think, be of a semi-permanent character.

A clear distinction is to be drawn between the enemy merchant who resides and does business in his own country, but at the same time has a house of trade in a foreign land, and his fellow-citizen who, without intending to change his nationality or his civil domicile, settles in the same foreign country and trades there in person. The latter acquires a trade domicile; the former does not. The distinction is of capital importance in prize law, for in the former case the goods of the enemy merchant, even though they appertain only to his foreign house, are subject to condemnation, whereas those belonging to the enemy merchant actually residing in the same country will be restored. The reason for the distinction may be that in the one case the profits of the business will probably be remitted out of the country, whereas in the other they are likely to be spent locally. But whatever the reason, the rule seems to be well established. . . .

To apply the principles which I have enunciated to the facts before us.

The evidence in the case consists of two affidavits sworn by a Mr. Scott on December 15, 1914, and February 8, 1916. Mr. Scott is one of the managers of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, Limited, which advanced moneys on this and other cargoes, and seems to be the party principally interested in the result of these proceedings, although it can make no claim on its own behalf, and can only be recognised as an agent for Knauf, who is the actual owner. Mr. Knauf is mentioned in par. 10 in relation to certain bills of lading as "R. Knauf, carrying on business in Sydney afore-

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said," and again in par. 12 in regard to a consent, which is erroneously alleged to be annexed to the affidavit and stated to be an authority to the company to receive the goods.

I understand that the Procurator has granted releases in respect of other consignments in which the bank was interested, but demanded further information about Knauf, whereupon Mr. Scott made a second affidavit, from which it appears that this gentleman is a German subject, but that, except for a visit paid to Germany about the year 1913, the length of which is not stated, he has resided in Sydney for the last eight or nine years, and that he has carried on the business of a merchant in dried fern in Australia. At the time the affidavit was sworn Mr. Knauf had been interned by the military authorities at some distance from Sydney, but we are not told how long after the outbreak of war the internment was effected. Par. 5 states that the deponent is not aware of any circumstance from which Knauf could be considered as residing in or carrying on business in enemy territory. This, I think, is sufficient evidence to establish that Knauf had a British commercial domicile at the outbreak of hostilities, of which the Prize Court must take account, and the fact that he has been interned does not affect his rights in that respect. We have no evidence as to his civil domicile, but I am of opinion that the question of civil domicile is irrelevant, and that even if it be German it will not operate as a bar to his claim in the Prize Court.

As it is established that Knauf has a British commercial domicile, his goods, being attributable to his business in Australia, take the complexion of British merchandise and cannot be condemned. Such, as I understand it, is the law, and, however repugnant it may be to our feelings to restore property to an enemy, good reasons can be adduced in support of it. For, leaving out of account all motives of humanity towards private individuals, it cannot be doubted that the goods and trade of a man must primarily and chiefly benefit the country in which he resides and carries on his business, so that even an enemy subject settled in British territory benefits our country to the extent to which he trades in it. And the restoration of the traders' goods is but the complement and logical outcome of the policy which we show to an enemy residing within our dominions. We do not strip such an enemy of his possessions. Even if we deem it necessary that he should be interned, we do not deprive him of his property. Sometimes, it is true, we control his business so that it shall not subserve enemy interests, and sometimes we cause it to be wound up, but the property is preserved and will be restored at the conclusion of hostilities.

In the case before us I am not quite sure what course the Prize Court should adopt, for, although I cannot condemn the goods, I do not hold myself bound to restore them to an enemy subject unconditionally, especially when I know that he has been interned. Possibly the New South Wales Government has appointed someone to manage or wind up Mr. Knauf's business, and, at any rate, I think that Government should be consulted before I part with the property. An order for sale has already been made, and I propose that the proceeds should be carried over to a special account in the Court books, to be entitled "The Account of R. Knauf, an enemy subject residing in British territory, subject to the claim of the Crown to administer the fund and the claim of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, Limited, as mortgagees."

By entitling the account in this manner I do not mean to decide that the bank has a right to ask for the money to be paid out to itself, but I see no reason why it should still be debarred from coming into Court. For although its claim as a mortgagee could not be considered in a question of prize between the owner and the Crown, that objection no longer holds good, now that the Court has pronounced in favour of Mr. Knauf. And in carrying over the fund to this special account, I give liberty to any person interested to apply for payment.

SHIPPING NOTES.

The Greek steamer Kiki Issaias, which went ashore eight miles west of Agami, Alexandria, has been refloated and entered harbour.

The Italian steamer Moltke, which stranded near Father Point while bound from Montreal to the Mediterranean with a cargo of grain, has been floated.

A Malta telegram dated July 6, stated that the Royal Mail liner Monmouthshire had sunk the Ellerman steamer Persian, formerly the Kaffir, in collision. The latter was from Calcutta.

Proceedings have been instituted in the Prize Court at Gibraltar in respect of the steamer Telde. This is the German vessel which was sheltering at Teneriffe, and during heavy weather on May 2 drifted seawards and was captured by a British cruiser.

The Board of Trade has awarded a piece of plate to Captain Honoré Thémèze, master of the French steamship Ville d'Alger, of Marseilles, for his services to the shipwrecked crew of the West Hartlepool steamer Trunkby, whom he rescued in the Mediterranean on May 27.

GERMAN SHIPPING AFTER THE WAR.

The North-German Lloyd, although it is not allowed to publish an annual report, has issued a short account of "its activities in the second year of war." It says that as regards the future much will depend upon the "compensation" which is to be made to the German shipping companies for their war "sacrifices." The following general observations are added :—

"The future of German mercantile shipping is to-day too much in the dark for anything definite to be said about it. It is, however, certain that, if they are helped over the first and worst period when, themselves weakened by long inactivity and the great damage caused by the war, they will have to face the greatly strengthened enemy and neutral shipbuilding concerns in sharpest competition, the German companies will stand this most severe test and recover the lost ground. This will be so, in spite of the 'war after the war' which German trade is promised by its enemies. With the same rapidity with which Germany has temporarily become a self-contained commercial State, she will resume her relations with the world market when the doors of world trade are opened again and the seas again become free for peaceful activity."

COMPANY REPORTS.

Suez Canal.

The British directors of the Suez Canal having presented to Sir Edward Grey their report for the year 1915, the document has just been published as a White Paper.

We take the following extract therefrom :—

The net tonnage which passed through the Canal last year shows a decrease of 4,143,340 tons as compared with that of 1914, and a decrease of 4,767,729 tons as compared with that of 1913. The reduction of the transit dues to 6.25 frs. per ton from January 1, 1913, together with the reduction of tonnage, had the effect of reducing the gross receipts, which amounted in 1915 to 93,522,616 frs., as compared with 122,248,853 frs. in 1914 and 126,650,934 frs. in 1913. The increase of 50 centimes per ton in the transit dues, which came into effect on April 1 of the present year, is expected to compensate partly for the reduction in the receipts caused by the decreased tonnage.

The number of vessels which passed through the Canal was 5,085 in 1913, 4,802 in 1914, and 3,708 in 1915, of which 2,951 in 1913, 3,078 in 1914, and 2,736 in 1915 carried the British flag. There was a decrease of 1,254,240 tons last year as compared with 1914 in the tonnage of British vessels, which amounted to 12,052,484 tons in 1913, 12,910,278 tons in 1914, and 11,656,038 tons in 1915. During the same period the tonnage of German vessels decreased from 3,352,287 tons in 1913, 2,118,946 tons in 1914, and disappeared entirely in 1915. The percentage of British vessels and their net tonnage in 1915 was 73.8 and 76.3 respectively, against 64.1 and 66.5 in 1914 and 58 and 60.2 in 1913.

The number of troops carried through the Canal last year was 119,812 as against 228,720 in 1914, being a decrease of 108,908. There was an increase of 715 French, 143 Dutch, and 51 Belgian, against a decrease of 82,969 British, 14,782 Turkish, 6,075 German, 5,999 Italian, and 2 Spanish as compared with 1914. The number of civilian passengers was 86,653 in 1915 against 155,183 in the preceding year, being a decrease of 68,530; while the number of pilgrims, emigrants, and convicts was 4,065 in 1915 compared with 7,869 in 1914, or a decrease of 3,804. In the year 1870 only 26,758 civil and military passengers were carried through the Canal.

Persian Railways Syndicate, Ltd.

The directors in their report for the year ended November 30, 1915, state :—

Since the date of the last report further calls to the extent of 5s. per share have been made on the 7,551 shares last issued, bringing the total calls in respect of these shares up to 17s. 6d. per share. South-Western Persia continues in an unsettled state, and consequently the survey of the Dizful to Khoramabad section of the Mohammerah to Khoramabad line still remains suspended. A further statement of expenditure up to November 30, 1915, amounting to £3,243 11s. 3d., has been submitted to the Persian Government. The total amount now due to the syndicate for expenditure up to the above date is £19,382 12s. 2d., and application has been made for payment of this amount. The Persian Government being now in a better position to meet its financial obligations, it is hoped that payment will be secured at an early date.

With a view to keeping down expenses as much as possible while the operations of the syndicate are in a state of suspension, the

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secretaries have reduced their charge for secretarial work and office rent to £100 per annum, as from June 30, 1915. The directors retiring, in accordance with the articles of association, are Mr. C. Greenway and Mr. J. R. Preece, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Mr. Ralph M. Everett retires from his position as auditor to the syndicate, and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

COMPANY NOTES.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Last week: Gemsah, 930 tons (against 100 tons); Hurghada, 502 tons (against 436 tons).

Baku Russian Petroleum.—Week to July 1: 84,400 poods.

Bibi Eibat Oil.—Week ended July 2: 60,600 poods.

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Week ended June 24: 23,159 poods. Week ended July 3: 23,657 poods.

European Oilfields.—Week ended July 2: 100,400 poods.

Maikop Combine.—Week ended June 24: 4,456 poods. Week ended July 1: 4,163 poods.

Roumanian Consolidated.—Week ended July 1: 811 tons.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended July 1: 62,400 poods.

Spies.—Week ended July 2: 370 poods from ambars, 162,740 poods. Total to July 2: 4,208,255 poods, against 6,822,420 poods.

Ural Caspian.—Week ended June 29: 123,542 poods; July 6: 139,830 poods.

Meetings.

Egyptian Markets.—Extraordinary general meeting at 213, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., July 17, 1916, at noon.

Dividends, etc.

Privileged Currant Trade Company.—The numbers are announced of bonds of the 5 per cent. sterling loan of the Privileged Company to Protect Production and Trade in Currants, drawn for redemption at par on August 1, in London by Messrs. Emile d'Erlanger and Co., 8, Crosby Square, E.C., also at the offices of the Bank of Athens and its branches.

Transfer Books, etc.

Anglo-Persian Oil.—The transfer books of the cumulative six per cent. participating preference shares will be closed from July 18 to 31 inclusive.

Earnings, etc.

Oriental Railways.—Last year the Oriental Railways Company made a net profit of 5,941,216 fr., against 3,945,715 fr. in 1914. A dividend of 5 per cent. has been declared, but British shareholders (if any) appear to be excluded from the arrangements for the payment of the same. The annual meeting of the company is due to be held in Constantinople on July 26.

Piræus-Athens-Peloponnesus. — For the month of May:—898,301.65 drs., against 584,938.85 drs. Total, 4,199,058.80 drs.; inc., 1,349,182.80 drs.

INTEREST PAYMENTS IN EGYPT.

The following notice under Martial Law is issued by General A. J. Murray, Commanding-in-Chief H.B.M. Forces in Egypt, and published in the *Official Gazette* of June 30:—

"Whereas it has come to the notice of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief that doubts have arisen, in view of the terms of the Proclamation of November 18, 1915, and subsequent Proclamations, as to the form of declaration which may properly be taken from payees by persons charged with the payment of dividends and interest on bearer securities or of drawn bonds, the public is hereby notified:—

"(1) That in the case of securities held in Egypt the military authorities will consider as sufficient the following declaration: 'I hereby declare that the following securities (or the securities from which the following coupons are detached) are held in conformity with the Proclamation of November 18, 1915, and that the proceeds thereof will not be applied otherwise than in accordance with the Proclamations concerning payments during the war.'

"(2) That in the case of securities held abroad the provisions of Art. 6 of the Proclamation of January 25, 1915, are applicable."

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Price July 7.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74⅞
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909..	80	47	46½
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909 ..	99	90½	90½xd
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	62¼	62¼
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan ..	93½	—	72
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	79½	80
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	70	70
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	66	68
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75½	65
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	57xd	55xd
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	56xd	56½xd
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	51xd	50¼
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	42	43½
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	53	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	49½xd	49½xd
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902 ..	77	65½xd	65½xd
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907.....	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	75½	75½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	51⅝	55⅝
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	77½	77½
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855..	103	—	85
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	78	77
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	69	69½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	51	51½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	38	38
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4½	4½	90/7½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7xd	7
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.....	80	69	69
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red...	83	71	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	11⅝	12
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens.....	£2	37/12½	1¾
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	79/9	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	6⅝	6⅞
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6½	6½
Ionian Bank, Limited.....	3½	75/-	75/-
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	100/6	100/6
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	12⅛	12⅞
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	6⅝	5
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	4½	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	88½	88½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	10	10
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	11½	11½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb. ..	87	58xd	58xd
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb...	101	56xd	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10⅛	10⅛
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds..	61	55	55
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1⅛	—	⅜
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	89½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	¼	89½	¼
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2¼	2¼
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	5¾	6
Do. Pref.	4½	62/6	62/6
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	¼	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	8/9	8/9
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	86/-	86½
Do and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	2/9	¼
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	14/4½
" " Founders	¼	14/4½	14/4½
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	95
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	7xd	6⅝xd
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	77/-xd	77
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	7/9	8/9
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	⅝	⅝
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	15/3	⅝
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11⅜	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅝	24/3xd	24/3xd
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	95	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1⅛	18/6	18/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	25/-	24/6
Do. do. Prefs.....	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	90	89	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (*fr.*500)	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	1½	1½

OIL.	Price on July 5.	July 12.
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	6/3	7/1½
Anglo-Persian	21/3	21/6
European Oilfields	4/-	4/-
Roumanian.....	15/-	15/1½

PARIS BOURSE.

	July 5.	July 12.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	—	—
Canal de Suez	4495	4430
Credit Foncier Egyptien	—	—
Turkish Unified 4%	59 50	59
Egyptian Unified 4%	—	—
Serbian, 1895	—	—

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Côtes du 30 Juin, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt		12⅜ to	—
Tram. d'Alexandrie.....	Frs.	94½ ,,	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11⅜ ,,	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5¼ ,,	—
priv.....	L.E.	3¼ ,,	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	124 ,,	—
Bons de Panama.....	Frs.	92 ,,	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs.	61½ ,,	61½
Privilégiée	Frs.	90 ,,	—
Cheikh Fadl.....	Frs.	75½ ,,	—
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2⅜ ,,	—
Comptoir Financier and Commercial d'Egypte	£	⅜ ,,	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1/32 ,,	—
Union Foncièr d'Egypte	L.E.	½ ,,	⅝
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	4⅛ ,,	—
Bonded Warehouse.....	L.E.	4⅛ ,,	—
Unifiée	L.E.	80½ ,,	—
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4⅞ ,,	5
Fondateur	£	23 ,,	—
Pressage et dépôts	£	28½ ,,	29
Nungovich Hotels	£	2⅜ ,,	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt.....	£	4½ ,,	4⅞
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.....	£	3⅞ ,,	—
Ord.....	£	20/6 ,,	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3⅝ ,,	4
Egypt. Delta Light Railway	£	5⅛ ,,	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire.....	£	104 ,,	—
Jouissance.....	£	154 ,,	—
Egyptian Markets		24/6 ,,	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv...	Frs.	215 ,,	—
Div....	Frs.	135 ,,	140
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.....	Frs.	92 ,,	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda		18/3 ,,	—
Crédit Foncier d'Egypte.....	Frs.	579 ,,	—
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	304 ,,	—
,, 1903 ,, ...	Frs.	244½ ,,	—
,, 1911 ,, ...	Frs.	252½ ,,	—
Delta Land.....	£	⅛ ,,	⅛
Port Said Salt		34/3 ,,	34/6
Cotton Ginners	£	⅛ ,,	—
New Egyptian	£	8/3 ,,	8/6
United Land	P.T.	4 ,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.		24/6 ,,	—
Fondateur		95/- ,,	—

Marché calme.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The Traffic Receipts of the Suez Canal have been as follows on the days named:—

	1915.	1916.
July 6 to July 9 (inclusive)	1,240,000 fr.	960,000 fr.
July 10	270,000 fr.	390,000 fr.
July 11	390,000 fr.	260,000 fr.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended July 8.	1916. Week ended July 6.
Cattle markets	410 ..	412
General markets	414 ..	368
Cattle markets closed	36 ..	31
Receipts (£).....	824 ..	780
Total from commencement of year (£).....	28,975 ..	29,704

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended June 20, 1916.

	1915. £E.	1916. £E.
June 11-June 20.....	3,678 ..	5,034
April 1-June 10	29,810 ..	37,582

RUSSIAN AND ROUMANIAN OIL.

We take the following from the speech of Sir Marcus Samuel (chairman), delivered at the annual meeting of the Shell Transport and Trading Company, held in London on July 11:—"I regret to say that we cannot extend our venture in the Russian oilfields until the conditions under which the Government invite purchasers to explore are radically altered. In fixing maximum prices for crude oil, the Government will not allow the producer to compensate himself for the great expenses in connection with the leasing of the fields, because they demand an enormous increase in royalty. Under these circumstances, our Russian companies are compelled to refrain from applying for Government oil territories. The possible profits that might be realised are so small in comparison with the great risk that we can more profitably employ our capital elsewhere.

"In Roumania this company has not now (nor has it ever) had any representation on the board of the Astra Romana, and we do not follow the operations of the company. We are informed that the production amounted to 341,532 tons in 1915, as against 466,604 tons in 1914, the reduction being brought about owing to the prohibition by the Roumanian Government of the export of benzine and liquid fuel. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, the company paid a larger dividend than in the preceding year."

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 272.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The unsatisfactory state of affairs in Macedonia, which the Prime Minister has admitted to be a legitimate subject of criticism, has taken so strong a hold on public opinion that it has become necessary to set aside a date in Parliament for the discussion of the question. On the day that these pages go to press Sir Edward Carson, on behalf of the Unionist War Committee, will propose that Select Committees be appointed forthwith to inquire respectively into the conduct of the operations in Gallipoli and the Dardanelles and in Mesopotamia, "including the supply of equipment to the troops, the provision for the sick and wounded, and the responsibility of those departments of the Government whose duty it has been to minister to the wants of the forces in these theatres of war respectively."

It is perhaps a matter for regret that the Dardanelles venture should thus be bracketed with the present campaign in Mesopotamia. The one has come to an end, and there is reason to believe that those who were responsible for military blunders are no longer in a position to repeat them. In regard to Mesopotamia, on the other hand, the primary object of criticism at this juncture must be to improve a state of affairs which there is reason to believe still leaves much to be desired. The question of responsibility for the advance on Baghdad is on a par with that of the responsibility for the Dardanelles enterprise. The Government has distributed impartially a share in the responsibility among every possible body of authority between London and Simla, and the culprits cannot be expected to sit in judgment on their own shortcomings. Not until other authorities are in power will it be possible for the nation to know enough to benefit from the experience of past mistakes. But that is no reason why the failure to equip the Mesopotamian forces should be allowed to continue month after month. Mr. Asquith has given reasons why he considers there is at last an improvement in conditions in that theatre of war. He has, however, so repeatedly shown his inability to grasp the most elementary rudiments of military knowledge that the House of Commons has ignored his assurances and intends to thresh the matter out for itself.

The more superstitious among the Greeks are likely to find an omen in the disastrous forest fire which destroyed King Constantine's château and some thirty thousand acres of the beautiful woods at Tatoi. Others of a more matter-of-fact turn of mind will, it is to be hoped, accept the tragic occurrence as a warning to the country to take some practical steps to deal with a danger which has already denuded large areas. The world at large will be moved to sympathise with the Greek Royal Family over the disaster, which has not only destroyed their favourite residence, and taken its toll of Greek lives, but has resulted in a slight accident to King Constantine himself. While superintending the attempts to stem the progress of the flames, his Majesty found his retreat by the road cut off, and had to jump into a deep ravine in order to reach a place of safety. In so doing he sprained his ankle, and made good his escape with some difficulty.

Forest fires on a large scale were at one time of common occurrence in Greece. They arose generally from the desire of the pastoral community for wider grazing grounds, and were the outcome of systematic incendiarism. The steps taken to cope with this evil ultimately had a salutary effect, and although forest fires continued, they have in recent years been attributed to accidental, if preventible, causes. Nothing, however, would seem to have been done by means of a forestry organisation to reduce the possible areas of these conflagrations. Tatoi lies on the slopes of Mount Parnes, facing Mount Pentelicus, within sight of Athens. The forests on the latter mountain have been burnt within recent years, and it might have been expected that the royal demesne would at least have been rendered immune by means of fire belts from the possibility of such a calamity as that which has overtaken it. When the present fire broke out everyone on the estate was mustered to combat the flames, and soldiers and bluejackets were hurried up from Athens and the Piræus. But their improvised efforts could not be expected to make good the lack of scientific precautions.

Private accounts from Greece testify to the difficulties which the Liberal party has to contend against at the forthcoming elections. With a persistency which does more credit to their political instinct than to their national *amour propre*, the opponents of M. Venizelos are endeavouring to narrow the issue down to the choice between war and no war. In other words, they claim to know so accurately the feeling of the Greek army that they believe that they have only to hold up the bogey of war against Bulgaria, with possibly a few Germans thrown in, in order to secure a regular stampede of voters against M. Venizelos. The friends of Greece can only

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hope that the army, in spite of the existence of Reservists' Leagues, will not lend its support to such a monstrous slander. After eight months' mobilization without fighting, the Greek soldiery are, not unnaturally, keen to return to their homes and normal avocations; but it is difficult to credit the aspersions of M. Gounaris's party on the physical courage of the whole army. Demobilization has brought relief to the Allied forces in Macedonia. A certain proportion of the Greek officers, and perhaps the majority of the civil authorities, spent their time in playing Germany's game. In many instances they made no attempt to disguise their point of view. They were obsessed with the fear of Germany doing to Greece what she has done to Belgium, and felt obliged to keep in with the Germans. If the Central Powers should ultimately be beaten, they were confident that Great Britain's friendship could be relied upon to prevent Greece from suffering any harm or loss of territory. Any right-minded Greek must be overwhelmed with humiliation to feel that this point of view is in danger of being regarded as the national attitude, owing to the conduct of those who have been responsible for the direction of Hellenic affairs.

A national memorial to Lord Kitchener must of necessity take the form of something eminently practical, in strict accordance with the character of the man whose memory it is sought to perpetuate. We welcome, therefore, the project, which has secured the patronage of Queen Alexandra and for which a representative council has made itself responsible, to raise a fund, to be known as the "Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund," for the purpose of providing in perpetuity for officers and men of the Royal Navy and Army who have been disabled and whose pecuniary circumstances preclude them from obtaining such attention and comforts as they need. A portion of the fund will be immediately applied to equipping a home for disabled officers, for whose assistance, it is pointed out, nothing of a permanent nature has yet been considered. The fund has made a splendid start. All remittances should be sent to the "Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund," Mansion House, London.

The recovery of the Russian army in Armenia is not only giving back to our Allies the ground they had previously occupied, but is carrying them, at least in one direction, beyond their former conquests. Baiburt, the chief town on the way to Ardasa, is now in their hands for the first time. The capture of the latter will give the Russians possession of the road from Trebizond to Erzeroum, and facilitate the provisioning and reinforcement of the troops in this theatre of the war. According to the latest reports, the advance is making steady headway over a wide front, which includes the columns operating from Mush, sixty miles south of Erzeroum. Whether the Turks will be able to make any substantial stand east of Erzinjan remains to be seen. Operations in this region must depend to a large extent on the facilities for bringing up reinforcements. Neither side is well situated in this respect, and until the Russians command the route from Trebizond there may well be slight swayings of the battle front. The Turks have had ample time, if they can command the material, to place Erzinjan in a strong state of defence.

For news of the Russian troops in Persia we still have to rely mainly on the Turkish *communiqués*, which are probably correct where towns serve to locate the actual scene of operations. Thus, in the course of falling back, the Russians are said to have reached a point half-way to Hamadan from Kermanshah. It is evident that the Turks have benefited not only by the fall of Kut, but also by the inaction of General Lake's force, in order to detach troops for service in Persia.

Any difficulty that the German authorities may experience in explaining away to their own people the Allies' offensive on every front will be enhanced when they are called upon to reassure their Bulgarian and Turkish allies. The numbers of the German and Austrian troops in the Near East must have been considerably reduced of late in order to feed their Western and Eastern lines. Policy will dictate the retention of a large Austro-German garrison in Constantinople, but there are signs that the Turks are not as satisfied as they have claimed to be in the past with German invincibility. It may be for this reason that we hear of the despatch of a German dirigible to Constantinople and of German submarines to Turkish waters. The former may not be of much practical value, but its usefulness for impressing the lay mind in Turkey will be considerable, and it may serve to make up for any diminution in the number of German troops sent to protect the Turkish Government. There can be little doubt that the connection with the Central Powers is the only thing that keeps Bulgaria and Turkey galvanised into action. When the line of communication is cut neither of the two vassal States is likely to give the Allies much further trouble, and their defection will in turn react on the confidence felt in Germany. Hence the importance of a forward movement in the Balkans, which it is difficult to believe can long be delayed.

The Roumanian Government is understood to have prohibited the export of corn until August 28. A German correspondent at Bucharest says that it is clear that the chief aim of the Government is to gain time and to await further developments of military events before taking its final decision. This interpretation of Roumania's action can be accepted as substantially correct, although some people may be tempted to go further and to see in August 28 "the appointed day." By that date the harvest will have been gathered, and sufficient time, we may hope, will have been given to the Russians to advance far enough to drive the Austrians from the Roumanian frontier and allow the Roumanian army, if it be so minded, a chance of trying conclusions with the oppressors of Transylvania on more equal terms than is possible so long as the Austrians command the higher portions of the Carpathians. Already Russian cavalry is reported to have reached one of the passes in the south of Bukovina, and the population of the frontier counties in Hungary has been warned to be prepared to meet a third Russian invasion.

A letter from Mr. Lovat Fraser, which we publish in this issue, takes exception to the point that it was sought to establish in our leading article of last week, that the record of failure in Mesopotamia must be wiped out before the campaign is brought to a termination, and that this can only be done by the entry of British troops into Baghdad. Mr. Fraser suggests that, if this process of reasoning were sound, it must also be held that our failure at the Dardanelles can only be wiped out by the entry of British troops into Constantinople. There is, of course, no analogy between Mesopotamia and the Dardanelles, and it is a matter for surprise that such a shrewd observer should have fallen into a mistake which, it is to be feared, is responsible for the bracketing of the Dardanelles and Mesopotamian campaigns in the public demand for despatches. At the Dardanelles we were fighting against the Turks, with whom there will be a final reckoning somewhere. In Mesopotamia we are concerned with Arabs, who are likely to be brought hereafter into direct touch with British administration. The contention in the leading article to which our correspondent takes exception was that, in order to safeguard British prestige among the Arabs, they must not be allowed to say (on the strength of their own observations, *i.e.*, in Mesopotamia) that the British were unable to register any decisive success against the Turks.

As we go to press we learn that the expected debate upon the conduct of operations in Mesopotamia did not take place in the House of Commons on Thursday. Before Sir Edward Carson rose to introduce his motion, the Prime Minister announced that a Bill would be introduced almost immediately for the appointment of a Commission to investigate the whole subject. Its investigations would, if necessary, be private. Sir Edward Carson thereupon withdrew his motion.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 6.

The Fast of Ramadan.

We are now in the midst of the great Moslem fast of Ramadan. As happened last year, some difficulty was encountered with regard to the official fixing of the commencement of the fast, and the Ulema Commission, which settles the question of the "Roza," or seeing of the moon, announced on Friday that as no one had been found to testify to the appearance of the new moon the fast could not start until the Sunday. But at the last moment a telegram was received from the Palace that the new moon had been seen, and accordingly the fast was decreed to start on Saturday, July 1. It is a great pity that the Ulema Commission cannot accept astronomical evidence as to the appearance of the moon, which would save a lot of trouble and inconvenience, and avoid a recurrence of what happened last year. There was a time when the Moslem religious heads refused to accept telegrams notifying that the new moon had been seen as evidence, even when they came from authoritative sources. To-day such telegraphic messages rank with oracular testimony when it comes to the matter of deciding the "Roza," and there is surely no reason why, having up to this point acknowledged the progress made by science and the feasibility of invoking its assistance in certain cases, the Moslem doctors of religion should not break altogether with what is, after all, but an antiquated procedure handed down from mediæval and even earlier times, and accept as final and conclusive the certified calculations as to the appearances of the moon made by the Government astronomers.

The Retiring Judicial Adviser.

Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, the retiring Judicial Adviser, proceeded to England by the last P. and O. liner. He has been accorded, as a special case, a pension of £E1,200 per annum, although the maximum he could have claimed was a little over half that sum. Sir William Brunyate, who is to succeed him, and who is at present on a mission in London, will not be officially gazetted until October, as Sir Malcolm is taking three months' leave prior to his retirement. During Sir William Brunyate's absence the duties of the Judicial Adviser will be performed by Mr. W. G. Hayter, Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Finance, who, it may be recollected, was one of the members of the historic Denshawai Court, on which he took the place of the retiring Judicial Adviser.

Sir Malcolm McIlwraith has been accorded a very hearty farewell by the members of the Ministry of Justice. Sarwat Pasha, the Minister, gave a banquet in his honour at San Stefano, and Shukry Pasha, Under-Secretary for State, organised a tea-party at the Ministry in Cairo. At the latter function it was announced that a fund, subscribed to by the officials of the Ministry of Justice as a mark of respect and affection for their retiring chief, had been established for the annual award of two prizes for civil and criminal law at the Sultania School of Law, and of two other prizes for Mohammedan jurisprudence at the School for Kadis. All these prizes will be known as the "Sir Malcolm McIlwraith Prizes." A personal souvenir from the Ministry *personnel*, in the shape of two chairs and a lamp copied from the originals in the Arab Museum, was presented to Sir Malcolm, some handsome embroidery to Lady McIlwraith, and a portfolio inlaid with mother-of-pearl to Miss McIlwraith. Prior to his departure Sir Malcolm McIlwraith received a visit from Hussein Teymour Bey, of the Sultania household, who handed him, on behalf of the Sultan, a signed photograph of his Highness.

Purification of Cairo.

The new Summary Military Court which has been established in Cairo commenced its sittings on Saturday last. The court is to deal with offences against the various proclamations, and primarily with those deemed prejudicial to military interests. Especially will it give its attention to offences against public decency and morality, the police having been instructed to bring to its notice all offences of an indecent or unnatural nature. The exposure or sale of objectionable publications, the holding of objectionable entertainments or exhibitions, and the treating of contagious diseases, particularly those known sometimes as "secret diseases," by unqualified persons are to be considered as offences prejudicial to military interests. Incidentally, offences against traffic regulations, such as dangerous driving by civilian or military drivers, will come within the jurisdiction of the court, which will, generally speaking, act as a local petty sessional court, and will in its decisions be guided by the principles of English Law.

Everyone will approve of the motive underlying the establishment of this court; for vice in all its forms has undergone considerable extension in Egypt since the outbreak of war. The Egyptians have received the creation of the court very well, but not unnaturally they clamour for some clearer exposition than has been vouchsafed so far of the policy which will be followed by the court, whose powers, as can be seen, are very wide. Those responsible for its establishment are, however, up against a far more difficult problem than they imagine; and very great care will have to be taken to ensure, on the one hand, that the police do not in their excess of zeal arbitrarily interfere with innocent citizens or subject European offenders to unnecessary or unwarrantable hardships, and, on the other hand, that this very praiseworthy attempt to purify Cairo does not end in driving vice further underground, as has happened in the case of so many previous similar efforts.

The Nile.

At this time of year the thoughts of all those interested in agriculture turn to the upper reaches of the Nile for news of the coming flood. The latest records show that the river is rising quite normally compared with the mean gauge of 1906-1914, which has been fixed by the Ministry of Public Works as the standard on which annual comparisons are to be made. (It is true that some of the gauge records date back much further than 1906, but, as the earliest for the far southern points are for that year, it has been decided that for simplicity of working the 1906-1914 period should be taken as the standard throughout.) The river prospects are in these circumstances quite good. The great rise at Mongalla, in comparison with its normal, may quite possibly indicate an early flood, and it is hoped that as a consequence a sufficiency of water will exist next summer.

OUR UNBURIED HEROES.

General Gordon—F.M. Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, K.G.

He sought for Gordon; but he found him not.
Ah! "Somewhere dead far in the waste Sudan"
Was he whose loss Britain hath ne'er forgot—
True type of high nobility in man.
We know not if his mortal form doth rest
By sacred stream, or 'neath the desert sand;
He was of Britain's bravest and her best,
And freely gave his life for his loved land.

And now, amid the clangorous din of strife,
We seek for him who sought; for he is gone—
Gone in the very fulness of a life
That also with surpassing grandeur shone.
Near lonely islands in the Northern Sea,
The swirling waters sucked him swiftly down;
But for heroic souls no death can be,
He lives for ever, haloed with renown.

And so he passed, a strong man and a great,
As did those other heroes of the wave
Who with him sailed, and others, too, of late,
Who, e'en though victors, found an ocean grave.
There the enshrouding waters of the main
In one vast sepulchre entomb them all:
So, 'neath the surface of the watery plain,
Our hero waits the final trumpet call.

His deathless spirit still to us is nigh,
Nerving us all to do our part as men;
Whene'er he spoke to us our hearts rose high,
And his great soul inspires us now, as then.
Barbarous hordes fair lands of earth deface,
Soon would they 'whelm the whole wide world in blood:
We shall not stay our hands till, by God's grace,
We've stemmed the torrent of this Teuton flood.

Robey F. Eldridge.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, July 5.

The Coming Electoral Campaign.

It is obvious that in imposing fresh elections upon Greece the Entente Powers wished to ascertain the feeling of the country, and whether the Greek people approved of the late Cabinet's Germanophile policy or of the Ententist policy of M. Venizelos. It was thus that M. Venizelos put the question on Sunday to a meeting of merchants and manufacturers, and he will put it in the same way to the electors. He will ask them whether they wish for the friendship of France, England, and Russia, the creators and protectors of free Greece, or whether they would prefer that of Germany and Austria, the allies of the Bulgars and the Turks. As for his opponents, M. Skouloudis, M. Gounaris, and the others, they have not the courage to proclaim their Germanophil programme, for they are well aware that the Greek people would never countenance a policy of such ingratitude towards the protecting Powers. Moreover, it is still remembered in Greece that it was Germany who egged Turkey on to make war on this country in 1897, who imposed the control on Greek finances, and who has left the Turks free to exterminate the Greeks in Turkey during the past two years.

It is such considerations as these which make the opponents of M. Venizelos anxious to conceal their true attitude under a cloak of "neutrality." However, as they realise that, after what they have done against the Entente, this will not suffice for their purpose, they have begun to hedge; and since the delivery of the Powers' Note they have been announcing through their papers that in the event—which they affect to regard as certain—of the defeat of the Venizelists at the forthcoming elections the Government that will come into power—that is to say, the Gounarists—will declare a very benevolent neutrality towards the Western Powers. It may be observed parenthetically that both M. Gounaris and M. Skouloudis made a precisely similar declaration when they came into power, and the world knows how they kept their promise! They flatter themselves if they think they will be able to deceive the Entente Powers again, after being turned out of office for their hostility towards them. M. Gounaris, however, has had the hardihood to protest in the *Neon Asty* against the charge of being a Germanophil, maintaining that he has never shown any hostility to the Entente, to whom he is, indeed, friendly, and that M. Venizelos has calumniated him in accusing him of Germanophilism. Yet it was M. Gounaris who, having on February 26, 1915 (O.S.), published a communiqué declaring that he considered it "a supreme duty of the country" to honour its engagements and alliances, and having given promises to the Entente Powers who were interested in the fate of Serbia, in August of the same year informed Bulgaria that Greece would not fulfil the obligations imposed upon her by her alliance with Serbia.

Anti-Venizelist Intrigues.

Taking advantage of the depressed state of mind in which the reservists found themselves as a result of what they and their families—left unprovided for by the Skouloudis Government—have had to go through during the past nine months, and by their natural reluctance to be called to the colours again, certain anti-Venizelist officers have been inciting these reservists to manifestations against M. Venizelos. According to a detailed report published by the *Kyrix*, at Corinth, where there have been disorders of this kind, the officers, in bidding farewell to the reservists, informed them—in an Order of the Day—that they ought to hold themselves in readiness to join the colours at an early date if M. Venizelos came into power, since he would make war. The *Kyrix* deplores this mixing in politics on the part of the officers in such a scandalous way. The *Hestia* gives some interesting details of the addresses delivered to the reservists in all regiments and all classes on their dismissal. Thus, some reservists at Trikkala were exhorted as follows: "'Blackball Venizelos!' That should be your watchword henceforth, in the train, at the stations, in your own village, and everywhere you go." The reservist who gave this information to the *Hestia* added that at the stations there were officers who gave the signal for cries of "Blackball, blackball!" (Venizelos) to departing reservists.

A reservist surgeon-captain just discharged from Kavalla states that four days ago certain officers informed the reservists that Germany was everywhere victorious, that Verdun had fallen, that the Germans were bombarding Paris with their "42's," and that Venizelos wished Greece to affront Germany. "Blackball him!" The same journal reports that even in Athens some soldiers (undischarged), while passing through the streets, raised the same cry, which shows that the capital is not free from similar propaganda.

Reservists' Associations.

Similar agencies have been at work to induce the discharged reservists to form anti-Venizelist societies. Such bodies have been formed in nearly all the provinces, and have sent telegrams to the King informing him that they are ready to rejoin the colours the instant that he, and *only* he, may deem it necessary.

In such circumstances it seems very doubtful whether the aim of the Powers—that the Greek people, by its vote, should pronounce itself freely and uninfluenced by any pressure—will be attained. To the military influence must be added that of the public officials—prefects and others—nominated by the late Government, and not yet replaced by the present Cabinet. Nor is it possible to ignore the fact that the arrest of the Greek officers at Salonika, ordered by General Sarrail, for attacking a newspaper editor, has done nothing to strengthen the Ententist party of M. Venizelos.

The Elections.

The Decree dissolving the Chamber, which will also fix the date for the elections, has not yet been issued, but it is understood that October 1 (September 18, O.S.) will be the date. It would be to the advantage of M. Venizelos to have as long as possible to explain his programme, to enlighten voters who have been misled by the German propaganda, and to counteract the numerous influences that have been brought to bear against him. It is to be hoped that the Greeks will show their appreciation of his splendid patriotism and his great abilities, and will not allow themselves to be exploited by unscrupulous politicians. In the uncertain situation everyone is asking what would happen if the Venizelists were defeated, which would in effect amount to an expression of disapproval of, almost of enmity to, the protecting Powers. In such case those Powers could not—if the people had voted freely—force Greece to be friendly to them. But it would equally be open to them to cease to take any interest in Greece and to give up protecting her; nor would they have any further reason to give her assistance, financial, commercial, or political.

Under date of July 14, *The Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula reports from Constantza:—The prices of all foodstuffs continue to fall in Constantinople, where, according to the latest reports, abundance now reigns.

The *Daily Chronicle's* special correspondent at Milan reports that some of the most wonderful archæological finds of the century have been unearthed at the Roman baths at Cyrenaica. These include a colossal statue of Alexander the Great, over 55 ft. high, which has been recovered entire; a head of Athene, derived from a Greek original of the fifth century before Christ; a well-preserved Eros, and the most perfect specimen of a sculptured satyr on record. A later message announces that as a sequel to the fresh impetus which the new Italian Colonial Minister has given to exploration work on the part of the garrison troops there, the Temple of Jupiter is being laid bare. Though the digging is still in the initial phase, some important inscriptions dating back to the periods of the Emperors Hadrian and Antoninus Pius are among the finds.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cyprus, June 26.

It would appear that June will be a record month for heat. Another wave of most oppressive weather set in, attaining a maximum in the third week. At Nicosia the thermometer has frequently registered over 110° in the shade and over 97° in the coolest rooms of houses. Hot winds have prevailed during several consecutive days. Fortunately for the capital, it has been dry, but on the coasts excessive damp has added to the trials. In the rural districts villagers have found the sun and hot blasts almost unendurable, and have had to leave work on threshing floors, etc., to seek for shade and cooling springs. No such heat in June is remembered. The summer bids fair to equal, if not to surpass, that of 1878, the year of the British Occupation.

Fevers and other maladies have been prevalent, but none of a serious or epidemic type. The natives now pay far greater attention to safeguards to health, and all-round improvement in living has had many good results. The Medical Department exercises praiseworthy vigilance throughout the island. Much, too, has already been done in carrying out the anti-mosquito campaign, as advised by Sir Ronald Ross, and every year should contribute to progress in this direction. In the towns much remains to be done for sanitation, though the municipalities in many places are doing excellent work. At Nicosia, for example, good service is being rendered by Dr. A. Hadjigavziel, who closely inspects public resorts, eating houses, cafés, etc. It must be hoped that it will soon be possible for the Municipal Council to take in hand improvements in the water supply.

There is often more serious crime during the hot months than at other seasons. Notwithstanding the activity of the police, and the fines inflicted under the law which prohibits the carrying of dagger knives, stabbing cases have been numerous of late, among Moslems as well as Christians. Poisoning cases are not numerous; but recently a village girl of the Kyrenia district, aggrieved by the conduct of a young man who failed to carry out a promise of marriage, placed poison in a water vessel, from which she knew he would drink. Unfortunately, not only the faithless lover but four other villagers partook of the contents, with serious consequences not yet ended. Medical aid was obtained as soon as possible.

Accidents on the railway are rare, but on June 22 the goods van of a train running between Famagusta and Nicosia caught fire from a spark from the engine. Before it could be extinguished the contents, consisting largely of fruit and vegetables, were destroyed.

July 3.

The Government examinations in English took place last week. The number of youths who present themselves is a large and increasing one. No less than 142 candidates for the lower class came up. The greater number of them no doubt desire, if successful, to obtain in due course Government employment, but it is obvious that only a small percentage can attain this object, laudable as are the efforts. There is an increasing difficulty in Cyprus in obtaining suitable work in which the French and English languages would be useful, as is also the case in Greece. A fair number are able to obtain places in mercantile houses in Egypt and other countries, and an adventurous few seek fortunes in various British colonies. The Cypriots become very good linguists, and learn English with remarkable facility.

Lieutenant Hamilton has arrived from Salonika in connection with the engagement of interpreters knowing English and Turkish, as well as Greek, to serve with the British forces in that region.

The heat has moderated, but June has been an exceptionally trying month, as it has been in Egypt.

FOR WOUNDED SERBIANS.

Major Alwyne Maude, who a few months ago went out to Corfu as administrator to the nursing unit despatched to the aid of Serbian sick and wounded soldiers by the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee, of Sardinia House, Kingsway, has lately returned to report, and gives an interesting account of the work accomplished. Of the Serbians who came under his control he says:—"Have had to do with the peasantry of many lands, but I have never found any so 'facile' or so 'douce' as the Serbians. They are like large, strong children." And speaking of the sufferings that many of the convalescent endured, he tells of how, on leaving Vido, where they sought refuge for a time, they went straight from their beds to tramp nine miles through the burning sun with their packs on their backs to the French camp for Serbian convalescents at Moraitike. Subsequently Mr. Maude picked up several of them on the road in a more or less dying condition, and took them home.

At San Stefano a hospital of 200 beds is doing excellent work, but much remains to be done, and the Committee of the W.A.R.C. will welcome further help.

THE STATE OF SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 5.

Further information regarding the situation in Syria has been received through two persons who left that country as late as the 18th ult. and arrived at Port Said by a French warship. The details are more depressing than ever. Famine is spreading, and the village from which these two travellers came, and which used to be one of the most prosperous in the Lebanon, has lost one-quarter of its inhabitants through starvation. Many of the dead were being buried without the performance of any religious rites, as the few priests left are not sufficient to cope with the large number of burials. If anybody happens to die outside his village he is promptly buried without anybody conveying the news to his relations.

It appears from three letters, written as far back as the latter part of December and beginning of January, from Hasbeya, a rich village in the Anti-Lebanon, that famine began to be seriously felt at that time, and embraced the greater part of Syria. These letters have been published in an Arabic paper in San Paolo, Brazil, and, in spite of the relentless scissors of the censor, enough has been left to betray the serious condition of the country. The oke (2½ lbs.) of wheat was even then at about a shilling, and men up to the age of fifty-two were being enrolled.

The reign of terror seems to be increasing in ferocity. The number of persons hanged up to the beginning of June last is said to have amounted to twenty-three, and of those whom the Court Martial at Aley condemned to death, without (so far) the sentences being executed, is over 200; while the number of those exiled to the interior runs up to several hundreds.

The news about Beyrout, save for the cases of hanging, is rather more reassuring. There seems to be complete security. It can hardly be otherwise, when the only care of the people is to fight starvation. Living, however, is extremely dear, and medicines are almost completely lacking. The tramway is still running and the town is still lit with gas, although the number of lamps has been reduced by half. Passenger trains are leaving Beyrout only once a week.

The American College has been compelled to include in its curriculum the teaching of German and Turkish. The students registered in the vilayets had lately to answer the call to the colours, but the Lebanese are still exempt from military service, although they are allowed to go about in the town only if they are provided with a permit from the local authorities and documents proving their Lebanese subjection.

The Ottoman Bank is still open, and the Government accepts payment in gold only, their object being evidently to drain the country of its gold and silver reserve.

The latest Arabic papers from the United States are full of accounts of Syrian affairs, and reveal the deep concern with which the large Syrian community in America regards the situation in their unhappy country. The Syrians' activities there have not been confined to collecting funds for the relief of their compatriots; they are also stirring up American opinion and enlisting the sympathy of the highest officials, including the President of the Republic himself.

The distribution of 1,000 oxen to 2,000 Armenian families in forty-six villages in the Russian Caucasus is announced by the American committee for Armenian and Syrian relief. These families are returning to their homes, following the advance of the Russian armies into Turkey.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 27.

Hungarian Troops on Roumanian Soil.

From Moldavia it is reported that the Russians, who had occupied the town of Campulung, have now reached Dorna Vatra. However this may be, we have ample evidence that the Russian army is advancing with giant strides, for Hungarian troops have passed on to Roumanian territory while attempting to escape the clutches of the Russian bear. Their total number is not known. Yesterday morning I was assured that a whole division had surrendered. A reputable evening paper spoke of the force constituting "almost a regiment," and this morning's *Dimineatza* reduces the captured force to a squadron of hussars. Whether it was by inadvertence that they crossed the frontier, or with the fixed intention of surrendering to the Roumanian military authorities in place of the Russians, has not been established; but the latter seems the more plausible explanation, and is supported by the statements made by some of the soldiers. Yesterday morning at an early hour some of the Hungarian officers were conducted through the streets of Bucharest, and they are said to have been hooted as they passed.

Refugees from Bukovina.

The Russian advance has provoked a regular exodus of Bukovinian fugitives. Some twenty thousand have crossed into Roumania. They are mostly old men, women, and children, and nearly all Jews. They continue to arrive at Burdujeni and other places on the frontier, and are then picked up by express trains, which convey them into Hungary through the frontier point of Palanka: and meanwhile a committee formed for the purpose is showing great activity in providing the refugees with food in the railway stations at which the trains stop, for their state of misery and starvation is pitiable.

On the Bulgarian Frontier.

The Bulgars continue to keep their frontier with Roumania carefully closed, even to diplomatic personages. Indeed, if diplomatic relations had been broken off the state of affairs would not be very different. To representations made by the Roumanian Military Attaché at Sofia and the Commercial Attaché at Constantinople that they should be allowed to rejoin their respective posts by way of Rustchuk the Bulgarian Legation is said to have replied that nothing prevents them from travelling to Sofia by way of Budapest!

The Bulgarian Minister, M. Radeff, is still away from Bucharest "on leave." He is said to have been on a mission to Macedonia, and to have returned now to Sofia. Since the explosion which took place at the Bucharest arsenal he apparently regards the Roumanian climate as unhealthy. And perhaps he is right in so far as his particular constitution is concerned.

The Unionist Federation.

The second meeting of the Unionist Federation was held at the Dacia on Sunday last, amid much enthusiasm. Speeches were made tending to stir up the national feeling, the assembly finally dispersing without any disturbance. The Conservative and Conservative-Democrat parties seem to have united with the fixed purpose of leaving no stone unturned in their efforts either to upset the present Government or force it to take an active part in the war against the Central Powers.

Disturbances at Galatz.

The authorities at Galatz having vetoed on Sunday last a syndicalist meeting which was to take place at the Royal Theatre, the syndicalists declared a general strike, in which the tramway employees and others took part, and began manifesting in the town. A battalion of infantry was sent to the spot to prevent the advance of the strikers, but, the latter attempting to force their way through, and a soldier having been severely wounded by a revolver bullet, the officer in command ordered his men to fire on the crowd, with the result that half-a-dozen strikers were killed and many wounded. The remainder thereupon fled.

"Regrettable—But Inevitable."

The other day, the members of the two Conservative Clubs having celebrated the fall of Czernowitz, the sympathising crowd passed a well-known open-air restaurant where the German and Austrian Ministers were dining together with several members of their staffs. The crowd soon caught sight of them, and commenced a hostile demonstration, which finally obliged these gentlemen to abandon their beer and make good their escape through a back door. Perhaps it would be more prudent for Messrs. Busche and Czernin to take their meals at a restaurant somewhat further removed from the Conservative Club at a time when the defeat of the Central Powers is being celebrated. "Such provocations," writes an evening paper, "on the part of foreign Ministers who are in a position to know what degree of sympathy they enjoy among the people cannot have consequences other than those they experienced the other night—consequences which are regrettable but inevitable."

A Russian Aeroplane in Moldavia.

A Russian aeroplane carrying a lieutenant and a sub-lieutenant was obliged to land a few days ago on the outskirts of Botoshani in consequence of a slight defect in the motor. It was coming from Bukovina. Great was the gallant officers' dismay on learning that they were not on Russian soil, for they were the bearers of important news. But the rules of war are inexorable, so they had to surrender, and have now arrived in Bucharest.

Delicate Flattery.

An ultra-patriotic English lady, who is spending the hot season at a summer resort not many miles from the Hungarian frontier, has hoisted a Union Jack over her villa. The Roumanian troops, who are here very numerous, rarely pass the house without giving the flag the regular salute—a delicate attention which, we may assume, has completely won the heart of the Union Jack's fair owner.

BULGARIAN PROPAGANDA.

(From a Bucharest Correspondent.)

For some time lately the Bulgarian Government has done everything possible towards propaganda in other countries. With this object Alexander Kyroff, the well-known Bulgarian journalist, was sent to Switzerland, where he published a pamphlet, with the title "The Truth About Bulgaria," in the German language. His mission was official. On his return from Switzerland he was received by the Prime Minister, M. Radoslavoff, to whom he submitted a report on the results of his mission. The journals of Sofia noted the satisfaction of the Prime Minister with his success. M. Kyroff belongs to the Liberal and Progressive Party, the chief of which is Dr. Daneff. This party has, however, expressed dissatisfaction with M. Kyroff. According to information from Vienna, the Bulgarian Consul there, M. Tabanoff, and M. Kostoff are to be sent on a propagandist mission. The Democrat member of Parliament, M. Vassielieff, has also gone to Germany with a similar object. These facts prove that the Bulgarian Government has decided to employ the greatest activity in propaganda work abroad, and, in order to arrive at the desired end, to employ members of the Opposition.

AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT.

A local paper published at Piteshti, Roumania, recently requested its subscribers to send in replies to the query:—"Should Roumania, in your opinion, abandon the policy of neutrality, and, if so, with which group do you consider that she should co-operate?"

Nine hundred and forty replies were elicited. Of these 900 advocated active participation in the war alongside the Entente, thirty-seven were in favour of permanent neutrality, and only three supported military co-operation with the Central Powers.

The Home Office gives notice that the provisions of Article 19 of the Aliens Restriction Order, which require the registration of alien friends, and which are already in force in the rest of the country, have been extended to male aliens above the age of eighteen of French, Italian, Russian, or Serbian nationality residing in the Metropolitan Police District. This requirement comes into force on July 22. Instructions as to the place and time of registration have been published by the Commissioner of Police, and may be obtained at any police station. The penalty for failure to register is a fine of £100 or imprisonment for six months.

According to Bucharest messages, the King of Roumania last Friday conferred with the Russian Minister, and afterwards received other Entente Ministers.

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IN OLD SERBIA.

(From a Bucharest Correspondent.)

The following notes on the present state of Serbia have been supplied by a person who has lately passed through the country and are up-to-date and trustworthy:—

Belgrade has regained a little of its former animation on account of the presence of the enemy troops, but the Austrians have modified the shop-signs, hotel names, etc. Thus the Rousky Tzar (Tsar Restaurant) has become the Kaiser Franz Josef Halle, and so on. Some of the factories have recommenced work, but only those with Austrian capital from the Andrévitch Bank.

In April the Austrians interdicted the population from eating meat on Tuesdays and Fridays, two months in prison being the penalty for any contravention of the law.

The invaders have established in Serbia a régime practically analogous to that imposed by the Germans on Belgium. The Germans have reorganised the Serbian municipalities after the Prussian system, establishing councils of citizens which are obliged to ratify the sovereign decisions of a military autocracy.

The privileges of the Serbian National Bank have been suspended, and a branch of the Austrian Bank has been established at Belgrade, and has issued new notes. Serbian money is exchanged at the rate of 50 hellers for a dinar, or at the rate of 50 centimes to the franc. The Wiener Bank Verein has also started business in Belgrade.

At Svietka Petka, near Nish, the Germans have constructed an iron bridge, in connection with which there are so many precautionary rules that neither the Bulgarian soldiers nor their officers have the right to approach it. A Sofia newspaper echoes the discontent of the Bulgars, who declare themselves humiliated by this want of confidence on the part of their allies.

A GIFT FROM LONDON'S CHILDREN.

The London County Council is exhibiting for a few days at its Day Training College in Southampton Row some clothes that have been made by its school children for the use of Belgian and Serbian refugees. The exhibition was formally opened on Wednesday last, when speeches were delivered by, among others, Monsieur Voislav Antonievitch, First Secretary of the Serbian Legation. In the course of his remarks, he said that the saddest feature of the war, as it affected his people, was the unspeakable suffering of the children. It surpassed all imagination. Forty thousand children left Serbia for the great retreat over the Albanian Mountains, but of these only ten thousand arrived at Corfu. Those who had been fortunate enough to escape would be happy to realise that they had not been forgotten, and the generosity of the London children would for ever live in their grateful memories.

Miss Frere, speaking of the "beautiful Serbian costumes," said the little girls of London had thoroughly enjoyed making them. Next to a national anthem and a national flag, a national dress made the most wonderful appeal to the human heart.

Mr. Albert Smith, member of the Central Committee of the Belgian and Serbian Children's Clothing Fund, described how the work had been initiated and developed. The London school children had been instructed not to ask their parents for money, and anyone who had seen them bringing their pennies, halfpennies and farthings would realise that it was entirely their own gift. With the money thus realised materials had been purchased, and the girls had made these into clothes. The amount collected to date in the manner stated was £2,550, apart from small sums spent locally on trimmings.

The financial report of the Serbian Relief Fund, which was lately completed by the hon auditors, shows that for the year ended April 30 last management expenses were well under 2 per cent., while publicity, advertising, cost of flag days, etc., worked out at less than 5 per cent.

JOHN STRANGE WINTER

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by th writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good fasth. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paver only.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

JUDICIAL REFORMS IN EGYPT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I have not seen Sir M. McIlwraith's valedictory report, but from the article appearing in The Near East of July 14 Sir M. McIlwraith appears to have taken to himself and Sir W. Brunyate all the credit for the many reforms introduced in the Penal Codes during his tenure of office.

Amongst other legislation, your correspondent cites "First Offenders' Law"; "more rational treatment of juvenile offenders"; "complete recasting of provisions concerning Recidivism"; "Vagrant Children Law"; "indeterminate sentences"; "the segregation of dangerous criminals in special establishments."

If I may be allowed to correct your Cairo Correspondent, not *one* of these laws originated in the Ministry of Justice. In fact, most of them were very strongly opposed by both Sir M. McIlwraith and Sir W. Brunyate, and looked on with grave suspicion by that very conservative body the Judicial Bench. I may add that many of these laws only got on to statute at all owing to Lord Cromer's support. For Sir M. McIlwraith now to claim the credit of these reforms (if he does) without any reference to the department responsible for their conception is, to say the least, colossal effrontery.—I am, etc.,

C. E. Coles, Pasha.
Inspector-General Prisons, Egypt (Retired).

Stonehouse,
Bishop's Hull,
Taunton,
July 7, 1916.

"THE MESOPOTAMIAN CAMPAIGN AND ITS OBJECTIVE."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I say a word on the subject of your leading article, "The Mesopotamian Campaign and Its Objective"? You urge that "failure must be wiped out, and this can only be done by the entry of British troops into Baghdad." I venture to observe that if your process of reasoning is sound, which I do not admit, then it must also be held that our failure at the Dardanelles can only be wiped out by the entry of British troops into Constantinople.

One thing is certain. The "very vigorous thrust" which you call for "at this moment" in Mesopotamia cannot be delivered in the height of the hot weather.—I am, etc.,

Lovat Fraser.

The White House, Slough,
July 14, 1916.

[*This subject is referred to in our "Notes of the Week."* Ed.]

WANTED—A DARJEELING.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The exigencies of the war have drawn attention to this want in the fair island of Cyprus. No official obtained leave of absence last year—none will get it this summer. Their families hesitate to go to England on account of submarines, delays on the journey, and the uncertainty of return.

What then happens to the children? The majority must swelter, and at the present moment are sweltering, in the plains. Why don't they go to Mount Troodos, 6,000 ft. above sea-level? Some do. Why do all not go? Because the accommodation is strictly limited. A few Government huts are placed at the disposal of the officials who are in attendance on the High Commissioner. There is a small visitors' camp, run by private enterprise, and there is a wooden erection called an hotel which would not be tolerated in the Yosemite valley of California, and would be deemed a very second-rate caravanserai in a mining town in the Western States of America. I must do justice to the proprietor: he recognises the defects in his establishment quite as much as the general public does. But his hands are tied. The land is leased by the British War Office, and the military authorities will not permit the erection of a stone and lime edifice, such as one finds in the Lebanon or in Syria generally.

People call for a Darjeeling. Let us admit that the Government staff are sufficiently housed. What about the families I have already alluded to? What about the visitors from Egypt, attracted partly by what they read in the Cyprus Handbook and partly by the advertisement of the Grand Hotel Olympus? I am afraid most of them re-

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turn southward disappointed. With whom, then, lies the blame? I am afraid it must be placed on the shoulders of the island Government. For thirty-six years I have watched and waited. No one individual can be held responsible. Inertia is the cause. Downing Street and the Treasury may have contributed to the somnolence. Undoubtedly from time to time outsiders have made application to do things and have been cold-shouldered. Can nothing be done? Certainly something can be done, and ought to be done speedily. Whenever a proposal is made it should be sympathetically received. If no proposals are received, then it is the duty of the Government to try to obtain some, aided by a subsidy. France takes £45,000 a year out of the island. Were these thousands retained here, life might be made much pleasanter for officials and summer visitors alike.—I am, etc.,

GEORGE L. HOUSTOUN.

Kyrenia, Cyprus, June 26, 1916.

ARMENIA AND THE ALLIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—If THE NEAR EAST can in any way prevent England from making any more blunders in the Near East like those she made in the past century by persistently maintaining and supporting the Turk against Russia and against the poor Christian subjects of those bloody massacre-mongers, you will surely have rendered a great service to the honour of your own country and to suffering humanity. The difference between Germany and the Allies in Near Eastern questions is that Germany is frankly and brutally selling the Christians away for her interest, while the Allies, after having betrayed us all again and again, find themselves in the position of having been pulled by the Turks and the Germans.

These are the reflections of a passionately—

PRO-ALLY-ARMENIAN.

Hartford, Conn., U.S.A., June 28, 1916.

BOOK NOTES.

Two books of interest published recently are:—"Armenia: Past and Present," by W. L. Williams (King, 3s. 6d. net); and "Zionism: Problems and Views" (Unwin, 6s. net). The latter is edited by Paul Goodman and Arthur D. Lewis.

The July *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund, of which we have received a copy, contains, besides a report of the annual general meeting of the Fund, a particularly interesting instalment of the "Occasional Papers on the Modern Inhabitants of Palestine," by Dr. E. W. G. Masterman and Professor Macalister. A table showing the weight in grains of various Egyptian, Phœnician, Assyrian, and Greek weights now in the Fund's museum is contributed by Mr. W. Airy, and Mr. Joseph Offord has many interesting Archæological Notes, largely concerned with Babylonian inscriptions.

Messrs. Macmillan announce that they will publish immediately a new edition of their "Guide to Egypt and the Sudan," which will embody the latest information available up to the time of going to press. The whole work has been submitted to critical and detailed revision by an Anglo-Egyptian acquainted with all the most recent developments in Egypt and the Sudan.

The Council for the Study of International Relations (1, Central Buildings, Westminster) has published at the price of threepence "The Problem of Small Nations in the European Crisis," by Professor T. G. Masaryk, lecturer at the School for Slavonic Studies, London University. Amongst other topics dealt with by the writer are: Great Britain and the Oriental Question; Serbia-Croatia, the barrier against Germany's *Drang nach Osten:* and the relations between Britain and the Slavonic world.

"The Tragedy of the Jews in the European War Zone," by Leon Levison, is a pamphlet issued by the Russian Jews Relief Fund. It tells a moving tale of suffering, and makes a forcible appeal to the charitably disposed on behalf of these victims of the Great War.

Two pamphlets published for the Kossovo Day Committee are: "Heroic Serbia," from the French of M. Victor Bérard, and "Serbia and Kossovo," by Dr. S. Georgevitch.

In "Behold the Woman," by T. Everett Harvé (published by Messrs. Lippincott), the scene is laid in Alexandria at the close of the fourth century, and the story deals with the conversion to Christianity of a beautiful courtesan.

We have received from Messrs. Curtis and Harvey a copy of their "Shooter's Year-Book" for 1916-17. It contains much information of value to the sportsman, set out in handy form, and we advise any of our readers who go in for shooting to obtain a copy, which they can do by writing to the publishers (at Cannon Street House, London, E.C.), and enclosing a penny stamp for postage.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

FERDINAND OF COBURG.*

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria is anything but an attractive personality; on the contrary, he is distinctly repulsive. There was a King of France—Louis XI.—who was equally false, superstitious, cowardly, and unscrupulous, but his life's work was stamped with success and the hall-mark of greatness. In the case of Ferdinand, however, duplicity has engendered failure, and an autocratic policy, Hun-inspired, is rapidly depriving Bulgaria of any serious claim to our respect. The author of the book under review is explicit in his condemnation of the man who threw Bulgaria into the arms of Austria, and he does not veil his contempt for the "shoddy Tsar." Personally, we do not approve of that class of literature which consists in "mud-slinging," in collecting gossip and tittle-tattle and then rushing it into print. A portrait in black, without lights, may have its own *raison d'être*, but it can hardly be expected to appeal to those who desire to obtain a faithful impression of a ruler who, whatever his vices and shortcomings, has certainly influenced the course of recent events in no small measure. It is indeed surprising how King Ferdinand was able to bamboozle the British, French, and Russian statesmen into the belief that Bulgaria, if paid her price, would come in on our side—or, at the worst, remain neutral—whereas he had already signed a definite agreement with Berlin, through Vienna. It is not for us here to analyse the hidden springs of a very complex character and the willing or duped tools by means of which "Tsar" Ferdinand was able to carry out his policy of rank duplicity. It will be the duty of the historian of the future to do this, and by him also will the Autocrat of Bulgaria finally be judged.

In the meantime it can safely be said that, whatever the influence—and it was great—brought to bear by King Ferdinand on the present war, it was and has been directly antagonistic to the Allied interests, and this, in spite of the fact that the ruler's mother was a French princess of the Bourbon family, and that Russia is, so to speak, Bulgaria's godmother. This, when the day of reckoning comes, can neither be forgiven nor forgotten, and, whatever the fate of Bulgaria as a State or people, the man who led her armies twice traitorously against the Serb will have to abandon the Balkan Peninsula, and be made to pack up his regalia and leave Sofia to work out her own salvation as best she may; or, as the author says:

> One effect of Ferdinand's intervention was to unite Constantinople with Berlin, and to make the British evacuation of the peninsula of Gallipoli a necessity. Thus the Tsar of Bulgaria was instrumental in striking the hardest blow at the prestige of the British arms that has been inflicted in the memory of living man. He effected it, not by prowess in the field, but by an act of base and shameless treachery. . . . It will be the fault of Great Britain itself if the punishment for it is not conceived on a similar scale of magnitude.

In conclusion, it may be pointed out that the author frequently confounds Thrace and Macedonia—an almost unpardonable sin in a book devoted to a Near Eastern subject.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

With the Twenty-ninth Division in Gallipoli: A Chaplain's Experiences. By the Rev. O. Creighton, C.F. Illustrated. (Longmans, Green, and Co., 3s. 6d. net.)

Zionism and the Jewish Future. (John Murray, 2s. 6d. net.)

The Entente Cordiale in Lebanon. By Prince Ferdinand Tyan. Translated from the French. (Fisher Unwin, 1s. net.)

Pocket English-Greek Dictionary of Idioms, Proverbs, and Phrases. By A. Kyriakides. (Williams and Norgate, 15s. net.)

German, Slav, and Magyar: A Study in the Origins of the Great War. By R. W. Seton-Watson. With maps. (Williams and Norgate, 2s. 6d. net.)

The Story of the Canadian Pacific Railway. By Keith Morris. William Stevens, 3s. 6d. net.)

Armenia: Past and Present. By W. Llew. Williams. With an Introduction by T. P. O'Connor, M.P. (P. S. King and Son, 3s. 6d. net.)

* "Ferdinand of Bulgaria: The Amazing Career of a Shoddy Tsar." By the Author of "The Real Kaiser." (Melrose. 2s. net.)

Any Books mentioned on this page, or any other Publication, can be obtained at the published price, plus 3d. postage in the United Kingdom, or 6d. abroad, from

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Turkey has always been a happy hunting ground for the man who wanted to gather strange experiences, and in this respect the war has not changed it. A sub-lieutenant in the R.N.V.R. who took part in the Gallipoli fighting will certainly bear me out in this. He had the misfortune to be made prisoner, and, for some obscure reason, the Turks insisted on regarding him as a spy, or something super-objectionable of that kind. Accordingly he was placed in close confinement and subjected to somewhat rigorous treatment while inquiries were set afoot regarding him, and for two days he was very far from happy. Then, suddenly, the clouds lifted and a change came o'er the scene with a vengeance. He was taken out of his stuffy quarters and informed that his captors had ascertained that he really was what he had represented himself, and very handsome apologies were offered for the mistake. "We hope," said the Turks, "you won't rub it in too hard"—or words to that effect—"for it really was a genuine error on our part. Now we want to make up for what you have gone through; so we are going to give you a week's 'leave' in Constantinople, and you will be shown all the sights of the place, with an officer to look after you." The sub. thought at first, and not unnaturally, that his leg was being very severely pulled. But not a bit of it. The Turks were as good as their word, and he was given a quite "high old time" in the capital, taking joy rides in a motor, and all sorts of dissipations of that kind. And then came the climax. "Look here," said his captors, "we are still not quite happy about having treated you so scurvily at first; so we think we had better set you free, and if you will give us your word not to fight against us again in this war, you may go." Needless to say, the lucky man did not take long to make up his mind. He gave his word as desired, and he was sent off down the coast—to Smyrna, I think it was—and there set at liberty. What a contrast to the conduct of the Huns! And this, mark you, is a true story.

***

Which reminds me. A few days ago I was talking with an officer who had been all through the Gallipoli affair, and had had exceptionally good opportunities of judging the qualities of the Turk as a fighter. I asked what opinion he had formed of the enemy there; had they fought cleanly and well, or were the stories to that effect mere clap-trap. "They fought splendidly," he assured me, "and, as far as I could ascertain, wonderfully cleanly. The best proof of that is that the Australians, who landed with the idea that the Turks were everything that was vile and rotten, left the peninsula their best friends, so to say."

***

A few days ago I was shown a letter written recently by an English lady in Salonika, and was struck by one passage, which I have permission to quote: "I shall be very glad when the Greek soldiers are withdrawn from Macedonia, as they are continually playing us up and working against us." By itself this little bit of evidence might be regarded as merely the expression of a prejudice. Unfortunately, it does not stand alone—far from it! One hears the same story from nearly all our officers and men who return from Salonika. Of course, it does not mean that all Greeks are anti-Entente, or pro-German; for, as I have pointed out before, the Greeks are a shrewd people, and know quite well that the triumph of the Central Powers, involving the triumph of their old enemies, the Bulgarians, would be no good thing for them. And if they do not understand that it would mean the permanent loss to them of Salonika and good-bye to all dreams of Hellenic expansion, I should be very surprised. But it does show how bold are the pro-German elements—which are strong in the Army—under the protection of MM. Gounaris and Co., and how very offensive they succeeded in making themselves to the Allies. Now, let us hope, all that has been changed. But I trust that M. Gounaris and his friends are "marked men" so far as we and our Allies are concerned, and that we shall not be in a hurry to forget their late activities.

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The fact is, of course, that the Greek's love of money makes him rather good ground for any *agent provocateur* to work upon; and I fancy that it is this trait in his character that accounts for all his—eccentricities, shall we call them? At the same time, he is not so ready to sacrifice his comfort for the sake of filthy lucre as are certain other people one might mention. Nor is he, as a rule, as ready to work hard for the sake of gain as, say, the Armenian. These points are illustrated in the same letter, from which I have quoted above. The writer says that the hotels are not only "very expensive"—a not uncommon feature in hotels, by the way!—but also "very dirty" and "abominably run," and she adds that the Greeks and Jews appear to be firmly convinced that the Allies are in Salonika "just to be exploited." "For instance," she writes, "the proprietor's wife and wife's family of six people have taken the best part of the —— Hotel for themselves, whilst I and our people are given small top rooms. The wife was heard to say: 'The English pay just the same for a bad room as for a good one, so why should not I have the best?'" Which strikes me as being very typical: shrewd-seeming on the surface, but short-sighted in reality.

***

One other point in the same letter is worth mention. And this time it is a pleasant subject. The lady writes that she observed a great improvement in the regulation of traffic at a certain spot in Salonika since her previous visit to the town. And she goes on to inform her correspondent that, looking round for the cause of the improvement, she discovered it in the form of an ex-City policeman, now clad in khaki, whom she had often seen on duty at "the Bank" in pre-war days. So it is not only "somewhere in France" that our wonderful London police have been giving object-lessons in such matters to the natives.

***

I am indebted to a correspondent, whose name is very well known indeed in Cyprus and in Egypt, for the following information on a subject that is beginning to be debated with some anxiety in Berlin. You may have heard it—or read it—before. I had not. At any rate, it is, I think, worth placing on record:—

> Absolute knowledge have I none:
> But my aunt's charwoman's sister's son
> Heard a policeman, on his beat,
> Say to a housemaid in Downing Street
> That he has a son, who has a friend
> Who *knows* when the war is going to end.

This being so, it is high time for the Turk and (his) Brother Bulgar to take stock of their position seriously. Perhaps, if the policeman in the poem is the same as the one on point duty in Salonika, Enver and Radoslavoff might find it worth while to go to Salonika, suitably disguised, and interview him.

***

I am indebted to a correspondent in Bucharest for the following story, which seems to me to be eloquent of the lot of the Roumanians under Austro-Hungarian rule:—

A Roumanian peasant from Bukovina was recently in a northern town of Moldavia on business connected with his family, and he was about to set out upon his return journey when I had the opportunity of exchanging a few words with him. A few questions were asked relative to the state of affairs in the Bukovina, but he proved pretty reticent, merely imparting the fact that his brother, who was fifty-four, had been enrolled. So I tried another line, and suggested guilelessly that, on the whole, he and his friends must be fairly satisfied with life where they were, things being normally well ordered in the Bukovina, the Austrians possessing good administrative methods, etc. His answer was characteristic. "'Have you never observed," he asked, "the troubled and anxious appearance of a group of geese that have become separated from the main flock? Their joyous cries and precipitate swoop when once more they catch sight of their fellows? Ask me no more; I am an Austrian subject, and return to-morrow."

CORSAIR.

The *World* reports that a British officer who was severely wounded at Ctesiphon says of the Turks after that engagement: "A barge-load of our wounded (300) stuck in the mud, and, with some medical personnel on board, had to be abandoned. The Turks towed the barge down stream, and, under cover of the white flag, sent the whole lot, including the medical personnel, back to the British camp, unharmed in any way. I know of two British officers left out on the night of the battle who were found by the Turks. The Turks took away all their equipment, but both men say that they were not harmed in any way, and, in the case of one man, they gave him water to drink, loosened his coat, and made him more comfortable. They left both for our people to collect next morning."

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. July	1916. July.		1334. Ramadan	5676. Tamuz
21	8	Friday	20	20
22	9	Saturday.....	21	21
23	10	Sunday	22	22
24	11	Monday	23	23
25	12	Tuesday	24	24
26	13	Wednesday	25	25
27	14	Thursday	26	26

Tuesday is the birthday of H.M. the Queen of the Belgians.

Tuesday is also the birthday of H.R.H. the Duchess of Connaught, who was born in 1860.

Queen Alexandra presided at the first meeting of the council of the "Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund," which was held at Marlborough House last Friday. There were present the Duke of Norfolk, the Duke of Devonshire, the Duke of Portland, the Earl of Rosebery, the Earl of Cromer, Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, Lord Desborough, Admiral Lord Beresford, the Hon. Arthur Stanley, Admiral of the Fleet the Hon. Sir Hedworth Meux, General Sir Dighton Probyn, Sir George Arthur, Sir Frederick Treves, Sir William Garstin, Sir Robert Hudson, Sir Hedley Le Bas, Mr. Alfred de Rothschild, Mr. H. J. Creedy, Mr. Pandeli Ralli, and Mr. Arthur Renshaw.

A memorial service for the Right Hon. Sir Edwin Henry Egerton, G.C.M.G., formerly British Ambassador at Athens, was held at noon last Friday in the Chapel of St. Michael and St. George, St. Paul's Cathedral. The King was represented by Viscount Valentia, and Queen Alexandra by Earl Howe, who was the bearer of a large cross of pink and white Malmaisons and lilies from her Majesty. Sir Edward Grey was represented by Mr. Cecil Dormer, of the Foreign Office, and amongst others present were Lady Egerton, Mr. Katkoff, the Hon. Lady Egerton, Captain A. C. and the Hon. Mrs. Egerton, Mrs. Beauchamp Tower, Mrs. Louis Egerton, the Duchess of Buckingham and Miss M. Egerton and Miss K. Egerton, Countess Fortescue, Lord and Lady Carnock, Sir Walter Townley, Sir Vincent Corbett, Sir Maurice de Bunsen, Mr. D. G. Metaxas (formerly Greek Minister in London), and Miss Metaxas, Mrs. John Talbot, and Miss Mary Hogarth.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* states that Sir A. H. McMahon, the High Commissioner, cordially endorses the Sultan's suggestion that Egypt's memorial to Lord Kitchener should be of a practical character, directly beneficial to the people, whose social and economic welfare was Lord Kitchener's foremost consideration.

DIRECTORY and "ROLL OF HONOUR."

Owing to pressure on our space, we have recently been unable to publish our "Directory" of former British residents in Turkey and the "Roll of Honour" of British subjects from the Near East serving in His Majesty's Forces. In response to a number of requests from our readers, however, we hope to be able to publish both lists very shortly. In the meantime, we shall be obliged if readers included in either list will kindly forward us particulars of any changes in address or other necessary alterations. We shall be happy to supply free a copy of either list, according to our own latest information, on application for same.

The Roumanian Minister called at the Foreign Office on Monday afternoon, and had a prolonged interview with Sir Edward Grey.

The Crown Prince of Serbia, in recognition of the bravery of the British and French soldiers who have fallen upon the battlefields of Serbia during the war, has decided to award to the widows and relatives the Serbian Military Cross.

Mr. Arthur Bradley Kettlewell, I.C.S. Additional Secretary, Punjab Government, who is now on two years' furlough, leaves England to-morrow for Athens, where, we understand, he will be temporarily attached to the British Embassy.

M. Guillemin, French Minister at Athens, has been visiting the Allied lines at Salonika.

M. Voislav Marinkovitch, the Serbian Minister of Commerce, has left London for Paris on a special mission. Later he will go to Corfu.

M. Andre Radovitch, the Minister for Foreign Affairs for Montenegro, has left London for Paris.

M. Alexis Catargi, the Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in Paris, with Madame Catargi, née Princess Ghika, has arrived in London from France.

Prince Antoine Bibesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has left London for Bucharest on short leave of absence.

M. Athos Romanos, Hellenic Minister in Paris, who has been for some time in Athens, is expected shortly to visit London.

M. St. Aulaire, the newly appointed French Minister to Bucharest, left London last week for Roumania, to take up his duties.

M. Pavlé Karovitch, Secretary to the Serbian Legation, has returned to London from Paris, where he has been on leave.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain Hugh Massie Blomfield, of the 1/5th Batt. The Buffs, attached Political Service, Mesopotamia, only surviving son of Admiral Sir R. Massie and Lady Blomfield, of 35, Holland Park Avenue, W., and Ida Marie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Chancellor, of "Overstrand," Bognor.

Mr. J. MacDowall Russell, formerly of Smyrna, who returned to his post of British Postmaster at Shanghai about the beginning of last month, has since undergone an operation for appendicitis.

Dr. James van Millingen, nephew of the late Professor A. van Millingen, has been given a commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Mr. A. van Millingen has arrived in London from Alexandria, and is staying at Byfleet for the summer.

Mr. Bertram Christian, who has been chairman of the Serbian Relief Fund since its inauguration in September, 1914, has relinquished that position in consequence of undertaking official work connected with the war, and Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, M.P., has accepted the chairmanship.

Writing from Austria, where he is a prisoner of war, Captain Stanley Wilson, M.P., states there is a possibility of his being exchanged. Captain Wilson and Colonel Napier, formerly British Military Attaché at Sofia, it will be remembered, were taken off a Greek steamer by an Austrian submarine last December.

One of the exchanged British prisoners who arrived in London from Germany last Saturday was Captain Heaton-Armstrong, who performed distinguished service during the defence of Durazzo.

Mr. E. Bonham Carter, C.M.G., Legal Secretary to the Sudan Government, who was passing through Alexandria on his way home on leave, was on July 2 received in private audience by the Sultan of Egypt, who handed to him the 2nd Class of the Order of the Nile conferred on him a few months ago.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (July 2):—

Mr. Stanley Fisher, Puisne Judge at Nicosia, with Mrs. Fisher, is proceeding to Troödos.

Mr. Stelios D. Pavlides, who was recently called to the Bar, in London, has returned to Cyprus. He is a member of one of the leading families in Paphos.

Queen Alexandra and the Princess Royal visited the Fine Art Society's Galleries, 148, New Bond Street, on Monday afternoon, and viewed the Serbian cartoons by Mr. Radovani.

Mr. Alexander Séfi is to deliver a lecture on "Sufism" at the house of Comte de Zogheb in Bruton Street, W., to-morrow afternoon.

The Rev. Ronald Irwin, chaplain, Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment, who has returned from Mesopotamia, where he was wounded, has recently undergone a successful operation at 17, Park Lane. He hopes shortly to be able to communicate with the relatives of the officers and men of his division who fell in Mesopotamia, and to whom he wrote at the time.

Apropos of the Sudan Mission to Lake Tsana, an account of which we published last week, a correspondent writes:—

Major Hugh Drummond Pearson, R.E., who has been responsible for the whole of the excellent survey work carried on by the Sudan Government since 1905, in 1913 received the Murchison Award from the Royal Geographical Society, an honour which was thoroughly well deserved. As Director of Surveys, Major Pearson has introduced many valuable reforms into his Department, not the least of which has been the standard of work destined to provide incentives to study surveying, and covering a system of examinations which surveyors have to pass before enjoying promotion to higher grades.

Under the auspices of the Victoria Park Patriotic Committee demonstrations on behalf of Serbia were held in Victoria Park on Sunday. There were good gatherings both morning and afternoon.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

It is announced that President Wilson has nominated Mr. Abram Elkus as U.S. Ambassador to Turkey in succession to Mr. Morgenthau, who has retired. This appointment was anticipated in these columns some weeks ago.

Sir Edward Grey is taking a short holiday, and Lord Crewe is acting for him at the Foreign Office.

Major R. P. Lewis Bey, of the Intelligence Department, Sudan Government, has been transferred to the Cairo office of the Department, and it is anticipated that he will be appointed Assistant Director of Intelligence in Cairo.

Our Cyprus Correspondent reports (July 2):—

The Greek Judge in Nicosia, M. Markides, is on the sick list, and his duties are being performed by M. S. Stavrinakes.

Naim Moussa Effendi, son of Sami Effendi, Turkish Judge in Nicosia, has been appointed Village Judge of Letka.

Our Athens Correspondent writes (July 5):—M. Siciliano, who has been up to now First Secretary at the Hellenic Legation in Paris, has been transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Director of the Press Bureau. M. Siciliano, who is one of the most distinguished and promising members of the Service, possesses special qualifications for carrying out his duties successfully, having directed the same Bureau on a previous occasion.

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The following promotions and appointments are announced in the *Sudan Times*:—

Bimbashi (temporary Kaimakam) F. W. L. Edwards, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General and Aide-de-Camp to H. E. the Sirdar, and Bimbashi W. Middleton, Khartoum District, have been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam.

Kaimakam N. B. de L. Forth Bey, second in command, Arab Battalion, has been appointed as Officer Commanding, Arab Battalion, and Kaimakam W. H. McCowan Bey has been appointed second in command.

OBITUARY.

SIR VICTOR HORSLEY.

We regret to learn that Sir Victor Horsley died on Sunday last, July 16, from heat stroke while serving as a consultant with the Forces in Mesopotamia. Sir Victor volunteered for service in Mesopotamia last March, and, his patriotic offer being accepted, left at once for India, whence he went to the scene of operations. At first he was stationed at the base at Busreh, but within a short period he passed up to Amara, where, it is reported, his death took place.

"Sir Victor," says the *Times*, "did not consider his years when the chance of being useful offered itself, and the welfare of our soldiers was his first anxiety. Very early in the war he was in France on behalf of the British Red Cross Society, and later, on being gazetted colonel, he was sent to Egypt as a consultant by Sir Alfred Keogh. He had served also in the Boer War. . . . Born in Kensington in 1857, he was 59 years of age at the time of his death. He was the son of the late J. C. Horsley, R.A., and married, in 1887, Eldred, third daughter of Sir Frederick Bramwell, who, with two sons and a daughter, survives him." He was knighted in 1902.

COLONEL C. C. MACNAMARA.

It was officially announced on Wednesday that Lieutenant-Colonel Carroll Charles Macnamara, Royal Irish Rifles, died from wounds received while commanding his regiment on July 1. The eldest son of Charles Nottidge Macnamara, F.R.C.S., of Chorley Wood, Herts, he was educated at Winchester and entered the Army in 1896. While serving with his regiment in South Africa, he was appointed A.D.C. to Lord Milner. Later he served in India and at Wei-hai-Wei; and in 1908 he was seconded for service with the Egyptian Army. He held the rank of Kaimakam, Commanding the Equatorial Battalion, which he commanded on active service, and received the Order of the Nile. He resigned his command in Egypt to serve in Gallipoli, where he was wounded. After serving as brigade-major at Bedford, he rejoined the Royal Irish Rifles at the front in May last. He was forty-one years of age.

Lieutenant-Colonel Edward H. Trotter, D.S.O., Grenadier Guards, commanding a Service Battalion of the King's (Liverpool) Regiment, is reported killed in action on July 8. Born in December, 1872, he was the third son of the late Major-General Sir Henry Trotter, G.C.V.O., of Merton Hall, Midlothian. He was gazetted second lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards from the Militia in June, 1893, and was promoted lieutenant in August, 1897, captain in January, 1900, and major in 1908. In September, 1914, he was appointed temporary lieutenant-colonel in command of a battalion of the Liverpool Regiment. Colonel Trotter was in the Nile Expedition of 1898, and fought in the Battle of Omdurman, for which he received the Egyptian medal, Queen's medal, and the Khedive's medal with clasps. During the South African War he served with the City of London Volunteers as captain on the Staff, taking part in the operations in the Orange Free State, and was mentioned in despatches.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred St. Hill Gibbons, Liverpool Regiment, news of whose death in action has been received, was best known as the explorer of the Upper Zambesi, who completed the work which Livingstone had begun over half a century before. In 1898, at the request of Cecil Rhodes, he visited Central Africa, and he and his assistants in that and the following year completed the survey of Barotseland and the Zambesi, tracing that river to its source. Major Gibbons, as he then was, continued his journey northward by the Great Lakes and the Nile, the reconquest of the Sudan during the course of his travels having opened the route by Khartoum. He was, it is believed, the second white man to cross the continent from the Cape to Cairo.

Mrs. Max Müller, widow of the Right Hon. Friedrich Max Müller, the Orientalist and philologist, died on Monday evening at her house in Oxford, aged 81.

The death is announced as having occurred at Monte Carlo, on the 13th inst., of Mr. B. L. Mosely, LL.B., formerly a judge of the Native Tribunals in Cairo. The late judge had lived in retirement for a number of years, but was an annual visitor to Egypt.

Colonel Richard Leigh, who has died at Torquay in his seventy-fourth year, took part in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, and was present at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, where his conduct earned him mention in despatches and the brevet rank of lieutenant-colonel. Subsequently he commanded the 2nd Highland Light Infantry, and the rank of full colonel was conferred on him in 1895.

Much sympathy will be felt for Mr. F. G. Davidson, of Suez, who has this month lost both his sons in the service of their King and country. The elder, Mr. R. H. W. Davidson, who died on July 1, was a lieutenant in the Devonshire Regiment, and before the war had been employed in Perak, Federated Malay States. His younger brother, Mr. G. L. Davidson, died of wounds received on the 10th inst. He was a lieutenant in the Dorset Regiment, and was for some time before the war at Manilla, in the Philippine Islands.

We regret to learn that Mr. and Mrs. Charles Vinicombe, of Constantinople, have lost their younger son, Second Lieutenant Lionel Frank Vinicombe, Royal West Kent Regiment, who was killed in action on June 29.

Midshipman Leonard John Bidwell, R.N., who was accidentally killed on July 17, was the son of Mrs. Bidwell, of 15, Upper Wimpole Street, W., and the late Leonard A. Bidwell, F.R.C.S., and the grandson of Sir J. Roper Parkington. Born in 1897, he joined the Royal Naval College, Osborne, in Easter term, 1910, and in H.M.S. Cumberland took part in the fighting in the Cameroon, where he was wounded in October, 1914. He was employed at the time of his death by the Admiralty on special service.

A cable was received in Alexandria on the 3rd inst. announcing that 2nd Lieutenant C. A. Wilkinson, of the Middlesex Regiment, had been wounded in France. Mr. Wilkinson, who was until some months ago sub-editor of the *Egyptian Gazette*, obtained his commission in Egypt and saw service in the western desert campaign.

The death took place at Cairo on June 27 of Negib Bey Azoury, proprietor of the *Times of Egypt*, and late manager for several years of the *Egyptian Morning News*.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Charge for Announcements under this Heading is 3s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTHS.

ALI BAIG.—On Sunday, July 16, 1916, at 1, Berkeley Place, Wimbledon, S.W., the wife of M. Abbas Ali Baig, of a son.

SELBY-LOWNDES.—On the 16th inst., at Rosefield, Bexhill-on-Sea, the wife of the Rev. G. N. Selby-Lowndes, C.F. (Temp.), Egypt, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

DIXON—TOOMBS.—On July 15, at St. Andrew's, Wells Street, W., by the Rev. W. S. Dixon, M.A., uncle of the bridegroom, assisted by the Rev. E. Lewis, Precentor, Ernest Harry Dixon, R.N.V.R., Anti-Aircraft Corps, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dixon, of 70, Kensington Gardens Square, W., to Josephine, younger daughter of the late Mr. George Toombs, of Bucharest, Roumania, and Mrs. Toombs, of Highgate.

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FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1916.

MESOPOTAMIA IN PARLIAMENT.

The growing dissatisfaction with the conduct of the Mesopotamian campaign led to a formal statement on the subject by the Prime Minister last Tuesday. In reply to the demand for the publication of despatches Mr. Asquith announced that the collection of papers dealing with the subject had been prepared by the India Office, and that the Army Council, after carefully considering them, was strongly opposed to their immediate publication, on the ground that such publication would furnish the enemy with valuable information. The Government felt bound to accept the view of their military advisers, and was obliged to refuse papers either on the Mesopotamian campaign or on the Dardanelles enterprise. Mr. Asquith admitted, however, that there were two main points in connection with Mesopotamia which appeared to be legitimately subjects for comment and criticism. These were, in the first place, the object and wisdom of the campaign, and, secondly, the actual conduct of the campaign. He promised that Parliament should have an opportunity of discussing these points, and then proceeded, as far as he was able, to cut away the ground from under the feet of possible critics. In regard to the first point, he declared that "from first to last the political have never been allowed to override the military considerations. Every step has been taken by the Government on the consentient advice of all its military authorities." On the subject of the medical arrangements, Mr. Asquith made the following statements:—That Sir John Nixon, at the end of last November, after the action at Ctesiphon, in a report from Busreh, stated that in his opinion the medical arrangements had been quite satisfactory; that in December and January reports from various sources seemed to point to a very different state of things, and in consequence of these reports the Commission of Inquiry was appointed in February; that the Commissioners, after having concluded their investigations on the spot, when asked whether any immediate action was called for, declared that in the conditions which existed when they left Mesopotamia everything possible was being done; that in May, presumably a few weeks after the Commissioners' declaration, Surgeon-General O'Donnell, having been sent out from France, reported that "in some respects at that time there was a shortage of necessaries," and, Mr. Asquith added, "every indication which he gave of deficiency has been peremptorily required to be made good." Finally, on the question of transport, "the Government are quite convinced that, in consequence of these careful examinations on the spot, the difficulties of transport are being largely remedied, and will soon, as far as local circumstances are concerned, completely disappear."

We have no wish to challenge the reasonableness of the Government contention that papers which would be worth publication might convey to the enemy knowledge which would be useful to him. It is difficult, however, to follow Mr. Asquith through his statement of the official case without arriving at the conclusion that the Cabinet entirely misunderstands the public attitude. The publication of despatches is asked for not from malicious motives or from love of criticism, but for the very reasons for which despatches are written—that, the officer commanding having rendered an account of his stewardship, the authorities over him may decide whether he has done well or badly, and have the benefit of his experience. If this work were satisfactorily done by those into whose hands it has been entrusted, there would be no demand for official papers. It is because the Government neglects to conduct the war in every single detail with the energy, determination, and thoroughness which the national spirit expects that despatches are called for as a means of enabling the public to decide how far short of its requirements the conduct of the war in reality is. What good purpose the Government hopes to serve by posing as the champions of muddle and ineptitude in the face of a national resolve to have things done properly it is difficult to say. There has been mismanagement in Mesopotamia. It is in the interests of the Government, even more so, indeed, it might be thought than in the interests of the public, to stop the evil and to take steps to see that it does not occur again. But, instead of adopting this course, the Cabinet appears to take sides with the mismanagement in an endeavour to cover it up and palliate it. Of course, this is not what actually happens; the mismanagement is duly investigated, and steps are taken to remedy it, but the absence of driving power at the source of authority and the failure to identify Government and people in a common endeavour to bring the war to a successful conclusion lend colour to the belief that either the Cabinet is incapable of recognizing incompetence, even when it is brought to its notice, or that there is not a mistake that has been made in the course of the war for which it is not in some way responsible.

In regard to Mesopotamia we cannot help thinking that the Government would have been well advised, in admitting, as it did, the mismanagement, to have announced that disciplinary measures had been taken in the proper quarters. Mr. Asquith, in his statement to the House of Commons on Tuesday, allowed that there was sufficient *primâ-facie* evidence of mismanagement to justify a discussion on unofficial reports, but he would not, or could not, admit that the Government had dealt with it in the only way possible in war-time. Can it be wondered that the nation in its present temper has little patience with half-truths and attempts to beat about the bush? Its confidence in the Government's honesty of purpose may remain unshaken; but confidence in its competence to deal with military matters in any shape or form is being more and more undermined. Mr. Asquith's own words point to a lack of grip somewhere. Sir John Nixon sends a report "at the end of last November, after the action at Ctesiphon . . . from Busreh." A month later his report is shown to have been inaccurate—for "a very different state of things" existed. Yet if the Government had been in touch with the situation in Mesopotamia, it would have known that Sir John Nixon's report could have no reference to the medical arrangements of General Townshend's force, as the latter was then falling back from Ctesiphon, and had not reached Kut. Moreover, General Nixon must have explained that he had himself been at Ctesiphon, and withdrew down the river ahead of the wounded; consequently, his statements could only have dealt with conditions at Busreh, if he succeeded in reaching that town before the end of November, or with conditions on his own transport, if he was still hurrying down the Tigris. Again, the statement that "from first to last the political have never been allowed to override the military considerations" must surely be classed with Mr. Asquith's amazing declaration of April 20, 1915—that there was no truth in the statement that our efforts in France were being crippled, or, at any rate, hampered, by want of ammunition. When confronted with the known facts of the case and with his own previous statement that the British advance on Baghdad had for its object, *inter alia*, "generally to maintain the authority of our flag in the East," the British public can only come to the conclusion that the Prime Minister is as little able to appreciate the position in Mesopotamia as he was the munition requirements of our Army last year. If the war is to be brought to an end within a reasonable time it is evident that there must be a tightening up of authority somewhere. The Prime Minister knows more on the subject of guns and shells to-day than he did when he encouraged munition workers to believe that the Army had all it wanted. In due course he may become equally conversant with events in Mesopotamia, and the situation will then show a similar improvement. In the meantime ignorance and flabbiness of purpose at the top must inevitably beget slackness and incompetence in subordinate spheres.

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SUPERSTITIONS IN SYRIA.

BY G. M. FARRELL.

One cannot be long in Syria without noticing the hold that superstition has upon the people. All sects and creeds, all classes, high and low, rich and poor, seem to be under the spell of "magic" in some form or other. This, of course, is largely due to ignorance; but not entirely so, as some educated people are very superstitious. Custom, no doubt, has much to do with it, for the people are very conservative, and do not readily give up the habits of years. As their fathers did so do they.

Sorcery.

One of the commonest forms of superstition in Syria to-day is the belief in sorcery. Men, women and children all practise it to a greater or less degree, and the credulity of the popular mind is marvellous. I came across a man, a shoemaker by trade, a Greek Orthodox by religion, whose fame as a sorcerer has spread far and wide, people of all sects and creeds consulting him on every conceivable subject. He lives in one of the villages of the Lebanon, plying his trade in both branches—shoes and sorcery. Is anything stolen? The people hurry off to him to find the thief. Has anyone failed to get letters from absent relatives abroad? Off they go to their "master," who will tell them the exact state of the son, brother, or husband who is away. Is anyone tormented by the "evil eye"? Is anyone sick? Every conceivable thing is discussed, and relief obtained—so the people declare!—through his agency.

This man drives a very brisk trade in charms, which he makes by stitching small pieces of leather together to form a case for some sacred writing, usually from the Gospel. These he calls "Kitabs," because they are written, "Kátábá" being the Arabic for writing, and "Kitab" being "book." I never had the curiosity to examine one of these "Kitabs"—my time was taken up in trying to get the sorcerer to give up the practice—so I only saw the outside of the little talismans, which were worn round the necks of the poor, ignorant people who bought them. Half a *beshlik* (about 3d.) was usually the price paid for one.

Many of the peasantry resort to sorcery as a means of livelihood. I know a pretty Druze girl—she is married now and has entirely given up the practice—who used this art. The common name for it is "Bossur," which means "seeing," or "the seeing one." Doubtless the name arises from the use of a bottle containing water, the sorcerer or sorceress claiming to see a figure—generally a negro—in the water. I remember once in a little gathering of Druze women and girls asking one of the latter, a "sorceress," to show me how the magic was done. She produced a glass of water, gazed at it for a few moments, and then said to her mother: "How is it, Mother? I can't do anything to-night." I had broken the spell!

It was somewhat amusing to be taken for a sorceress. I used to take a magic lantern about with me; and at first the people really thought it was magic. So much so that it created quite a controversy in one village, and I had to give up the obnoxious word "magic" and call my lantern "a lantern of pictures." Once in a Moslem village, away up under the Hermon range, quite a crowd of women and girls collected round me, and were much disappointed to find that I was not a witch!

Charms.

There are many kinds of charms and many ways of charming off evil spirits. The commonest charms are blue beads. Any person, animal, or thing that is greatly valued is adorned with one or more blue beads. Precious little boys have a blue bead sewn on to their tarboosh in front. Horses, mules and donkeys have trappings of blue beads. The greater the number no doubt the stronger the protection! Bones, rags, anything to distract the "evil eye"—and a blue one is worse than all!—are hung on fruit trees and over newly-built houses.

Sacred names and symbols are used to charm away evil spirits. The phrase, "In the name of God" is most frequent amongst Moslems and Druzes; and the names of innumerable saints and angels are used by the various Christian sects; also "Name of the Cross." A very strange custom amongst the members of the Greek Orthodox Church, especially in the villages, is to call their children, both girls and boys, by the names of wild beasts, "Wolf," "Leopard," etc. On asking the reason I was told: "That they may live"!

There are numerous superstitions connected with the seasons and months of the year, feast days, fast days, and so forth. Thus amongst the Greeks of the Orthodox Church, the dough is supposed to rise without being leavened on the Feast of the Epiphany, and leaven made from this dough must on no account be lent to anyone; although in the ordinary way dough, or rather leaven for it, is frequently borrowed from one's neighbour. February is feared by the aged, as there is a common saying that old people die in that month, so the "old ones" of the land are always thankful when February is past. Here, however, there may be some natural explanation of the superstition.

It is most "unlucky" to call anywhere immediately after having visited a house of mourning. And—as in certain other lands, which consider themselves far more enlightened—the howling of a dog and the screeching of an owl are both regarded as "signs of a death."

Evil Spirits.

Evil spirits are still active in the land. They are of various kinds. The Jann, familiar to all readers of the "Arabian Nights," are the most common. All kinds of evil spirits are supposed to be most active at night, and for that reason people are afraid to be out after dark, and no one will sleep in a room without a light burning all night. When muleteers are obliged to travel by night they tie bells on their animals, the noise being supposed to frighten away the evil spirits.

An eclipse is a specially unlucky event; and during a lunar eclipse one night in Lebanon, when I was aroused from my peaceful slumbers by shouts and banging of tin cans to drive away the devil, I was not disposed to dispute this particular belief! Comets also are the precursors of terrible things and woes innumerable.

It is very unlucky to mention Satan. If you do so, someone invariably says hastily: "Satan is a stranger." But though it is unlucky to mention the Devil, as a person, those who are "clever" or "strong" are often likened to Satan!

The "Afreet" is a mischief-loving demon, and mothers, in joke, often call their babies "afreet" or "afreetè," the latter form being the feminine, to show how intelligent they are.

The Christians use the sign of the cross for luck, chalking it on the doors of their houses or on any part of their property. They also constantly ejaculate "Ism al Saleeb" when anything astonishes them, or if they are in any danger. The Maronites, however, more generally exclaim: "Oh, our Lady Mary!" Names of the saints are also used by all the Christian sects, and pictures of saints, cheap gaudy-coloured prints, are pinned up in their houses. The Moslems and Druzes write sentences from the Koran, which are used as charms, enclosed in tin cases by the poor, and in gold and silver by the rich, and worn. Writing incantations is much practised among the Druzes, and is a constant source of terror to the weak-minded. Some poor peasants have, indeed, been driven out of their minds by this practice.

Sentences from the Koran are printed, framed, and hung up in their houses. And both books—the Bible and the Koran—are placed on the heads of those who are sick. The Koran is carefully put away, and only brought out on special occasions to be used as a charm by the ignorant peasantry. It matters little if the words are not understood; the great thing is to repeat them over and over again.

Survival of Tree Worship.

Old trees abound in the country, and a certain superstitious reverence still seems to attach to some of them. The oak was apparently a very sacred tree in the past, for there are traces of old altars under it in various parts of the country, and the tombs of "holy men" are also frequently placed under its shadow. Near Baruk there is a venerable oak known as "Sitt" (or Lady) Sarah, and people flock to it from villages miles around, to tie bits of rag to its branches. Whether this is evidence of a survival of tree-worship I cannot pretend to say, but it is clear that those who tie the rags to the tree do so in the hope of "bringing luck," just as is the case with regard to similar practices throughout other parts of Turkey and the Near East generally. The East has been called the "home of superstition," and Syria is perhaps no more superstitious than other countries in the East—or even, if we could see into the hearts of men, of the West as well.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Mesopotamia and the Dardanelles.

In considering "The Demand for 'Papers'" in connection with the Dardanelles campaign and the Mesopotamian operations a military correspondent of the *Morning Post* (July 18) asks:—"Is this a time for raking up and squabbling over past events? Do members of Parliament, when they demand 'papers,' want to have incomplete and garbled accounts? Can they seriously suppose that the full facts are going to be disclosed with regard to any military undertakings actually in progress? If they do, we sorely need a Cromwell to send them about their business." As to the Dardanelles, he reminds us that:—

We are not fighting the Central Powers and the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria all by ourselves. We have Allies, and our Allies were not wholly unconcerned in the attempt upon the Dardanelles. The primary object of the undertaking was to open to Entente shipping, for the benefit of Russia, the great waterway that joins the Black Sea to the Ægean. It is unreasonable, on the face of it, to imagine that Russia did not contemplate participating in some form or other in an enterprise to which British and French naval and military forces were committed for her special advantage. Nor does it seem to be beyond the bounds of possibility that the situation in the Near East had been considerably altered from the Russian point of view, between the early part of 1915 (when the Dardanelles affair took shape) and the middle of the year (when its success had become extremely doubtful), by changes which had taken place in the military position in Galicia and Poland in the meantime. Then, again, there is the fact that the French participated in the undertaking both on land and on the sea, and there is the further fact that the Dardanelles operations became mixed up with another set of operations altogether—the Salonika campaign. There are, moreover, some grounds for believing that British and French views as to the latter enterprise have not always been absolutely identical; the whole history of war, indeed, proves that the views of Allies seldom are completely in accord on all points, and it would be extraordinary if they always were. To lay incomplete papers on the Table of the House would be highly improper. To lay complete papers must necessitate reference to actions and agreements on the part of our Allies to some extent, and it would in all likelihood involve allusions to the Salonika operations which are still in progress

As to the Mesopotamian campaign, he observes that it differs from the Dardanelles undertaking "in that we are in the thick of it still, and this makes the production of official documents and correspondence even more objectionable than it would be in the other case."

There do, at the same time, seem to be some points in connection with the Tigris operations, as these now stand, on which the public have a right to learn something. Distressing accounts have reached this country concerning the sufferings of the wounded, and with regard to inadequate hospital arrangements at a stage of the undertaking which we may now hope has passed. We are entitled to know whether that sullied leaf has really been turned over, and to be assured that the injured and the sick now receive such prompt attention, and are now being taken to the rear in such reasonable comfort, as the soldiers of a mighty Empire have a right to expect. Disclosures on this subject, be they satisfactory or be they the reverse, will convey little information to the enemy of a nature to assist the hostile plans. But that is a totally different thing from official announcements to the effect that the Tigris Expeditionary Force is, or is not, provided with necessary equipment of all kinds.

It is the writer's opinion that "no complete or fair investigation can take place at the present time," owing to the difficulties surrounding such investigation; and that all attention should be concentrated until the business is over on the object of winning the war. Which seems to be sound advice.

Machiavellianism.

Sir W. M. Ramsay contributes to *Land and Water* (July 13) a deeply interesting article entitled "The Kaiser as a Diplomatist," in which he outlines what he considers the Kaiser's policy in the Balkans to have aimed at—and very nearly achieved. We quote the concluding portion of this article. The author has been pointing out how Bulgaria, acting on German instigation, as he holds, had prepared to deliver her treacherous blow at Greece, secretly concentrating her army "in large force in a great camp not very far from Salonika," and taking extraordinary measures to prevent the secret from leaking out. He continues:—

The blow was struck suddenly, without warning or declaration of war, at the weak point of the opposing line. And it failed disastrously. Here the Kaiser's diplomacy showed itself completely successful. A weak Bulgaria was what he needed: the strength of any one of the Balkan Powers was an impediment in the way of Austro-German strategy, which did not want any one of these Powers to be strong enough to make a bid for Salonika, or to be anything but a mere slave of the Austro-German Government. The way to the Ægean harbour must be kept completely under the influence, if not actually in the possession of Austria, just as the way to Constantinople must be kept absolutely under the influence of Germany.

The Kaiser, therefore, encouraged Greece privately, and warned it of the impending Bulgarian stroke. A strategic plan was indicated to the King, and all preparations were made by the Greeks to meet the sudden blow. Thus it came about that everything on the Greek side was ready at the critical moment; and the Bulgarians, in place of attacking an unprepared army, peacefully encamped, found an army in the highest pitch of carefully prepared strength, ready to meet the attack at that particular point. The Kaiser's diplomacy was here entirely successful. He relieved Greece, he posed as the friend of Greece in that country, just as of Bulgaria at Sofia and of Turkey at Constantinople.

As an illustration of the difficult feat of running with the hare and hunting with the hounds, this would be hard to beat. But the facts seem to fit in quite easily with what the world now recognizes as the policy of the Kaiser and of Germany. The writer goes on to say that the weakness of Greece, Bulgaria, and Turkey is "equally necessary for the success of German plans":—

Greece has ever since been pluming itself on the generalship which foresaw and prepared for the Bulgarian attack; but the Kaiser gets the gratitude and the services of those who knew and those who governed Greece. Bulgaria, having once put itself in slavery, remains the helpless slave of the Kaiser and the bound ally of Turkey. Turkey has suffered most of all; but the dominant party knows that it must obey Germany or be precipitated from power. When Austro-German forces attacked Serbia in 1915 Greece was ready at the proper moment to join, and thus a new Balkan alliance of Bulgaria, Turkey, and Greece would have come into operation. The inevitable result would have been to force Roumania into the same boat, for there was no one to help her.

From this result the world was saved by the foresight and energy of France, which, hard pressed at home, sent troops to Salonika and induced Britain, slowly at first, to join in. But the Kaiser's diplomacy was within an ace of achieving a triumphant success.

Serbia on the Rack.

Under the title "Serbia's Reign of Terror," the *Daily Graphic* published last Friday an article by Mr. G. Gordon Smith, who endeavours to answer the question, "What are the conditions in Serbia under the conquerors?" He writes:—

This question is not easy to answer, as the invaders leave no stone unturned to establish a Chinese wall between the conquered territory and the outer world. Very little news is allowed to filter through. But, in spite of martial law and repression in every shape and form, slowly, but surely, the story of the terrible plight of Serbia is beginning to be known. I have obtained it from sources that are above suspicion. It does not make pleasant reading.

It does not! Many of the details given would not be new to readers of THE NEAR EAST, who have been informed of the efforts made by the Bulgarians to "Bulgarize" the "conquered" territory. But since the terrible state of Serbia cannot be kept too much to the fore, we quote one paragraph:—

As a preliminary to the installing of Austrian rule in Northern Serbia, the Germans paved the way for their allies by instituting a reign of terror on the most approved Belgian lines. It is even forbidden, under pain of death, to criticise the acts of the Austrians. The Serbian prisoners of war are practically being treated like slaves by their German conquerors. The sanitary condition is terrible. At Zemuri an outbreak of Asiatic cholera took place among the imprisoned Serbians, and a further outbreak has occurred at Metkovich. But the chief ravage in Serbia is being caused by an epidemic of tuberculosis, a disease almost unknown in Serbia. This is the result of the privations endured by the starving population. There are cases in almost every house in Belgrade and other towns. The terrible plight of the unfortunate population excites no pity among their Austrian conquerors, who are carrying out a régime of "Austrianisation" with great severity.

It is interesting also to note that "the Austrians have officially announced that King Peter and all members of the Karageorgevitch dynasty are exiled for ever from Serbian territory. In order to emphasise this decision, the monument to Karageorge, the founder of the dynasty, erected in the Kalimegdan Park in Belgrade, has been destroyed." We need only observe that "for ever" is a rather strong expression, especially for use in an "official announcement."

Wounded at Ctesiphon.

"At Ctesiphon" is the title of an article in the current *Blackwood* which gives a very vivid picture of certain phases of the battle, in which the writer took part, and of the incredible hardships which our wounded had to suffer before reaching hospital—if they were fortu-

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nate enough to do so at all. Here are two paragraphs describing the trying period of waiting for the battle to begin:—

The bank of the water-channel, while providing excellent cover from view, would not have protected us properly from shell fire, so we started to dig ourselves in. By daybreak we were safely entrenched and could hear a good deal of gun and rifle fire going on to the south of us. We were compelled, however, to content ourselves with hearing, since to have looked over the edge of our bank would probably have given away our position to the Turks.

We sat in the trenches and had "breakfast." This consisted of two or three biscuits and a tiny tin of potted-meat from our haversacks; the whole was washed down with a little water out of our bottles, though it went against the grain to tap what might be our entire supply for the next two days. After "breakfast" we continued to wait in our trenches. It was a trying time, listening to a battle which we could not see, but in which we expected momentarily to take part. The monotony was broken by such little interludes as the discomfiture of Corporal K., who was next to me, and down whose neck a shower of mould was suddenly shot. The cause was not enemy's shrapnel, but the eagerness of a Sepoy orderly to keep off the skyline while leaping across the top of the trench. No one was sorry to get a good laugh.

Another incident of a humorous character is thus described:—

When we withdrew, I noticed the man next to me, a bomber who had been carrying his rifle all day with a grenade fixed in it, waiting for a good target at close quarters. As I looked at him there was a click, and a bullet took the stock clean off his rifle. We could not help being amused at the misadventure; he was so very surprised, and rather annoyed at having to go through the business of fixing his precious grenade on to another rifle.

The writer's description of what he and other wounded had to go through, owing apparently to lack of adequate arrangements, is extraordinarily vivid. We can quote only two short passages, but advise our readers to study the article in the original:—

All the wounded were hastily put in a deep communication trench, and I found myself sitting cross-kneed and wedged in with a lot of others, most of whom were unable even to change their positions. Indeed, I was barely able to move my left arm. The shells continued to come over, and when one landed on the parapet just in front of me, I began to wonder what would happen if they dropped one into the trench, packed as it was with wounded and helpless men.

There came a lull in the firing on our front, and the Medical Officer came round and told us that all who could possibly get away were to do so. I decided to take my chance rather than risk being captured. It was not an easy matter to get out of the trench, and after I had been helped on to the parapet could scarcely stand up, so cramped was I after sitting for fifteen hours in one position. Luckily I saw a Jaipur cart coming out of the perimeter, and managed to get on to it with about three badly wounded sepoys more or less on the top of me. Hardly had we got on than the Turks opened a fresh fusillade all round us, and the bullets began to fly unpleasantly close. Our best chance was to bolt, and I got the driver to whip his ponies into a gallop. . . . . We were thrown against each other mercilessly, and could not have borne a much quicker speed. Luck, however, was with us; the rifle fire died down, and by daybreak we were out of immediate danger.

Articles to Note.

"The Roumanian Factor," by J. A. R. Marriott, in the *Edinburgh Review* (July).

"East and West," by the Earl of Cromer, O.M., in the *Quarterly Review* (July).

"The Delay in the Balkans," by West F. de Wend-Fenton, and "Celebrities at Home—The Hon. Aubrey Nigel Herbert, M.P., F.R.G.S., in the *World* (July 18).

"Serbian Saints and Sinners" (report of an address given at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on July 2, by Fr. Nicolai Velimirovitch, D.D.), in the *Church Times* (July 14).

"Responsibilities in Mesopotamia" (July 14) and "More About Mesopotamia" (July 15), in *The Times*.

"France et Roumanie," by Léo Claretie; and "La 'Nation Serbe en France,'" in *Correspondance d'Orient* (July 10).

"Greek Crisis: The New Régime," by Dr. E. J. Dillon, in the *Daily Telegraph* (July 15).

An official return of aliens registered at the Home Office as naturalised in this country in 1915 shows that there were thus registered 1 Bulgarian, 9 Greek, 31 Roumanian, and 12 Ottoman subjects.

A Turkish official *communiqué* states that the operations against the Russians on the Persian front are developing in their favour with the assistance of the Persian Mudjahids. The latter are well organized by Riza Mel Sultaneh.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Operations in Mesopotamia. July 13.

Viscount MIDLETON asked whether, if the Government were not in a position at the present time to publish complete papers with regard to the operations in Mesopotamia, it would be possible to furnish information with regard to the failure of transport, hospital service, and medical and other supplies, or to appoint a Committee of Inquiry which would be able to satisfy Parliament and the country on matters about which there was serious misgiving.

The Duke of SOMERSET said he had an opportunity that morning of reading three or four very long letters from officers who had been serving in Mesopotamia. He could assure their Lordships that the cruelties our men must have suffered through the utter incompetence of the authorities, both in India and at home, were simply too disgraceful. He would give one or two instances. In one case a thousand wounded were sent down in a ship, with one medical officer and one orderly to look after the whole of them. They were all mixed up together—men with dysentery and men with shattered limbs all in the same ship, and there was not a bit of morphia or a drop of chloroform. One officer who was sent down wounded never had his wound dressed from the time he was picked up until he got to Bombay. He could give other instances, but he had been asked not to speak further on the subject, because there was to be a debate. He could assure their Lordships, however, that it was the most disgraceful thing he had ever read.

The Marquess of CREWE said that since Lord Midleton last raised this question he had been in consultation with more than one of his colleagues on the subject. It was evident that the feelings of people both in that House and out of it were deeply stirred by what they had heard. He understood that the Prime Minister would make a statement regarding papers on Tuesday in the House of Commons and he (the speaker) would ask their Lordships to allow him to make one on the same day.

Mesopotamia and the Dardanelles. July 18.

The Marquess of CREWE, in reply to the Marquess of Salisbury, made a statement similar to that made by Mr. Asquith in the House of Commons, to the effect that it was impossible at present to present papers with regard either to the Dardanelles Expedition or the Mesopotamia Campaign. He added that Lord Wemyss had put down a motion for Thursday dealing with the subject, and their Lordships would probably prefer to postpone until then anything like a general discussion. It certainly was not the desire of the Government to evade or avoid an inquiry.

Viscount MIDLETON said that, although noble Lords had pressed for the publication of papers, he did not think they had failed on any occasion to respond to an appeal from the Government for non-publication of papers the issue of which might impair the use of our troops or their position in regard to the war. He felt sure noble Lords, on that side of the House, at all events, would be willing to acquiesce in the very disappointing decision which had been conveyed to them.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

For Prisoners in Bulgaria. July 13.

Mr. FORSTER, replying to Mr. R. Gwynne, said, that although it was essentially the duty of the Bulgarian Government to clothe its prisoners of war properly, the War Office, far from refusing to recognise the needs of British prisoners in Bulgaria, had been trying for some time past to discover a sure means of despatch for articles of clothing required. Arrangements were made a short time ago which would, it was hoped, prove satisfactory.

Greece and the Allies. July 17.

Sir E. CORNWALL asked whether the Foreign Under-Secretary would state the terms of the last Allied Note to the Greek Government; and whether he could give any information as to the nature of the Greek reply and the extent to which the demobilisation of the Greek army had been carried out.

Lord ROBERT CECIL said that the Government could not lay an Allied Note before Parliament except after consultation and in agreement with their Allies. It was undesirable to make public statements in detail about the demobilisation of armies. It would perhaps be sufficient to say that the relations with the present Greek Government were satisfactory.

Medical Arrangements in Mesopotamia.

Sir H. CRAIK asked whether steps would be taken to procure the prompt production of the report upon the medical arrangements for the Mesopotamian Expedition.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: I have asked the Viceroy to expedite the consideration of the report by the authorities in India, and to transmit it to me with their observations as early as possible.

Sir H. CRAIK: Could not a summary of the report and the chief recommendations be submitted by telegram?

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: I think the House will see it is right that, before the report is published, the Government of India should have an opportunity of examining it, and that the Government at home should have the same opportunity. I gather that my hon. friend's anxiety is lest something should now be left undone which can be done to ameliorate the conditions. I am informed by the Viceroy that he specifically put that question to Sir W. Vincent and General Bingley, and that they both replied that

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there was nothing now to be done in anticipation of the full consideration of their report.

The Dardanelles— July 18.

Mr. ASQUITH said that, with the leave of the House, he had during the last few days postponed answering several questions regarding the presentation of papers on the subject of the Dardanelles and Mesopotamia. He now proposed to answer them. With regard to the Dardanelles, the Colonial Secretary, on the motion for the adjournment at Easter, undertook to present papers, subject to two limitations: first, that there might be documents of so confidential a character that they ought not to be published; and, next, that it might be necessary to withhold some papers which might give information useful to the enemy with regard to operations still in progress. That statement was made after consultation with the speaker, and with his full authority. Until the papers were actually gone through, it was impossible to judge how far the observance of those limitations would detract from the comprehensiveness of the information that could be published. Each of the three Departments concerned—the Admiralty, War Office, and Foreign Office—was asked in the first instance to make a compilation of its own papers. The result of the examination by these Departments had been that the naval, military, and diplomatic advisers of the Government had informed the War Committee that they were unanimously of opinion that the publication at the present time of the papers could not be made, consistently with the reservations laid down by Mr. Bonar Law, without omissions so numerous and so important that the papers actually presented would be incomplete and misleading. The Government, therefore, felt that the presentation of the papers must be postponed.

—And Mesopotamia.

In regard to Mesopotamia (Mr. Asquith continued), the collection of papers had been prepared in the India Office and circulated to the Departments concerned for examination. After carefully examining them, the Army Council were strongly opposed to their immediate publication on the ground that such publication would furnish the enemy with information of value to him under existing conditions; and it was the opinion of the Imperial General Staff that the publication would prejudice the success of the operations now in progress in Mesopotamia. The Government felt bound to accept this advice. "But," the Prime Minister went on to say, "I do not wish to leave the matter there. The operations in Mesopotamia have excited, and are exciting a widespread interest and anxiety." There are two main points which appear to be legitimate subjects for comment and criticism. The first is the object and wisdom of the campaign itself, and particularly of the advance on Baghdad; and the second is the manner in which the campaign was conducted. In regard to the first point, I will only for the moment say this, that from first to last the political have never been allowed to override the military considerations; every step has been taken by the Government on the consentient advice of all its military authorities. In regard to the second point, there undoubtedly have been and are incidents which arouse anxiety and doubt as to whether the best means have been adopted to secure the ends in view. In particular the points which exercise public attention have been the medical provision for the sick and wounded, and, to some extent, perhaps, the provision of food for the troops, and, still more important, the question of transport. All these points, I agree, invite and deserve debate. I should like to say, without entering into any controversial matter in a statement like this, that in regard to the medical provision for sickness and for wounded soldiers, Sir John Nixon, the General who was then in command, at the end of last November, after the action at Ctesiphon, in a report made to the Secretary for India from Busreh, stated that in his opinion the medical arrangements had been quite satisfactory. In the months of December and January my right hon. friend and other members of the Government received from various sources statements of an unofficial character which seemed to point to a very different state of things, and accordingly, I think early in February, the Government of India appointed a Commission of inquiry consisting of highly competent persons, who were despatched to Mesopotamia and directed to investigate the whole of these matters fully, with the object, if possible, of attaching responsibility to those who were answerable for the failure to make due provision in these respects. That Commission went to Mesopotamia early in March and spent something like two months in a thorough and exhaustive examination on the spot, both at the base and at the front, of the condition of things, and their report has now been received by the Government of India. The Government of India, before transmitting it home, have asked that General Sir Beauchamp Duff, the Commander-in-Chief in India, should be allowed to submit his observations upon it. But in reply to a question put to them by the Viceroy the Commissioners declared that in the conditions which existed when they left Mesopotamia everything possible was being done. Not satisfied with that, we also despatched one of the most eminent of our medical officers in France, who went out early in May. He made a report which showed that in some respects at that time there was a shortage of necessaries, and every indication which he gave of deficiency has been peremptorily required to be made good.

I pass from that to the question of transport, which is the most important of all. There, again, we have had two inquiries made—first by Sir G. Buchanan, an expert in river navigation, who was despatched early in the year by the Government of India, and who has twice exhaustively reviewed the geographical conditions from the point of view of river transport; and the other by General Gilmour, a distinguished Staff officer, who was sent by the War Office here in March, and who examined not only the river but the whole question of accelerating the transport. The Government are quite convinced that, in consequence of these careful examinations on the spot, the difficulties of transport are being largely remedied and will soon, as far as local circumstances are concerned, completely disappear. It is only fair to remember that when the Expedition was first sent it consisted of two divisions. I do not believe there has been any military expedition more skilfully and ably conducted in its early stages; but in consequence of the reverses which subsequently occurred, and in particular the beleaguerment of General Townshend at Kut, the expedition was increased to seven divisions; and the urgency of relieving General Townshend was such that it was thought right to push the troops on ahead, apart from their transport, in the hope that his relief might be effected. I believe it will be found on examination that the substantial part of the difficulties connected with transport are due to the promptitude and rapidity of action with enormous increase in the numbers of men which were thought necessary for the immediate purpose.

I do not want in a statement of this kind to enter upon any controversial matter, but I think it right to say so much in order that the House may realise that for months past this matter has engaged the most careful and daily attention both of the Government of India and the Government here at home. But I agree that it is desirable that an early opportunity should be afforded to the House of reviewing the whole matter, and bringing out in detail, as many hon. members are well qualified to do, the special information they have received or are in possession of, bearing on allegations with regard to the conduct of the campaign. I would therefore suggest to the House that we might devote Thursday to a discussion of the matter. I hope that that suggestion may meet the general acceptance of the House.

Sir E. CARSON.—As I understand the statement of the right hon. gentleman, we are to have a review of the whole matter without any papers. May I suggest that we might at all events have the reports from which he has quoted, or to which he has referred? May I also ask why a definite promise is made in this House of the production of papers on matters which are causing the gravest anxiety in the country without taking beforehand the views of the military authorities as to whether or not the papers can be given? Again, will it be open to us as far as we have information on the discussion of this terrible business in Mesopotamia to raise the question of what was the provision for armament for the troops, and whether they were asked to fight these battles with obsolete guns, and questions of that kind? When the right hon. gentleman talks of the reports that he has now received regarding stores and transports, may I ask him whether he could not lay upon the table of the House the information that the Government had beforehand, of what would be necessary for stores and transports, because it occurs generally to the public that it is not after disaster, but before the operations begin, that these reports upon the necessities of stores and transports ought to be made?

Mr. J. REDMOND: May I ask the Prime Minister whether it is his intention that on Thursday the question of the Dardanelles should be discussed as well as that of Mesopotamia? It seems to me that it would be as easy to have a satisfactory discussion on rumours and on private information about the Dardanelles, as it would be on the question of Mesopotamia. The right hon. gentleman spoke of several inquiries or investigations which are being made with regard to the Mesopotamia scandal. I should like to ask him has any investigation been made with regard to the Dardanelles scandal? He told us some time ago that there could not be a proper investigation of the Dardanelles scandal, because all the persons chiefly concerned in the transaction were at the other side of the world. I believe I am right in saying that every one of them is in this country now. Why should there not also be an investigation into the Dardanelles question?

Mr. CHURCHILL: In regard to the Dardanelles, can the right hon. gentleman say whether Lord Kitchener was consulted as to the propriety and convenience of laying those papers on the table?

Mr. ASQUITH: I had many conversations with Lord Kitchener on the subject. Since my right hon. friend has introduced his name in connection with the presentation of papers, I may say that the publication of these papers is rendered difficult by the death of Lord Kitchener.

Mr. CHURCHILL: Are we to understand that Lord Kitchener agreed to and approved of the declaration of the Prime Minister that the papers should be published?

Mr. ASQUITH: I did not consult him on that particular occasion. I am sure he would have done. I spoke to him afterwards on the subject.

Mr. A. HERBERT: While it is obviously undesirable that when a campaign is in progress papers should be published, will the Prime Minister consider the possibility and advisability of publishing the medical papers in regard to the Mesopotamia campaign?

Mr. ASQUITH: We have not got the Vincent report; it is still in India.

British Prisoners in Turkey. July 19.

Mr. FORSTER, answering an inquiry by Mr. M. Barlow whether he was aware that parcels sent to British prisoners in Turkey failed to arrive, and whether he could do anything to secure a more satisfactory arrangement, said:—I fear that the facts are as stated in the question as regards the prisoners taken in Mesopotamia. I am informed that, notwithstanding all the efforts of the United States Ambassador at Constantinople—for which efforts his Majesty's Government are very grateful—it has been impossible as yet to learn where the greater number of the British prisoners just referred to are interned. Unless parcels are accurately addressed the eventual receipt of them by the addressee is of course doubtful. The United States Embassy in Constantinople are doing all they can to obtain accurate information as to the location of the British prisoners in Turkey, and to get this information as soon as possible.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

According to all accounts, coal is coming into Constantinople again from Zunguldak with almost regular frequency. On the other hand, news of Russian naval successes in the Black Sea seem to be on the wane, which may account for the renewed running of coal down through the Bosphorus. Again—and this may be the real reason of this unfortunate *contretemps*—it is reported on good authority that the Boches have been able to send several large submarines to the Golden Horn, and their raids into the Black Sea have obliged the Russian Fleet to be more wary in their movements. This notwithstanding, it seems to me that a few fast-steaming destroyers and smaller craft could be advantageously used in interfering with Constantinople's coal supply, even if the bombardment of the quays and wharves at Zunguldak is at present impracticable. The less coal allowed to be run through the Bosphorus, the more rapid will be the collapse at Stamboul.

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At the recent meeting of the Shell Transport and Trading Company, the Chairman, Sir Marcus Samuel, made a passing reference to the Egyptian Oilfields, and said that the territory in which the company had a large stake "continued disappointing." It may be as well to point out that, as has been mentioned previously in these columns, there are mining engineers and oil experts in Egypt who maintain that the disappointing results hitherto obtained are due to the fact that no deep-boring, in the modern acceptation of the word, has ever been attempted on the company's properties. The oil deposits which have been tapped up to now are "shallow," and until the presence or absence of deep oil has been proven, no judgment can be passed on Egypt as an oil-producer. Perhaps, if the company's experts were to give a fair trial to deep boring, the disappointing character of their territory would improve. Incidentally, I am pleased to note from the chairman's speech that the Anglo-Egyptian Company controlled by the "Shell" is not working at a loss "at present." Moreover, and as regards the Roumanian "Astra Romana," Sir Marcus stated that the "Shell" have not and never have had any representation on the board of that company, and did not follow its operations. He was able to inform the meeting, however, that the production of the Astra in 1915 amounted to 341,532 tons, as against 466,604 tons in 1914, the reduction being due to the Roumanian prohibition of exports of benzine and liquid fuel. Nevertheless, in spite of this, the company was paying a larger dividend than in the preceding year.

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Apropos my note last week relating to direct representation of British firms in Egypt, I am glad to see that at the annual conference of the Northern and Midland Federation of Commercial Travellers" Associations, held at Birmingham recently, this matter of foreign representation was discussed. The secretary of the Association read a paper, in which he argued that "it would be to the immense advantage, not only of the British commercial travellers, but to British commerce itself, that British manufacturers should in future be represented by trained commercials of their own country." This I regard as sound common-sense, and I hope soon to see that merchants and shippers themselves have taken the matter up. After all, the decision rests with them and not with the travellers and the Press, who can only advise.

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I have much pleasure this week in introducing readers of THE NEAR EAST to a new contributor who will, from time to time, furnish us with information regarding commercial and industrial developments in Morocco. He is particularly well placed in commercial circles in the country, and readers of THE NEAR EAST may rely upon him for accuracy and insight. In his Notes this week our correspondent describes several new schemes connected with road communications and new port works which will not fail to be of interest to British merchants and exporters who were interested in the country before the war, and who hope to renew those interests profitably after the struggle has come to an end.

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Not the least interesting of his remarks is that in which he refers to the development of Tangier. He says, it will be noted, that with the establishment there of a large port, and the development of the Tangier-Fez line, Algiers will find a very formidable rival. The last time I was at the latter port, which was shortly before the war broke out, I was greatly impressed by the boundless activity which continued from early morning to evening. The harbour was full of shipping, representing all the great maritime Powers of Europe; but even then it was apparent that Germany had a great deal to say in the matter of trade. The officials were all French, of course, and so far, at least, we may be sure that there has been no Germanisation of the essential institutions of the port and city. I am almost ashamed to say that I entered the harbour in a North German-Lloyd steamer, and I remember now that the chief officer, with true Hunnish arrogance, predicted that the time was coming when his "pals" would dominate the port. Since then the war has come and, I should say, put an end to whatever hopes the Germans might have had in this respect. I cannot say, of course, what has been happening in the meantime; but if things have been kept going it ought to be a long time before Tangier will be able to claim to be a successful rival of Algiers. We must wait and see, however.

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Mr. Charles Plowden, chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce for Italy, who is not unknown in Egypt, is, I see, visiting the Manchester Chamber this month, and will discuss there trade relations between Lancashire and Italy after the war. I mention this because it would seem that other Chambers in the Mediterranean could do worse than follow the example.

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Frequent reference has been made in these columns to the mineral wealth of Serbia, and I am inclined to think that after the war the City will be asked to take more than a mere passing interest in the country's mining possibilities. Copper is, of course, Serbia's greatest known asset, and French capital controls the largest mine. There are smaller mines, however, of only desultory exploitation, which are deserving of more energy and attention; besides, in all probability the enemy have, within the past year, been actively engaged in working all available copper mines. In Belgrade, before the war, it was an open secret that the Austrians knew more about the economic possibilities of Serbia than did the Serbs, and Austria's mining engineers and geologists overran the country in search of likely mineral deposits. Some of these will, in all probability, have known the miner's spade by now, and thus, when the Serbs return to their hearths and homes, they will find that the enemy has perforce been obliged to do them a good turn, as he has also done, willy-nilly, in the case of railway construction.

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But copper is not the country's only mineral asset. Strata of coal—hard, soft, and lignite—are numerous, and the output of silver, lead, and antimony has grown within recent years. Gold has been mined, likewise, in the south-west of Old Serbia, and there seems to be good foundation for its reported presence in practical quantities along the upper reaches and tributaries of the Vardar. The exploitation, however, of Serbia's mineral wealth requires capital, and it is to be hoped that, when the time comes, the City will not turn a deaf ear to attractive proposals. It is in the interests of both Serbia and the Empire that the links which unite us now should be strengthened in the near future, and that Serbia's mineral output should find a ready market in this country rather than in Germany.

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If I may judge from some correspondence in the *Malta Daily Chronicle*, there are people on the island who are looking for opportunities to get rich quickly. Following the example of some people in England, it is said they are trying to corner foodstuffs, and have made a beginning with potatoes. One correspondent offers to produce evidence that certain farmers are holding on to their crops of potatoes and refusing to sell, as they hope to induce the authorities to permit larger exports and to raise the maximum price to local consumers. Surely a contemptible way of "building up" trade, and I hope the authorities will "jump" on the offenders very promptly and heavily. The Malta potato trade is a pretty profitable one, and there is no need to resort to methods of that sort. I am told that merchants have been refusing to accept so good a price as 6d. per pesa; as Irish seed potatoes can be bought in the Valletta market at 4d. or 5d., the cupidity of the "ring" needs little comment.

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To what extent is the war affecting the weather? A summer such as the one we are experiencing here is rare—and disagreeable; in Germany, in parts, the crops have been wrecked by the continual showers, and, according to our Roumanian Correspondent, quoted last week, the heavy rainfalls in Moldavia, near the fighting in the Bukovina, have caused great damage in agricultural districts. The Russian artillery, it is believed in Roumania, is the cause of the wet weather, and I see no reason why the bursting of high explosives, on a scale of intensity never achieved before, should not affect atmospheric conditions.

COMMENTATOR.

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Industry and Commerce in Palestine.

Palestine at the moment is more or less a closed book, but, thanks to an excellent little work which has just been published by John Murray (Albemarle Street, London, W.), we are able to obtain an inside view of a great industrial movement which, given fair conditions, ought to open up great possibilities of profitable trade after the war. "Zionism and the Jewish Future" is rather a curious subject to find in the commercial columns of THE NEAR EAST, but Mr. H. Sacher, the editor of the book in question, has succeeded in securing at least two chapters which will not fail in interest to all who have, or who hope to have, commercial relations in that part of the Near East.

Agricultural Colonies.

In the chapter on "The Jews and the Economic Development of Palestine," Mr. S. Tolkowsky, agricultural engineer, Jaffa, describes at length, and in interesting fashion, the establishment of the agricultural colonies for which Sir Moses Montefiore did so much so long ago as 1854. But more than two centuries earlier, we are told, it was "reported that the Jews of Palestine were engaged in the cultivation of cotton, cereals, and vegetables, and in the rearing of silkworms and bees." This early activity in industrial pursuits, however, did not last, and we are told that a century ago the 8,000 or 10,000 Jews who inhabited Palestine were strictly confined to a few towns, and had no relations with any Jewish community outside the country. That was the condition, apparently, in which Sir Moses found them, for it was only after he had visited the country several times that he determined to see what could be done for his co-religionists. We need not go over all the troubled and difficult ground which Sir Moses had to traverse before he could achieve his object: that would be a wearisome task, and unnecessary withal. Sufficient to say that by 1908 there were many prosperous colonies in existence, and in 1910 it was considered a sound proposition to found the Palestine Land Development Company, Limited, to purchase land, and to resell it to private individuals. This company and the Jewish Bank (the Anglo-Palestine Company) have been factors of considerable bearing on the development of Palestine.

The opinion has frequently been expressed that Jews are incapable of becoming good agriculturists. The sociologists and economists who held and preached this opinion have been proved to be wrong, for Jewish agriculture has been a wonderful success in Palestine. At the beginning the new farmers were met by most adverse conditions. The writer tells us:—

> In a country where fodder, and, in consequence, cattle and manure, are scanty, the Arabs for centuries have practised a system of tillage which has seriously impoverished the soil; moreover, the yield of their crops is very meagre. Thanks to a wise use of chemical manure and the cultivation of green manures, destined to restore to the land the fertilising elements of which the crops have robbed it, the Jews have succeeded in increasing the productive qualities of the soil to a marked degree; while, at the same time, the employment of adequate machinery has introduced modern methods of cultivation, and has enabled them to raise the produce of various crops to quite remarkable proportions.

Improved Crops.

If we may judge from the results which Mr. Tolkowsky quotes, the success achieved has justified all he claims on behalf of his people. Thus, in the cultivation of cereals the average annual yield of the Arab fellaheen is about £1 an acre, whereas in the oldest of the Jewish colonies it varies between £2 8s. and £3 8s. In the orange groves the Jews produce rather more than double the crop of oranges that the Arabs do, and the fact is mentioned with some pride that—

> During the past few years Arab landowners have repeatedly had recourse to Jewish labourers for the establishment of their plantations and the pruning and grafting of their fruit trees.

Profit in Oranges.

In this apparently small matter of orange cultivation there is a valuable lesson for those who hitherto have scorned to adopt modern plant and methods. The Jews have succeeded because they changed their industrial politics. They abandoned conservative prejudice for modern methods, and in place of the primitive Arab chain-pumps, set in motion by a camel or a mule that walks round and round with its eyes blindfolded, they introduced modern pumps, worked by oil or gas motors, for the irrigation of their groves. Indeed, in 1913, on the banks of the River Audja, not far from the colony of Petach-Tikwah, a Jewish company instituted great waterworks, which, on payment of a certain tax per *dunam*, furnish the surrounding planters with all the water they want for irrigation purposes. Another development of this remarkable movement is the Agricultural Experiment Station at Zichron-Jacob and Atlit, near Haifa. This station was founded, and is maintained, by the generosity of a group of American Jews, with the main object of introducing and improving the cultivation of varieties of cereals and other plants which are not very exacting, and have an ample power of resisting bad weather, disease, and parasites. There are laboratories and experimental fields, and since work was begun on the station in 1910 almost incredible results have been achieved. Five new species of wheat and barley have been created, which show an amazing power of resistance to the sirocco, and some species of wheat, peculiarly rich in gluten, and accordingly lending themselves specially to the manufacture of macaroni. They have also succeeded in isolating a new form of sesame, the yield of which, other things being equal, is more than double that of the product ordinarily grown in the country. The station has also succeeded in acclimatising a variety of table grape, which ripens three weeks earlier than the precocious varieties of the region. This will in course of time be a serious matter for cultivators in Smyrna and Cyprus, which between the end of July and the end of October send £80,000 worth of table grapes to Egypt. The Palestine variety ripens three weeks earlier, and, therefore, have that time to the good in the Egyptian market. So much for agriculture.

ndustries

Up to a very short time ago the industries exploited by the Jews had not been developed very considerably. The main cause of this we are told is "the inland duties, which until 1910 were levied on goods conveyed from one province to another." These duties once rose as high as 8 per cent.; on the other hand, the only duty on imported goods is one of 11 per cent. It does not require much reflection to realise that industry was not likely to thrive under such paralysing fiscal conditions as these. Nevertheless, the colonists simply refused to be crushed, and went ahead with their programme. They established modern oil works, which by "improved chemical processes succeed in extracting as much as 10 per cent. of oil from the residues left by the primitive Arab oil works." Another important branch of activity is oil and brandy production, and, allied to this, of course, is the coopering industry. Still another line of exploitation is the distilling of essential oils, particularly essence of geranium and thyme. Building and the manufacture of cement-stones have also been taken up on a fair scale; indeed, this trade is almost entirely in the hands of the Jews. Carpet-weaving has progressed so considerably that in the School of Arts and Crafts there are 500 pupils, while another section is devoted to the manufacture of silver filigree ware. There is a mother-of-pearl workshop for the making of buttons and devotional objects; at Jerusalem there is a professional school comprising workshops for carpentry, machinery, iron-smelting, and weaving, as well as a smithy and dye-shop. Then there are the beginnings of cottage industries. Among the poorer families of Jerusalem knitting machines have been distributed, the cost being repayable by small annual instalments. In all the important towns schools for girls and women have been established for instruction in the manufacture of a special kind of Oriental lace.

Exports and Imports.

Not a bad beginning, indeed; but the real worth of an industrial system can only be judged by its final results, as seen in export trade and in the import of manufacturing materials. The Jews of Palestine do not altogether fail when this test is applied to their work. The foreign trade of Jaffa amounts to nearly 40 per cent. of the entire trade of Palestine. In 1912 this reached the figure of £2,080,000, the imports being more than the exports. Jewish exports of oranges and wines alone accounted for nearly a quarter of Jaffa's total exports, while a large proportion of the imports was of materials bought by the Jews for their factories.

It is interesting to note the export trade is in the hands mainly of the producer, who avoids the middleman, thus reducing his expenses and increasing his profits. In ordinary conditions of industry this is rarely possible; but in the Jewish colonies have been formed four large co-operative sale syndicates, two of which are concerned with the export of oranges, and the others with the export of wines and almonds. The main factor which has been responsible for the success of the industries is the Anglo-Palestine Company, which was founded in 1903. The original capital was £39,000, but this has since been raised to £100,000. The bank began with the principle that the credit which may be allowed to a borrower is not always determined by the object which serves as the basis of credit, but often by the debt-collecting ability which the lender can show when payment falls due. Not very sound banking rules from a purely Western point of view, perhaps; but we are told that "the Anglo-Palestine Company has succeeded in organising in Palestine a modern system of credit." It has introduced short term credits against the deposit, as security, of goods or bills of exchange. In order to facilitate the granting of credit to farmers, labourers, and small tradesmen, the bank has arranged the formation of a co-operative society based on the joint guarantee of the members. At the end of 1913 fifty-two of these societies were in existence, with 2,289 members who possessed at credit with the Anglo-Palestine Bank deposits amounting to more than £4,000. This bank, we may note in passing, enjoys the supreme confidence of the people, and its business shows a slow but steady advance, despite the cramping political complications of the past few years. In 1910 the turnover was £5,840,000, and since then this total has increased.

The Outlook.

Here, then, is a brief outline of the beginning of wisdom by the Jews of Palestine. The industrial system which has been established is not yet great; it is still strictly communal; but when the war is over, and the country is able once more to pursue its way under the blessings of peace there ought to be great developments, leading to the enhanced prosperity of a people who have proved in the face of many difficulties that they are capable of industrial enterprise, that they are able and willing to break away from old prejudices and methods which, those who know Oriental peoples will agree, have wrecked many promising industrial schemes and killed many enterprises. At present, the Jewish population in Palestine is not large. The forty-five colonies which exist have a population of about 15,000, and cover an area of about 110,000 acres, approximately 2 per cent of the entire area of the country, but about 10 per cent. of the cultivated area.

East of the Jordan are vast territories, almost uninhabited and entirely uncultivated, the soil of which is said to be excellent arable land. "This country," says Mr. Tolkowsky, "which to-day contains merely a few hundred thousand inhabitants, supported ten times that number during the first centuries of the Christian era, and was then considered the granary of the Roman Empire. It only needs an industrious and intelligent population in order to recover its pristine fertility, and to regain its old economic importance."

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MOROCCO NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, July 13.

Morocco, which has so often been the cause of trouble, and has had, though indirectly, its share in bringing about the present war, is now enjoying what, for most practical purposes, is profound peace. Many of the native inhabitants, largely Berbers from the Atlas, have fought excellently under French officers in the heaviest of the fighting on the Western front; some of the most brilliant French commanders are men who during the last few years have done much campaigning in this country, and on the whole the country has increased rather than diminished French resources.

The tranquillity is not absolute, however. German emissaries are still busy in some of the unpacified parts of the French and Spanish zones; and in the Atlas, especially near the opening which has been made in the mountain barrier between East Morocco and Algeria, frontier fighting continues as the French outposts close in on and confine the hostile tribes.

But this desultory fighting—in districts where tribal wars have always been annual fixtures, with dates arranged to suit harvesting and other necessities—does not in the least affect the life and commerce of the country as a whole, and Morocco is now steadily preparing for development after the war.

At the present moment the people are busy gathering in the profits of a good agricultural year. The locusts, as the Moors with some reason say, only come in good years, and they have come this year; but they have done little harm to the main harvest. The whole of the grain crop, as well as most agricultural products, is being bought by the French military authorities at fixed prices, and export by private individuals is forbidden. The natives are, therefore, not making anything like the profit which free competition would have brought them, but are nevertheless prosperous.

New Schemes.

Though the country is well off and peaceful it is far from stagnant. Many schemes, besides the one which is to give Casablanca a vast port, are being developed. The Tangier-Fez line, for which most of the surveys have been completed, will soon reach the construction stage on a great part of the route; a motor-lorry service is now running between Fez and Taza, the half-way town on the road through the Atlas mountains; a few days ago a motor-car arrived at Casablanca from Tunis via Taza in a little over four days; the narrow gauge military line from the Algerian frontier towards Fez is soon to be replaced by broad gauge, and it is intended, as soon as possible, to place Algeria in direct rail communication with the Atlantic ports of Morocco. A military line, recently made conditionally available for civilian passengers and merchandise, now runs from Casablanca to Rabat, and thence to Fez. Lastly, the most immediately important work of all, permanent roads are being made from the Atlantic ports to the interior, and, in conjunction with the coast roads, which already connect some of the chief ports, will soon make travelling between all the chief centres easy and rapid at all seasons of the year.

These facts are of considerable importance to Great Britain. British commercial interests here have long been important, and they should, if they receive the support and encouragement they deserve, soon become vastly greater. Great Britain, chiefly, of course, Manchester, supplies yearly about a million pounds' worth of cotton fabrics alone, and despite all recent political changes a large part of the chief import and export firms are British. It is not only as a market which has grown enormously in the last few years, and must increase still more rapidly in the future, that Morocco is of interest to Great Britain, but as a country of immense interest to travellers, and to those who seek a perfect climate, and pleasant surroundings in which to pass the winter.

Improved Communications.

Morocco is chiefly known to British travellers owing to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., the steamers of which, until the war, used to bring twice a month some fifty passengers who were able to land for a few hours at most of the coast ports. The interior, except to those to whom time and money were not very important, was closed. Soon, probably in a few months, that interior, with its two capitals, which are among the most perfect pictures that still exist of Eastern life as it was lived 500 and more years ago, will be accessible from the coast at the cost of a few hours and very moderate expense. In the extreme north, too, changes are taking place. The time seems to be approaching when Tangier will no longer be cut off from the rest of Morocco. A few weeks ago communication by land was opened between the Atlantic ports—Laraiche and Arzila—and the Mediterranean ports—Ceuta and Tetuan, and the road from Tangier to Tetuan once more came into use. During last week further military operations, in which as in the other recent advances, the irrepressible brigand, till lately Spain's most formidable enemy, Raisuli, took, as arranged, the brunt of the fighting, have been carried out against Anjera. That lawless, plucky little tribe, living almost within range of Gibraltar's guns, is one of the best suppliers and most regular customers of Tangier markets; but its fiercely independent spirit, and, within its own borders, truculence, makes its pacification a regrettable necessity, and a desirable accompaniment though not quite a condition of Tangier's full development.

Rival to Algiers.

The arrangements for building at Tangier a large port, which will be a very formidable rival to Algiers, are far advanced, and, with the Tangier-Fez line, destined in a few years to put Tangier in touch by rail with the rest of Morocco and North Africa, and roads to the French zone will enable the international town to start fairly on the career which its position offers to it. In that career, as a great port, one of the gates, if not the chief gate of Morocco, and a place of residence with extraordinary natural advantages of site, beauty, interest, and climate, Great Britain, which has always possessed in Tangier important interests, and a very considerable colony, can hardly fail to be deeply interested.

GERMANS IN GREECE.

An interesting report from the British Vice-Consul at Zante is published in the "Board of Trade Journal" of July 13.

"Even in so small a place as Zante," he writes, "there are indications that German traders are already making preparations to resume business operations and to retrieve their position in trade as soon as the war is over. It may not be amiss, therefore, for British traders to be advised to take the necessary steps to forestall this competition, and they should bear in mind that German exporters will spare no pains or expense in order to secure the desired object.

"Prior to the war, imports from the United Kingdom into Zante had been gradually giving way before German competition. This was due to the energy and attractive methods of the German trader, such as extended terms of payment, rebates regulated according to the position of clients, advice as to selection, prompt despatch of goods to Zante, quotation of c.i.f. prices, and other facilities to which buyers all over Greece are now habituated.

"With the exception of codfish, pickled fish and salmon, herrings, unwrought iron, sulphate of copper, soda ash, some textiles and yarns, etc., which are of British origin, most of the imports into Zante came from Germany and Austria. Imports from these latter countries comprised cutlery, hardware, glassware, enamelled ware, crockery, cotton and woollen manufactures, leather goods, lamps of all kinds, stationery and paper, domestic and household requisites, toys, dyes, drugs, medicines, brushes of all descriptions, etc.

"If United Kingdom manufacturers will adapt their methods to the requirements of the Greek market, there is no reason why they should not secure the greater part of the trade in the goods hitherto supplied by Germany and Austria, as soon as the war is over; a great advantage in their favour is the admitted superiority of British goods of all kinds."

TRADE OPENINGS

The Army Finance Department, Cairo, invite tenders for the supply of fourteen tons of candles to be delivered c.i.f., Alexandria or Port Said. Date, September 5, 1916.

The Director of Personnel and Equipment Department (Supplies Office) invites tenders for the supply of photographic material required, for a period of one year commencing on August 1, 1916, and ending on July 31, 1917, for the Ministry and the Identification Service of the Ministry. Date, August 1, 1916.

Mr. A. Hodson, British Consul for Southern Abyssinia, reports that there would be a fair demand in his territory for the following goods, which at present are not imported:—Axes, hoes, knives, choppers, spoons, ladles, candlesticks, and candles.

The British Vice-Consul at Laraiche, Morocco, reports that a local firm wishes to get into communication with British manufacturers of the following goods, with a view to obtaining agencies therefor:—Cotton goods, cleansing polishes and powders, washing blue, men's hats, glassware, paints, and varnishes, linoleum and oilcloth, bedsteads and inks. Information may be obtained from the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

A French subject at Tetuan desires to secure the representation in Tangier and the Spanish zone of Morocco of British manufacturers of glassware of all kinds. Apply for information to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Alexandria Bourse was officially reopened on July 17.

As a result of proceedings before the prize court in Malta, the vessels Euterpe and Zoodochos Pigi were condemned on June 27.

A *Times* message of July 14 states:—"The prices of all foodstuffs continue to fall in Constantinople, where, according to the latest reports, abundance now reigns."

The Mercantile Marine Service Association is continuing its work for the benefit of those seamen who are interned in enemy camps at Magnesie, Turkey, and elsewhere.

Much regret was felt at the sudden death on May 27 of Sheikh Akasha Khalil Khayal, one of the best-known merchants in the gum market, and a familiar figure in the Sudan.

The supplement to the Board of Trade *Journal* of July 13 contains revised and consolidated lists of articles the exportation of which is prohibited from the countries named. The entire supplement of 167 pages is devoted to similar lists relating to all the Dominions and Colonies in the Empire.

In regard to the failure of Anglet, Ltd., tobacco manufacturers, it is reported that it was due to the failure of the firm to secure control of the stock of Latakia tobacco. With a view to obtaining control the firm purchased 4,408 bales for £28,443, and ultimately had to sell at a loss of £10,576. The accounts show liabilities £4,005, against assets £285, and a deficiency of £13,729 to contributories.

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ROUMANIAN HARVEST.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 27.

M. Démètre Greciano, who represents the large landowners, having very kindly complied with my request to let me have the benefit of his views on the present state of agricultural affairs, I am able to send you the following summary of what he said on this subject :—

So far as the coming harvest is concerned, the Government is pre-occupied with the question of victualling the Army and the communes, the calculation for the needs of the former being made on the assumption that there are 1,200,000 men to provide for. Before any exportation of wheat is authorised there will be laid aside a reserve of 120,000 wagonloads. The remainder will be available for exportation after it has been warehoused, but not before the month of September. This confirms the statement made previously that questions regarding the sale of the next harvest have not yet arisen. When the reserve of wheat remaining over from the year 1915 becomes available, it will be transferred to the British Bureau in completion of the purchase of 80,000 truckloads.

At the suggestion of M. Greciano, the Government have decided to place all available troops at the disposal of agriculturists, so that the work of gathering in the crops may be accomplished as expeditiously as possible, in view especially of the political situation. The harvest of wheat promises to be medium, the estimate being 220,000 wagonloads. That of spring produce (peas, oats, and barley) will be above the average.

According to official figures, the Austro-German *consortium* has exported the following cereals between January 1 and June 1:—

	Tons.
Wheat	45,128
Indian corn	224,642
Haricot beans	6,368
Rye	11,178
Flour	8,719
Peas	1,487

The export taxes paid on the above amount to 19,000,000 fr. (gold).

The country is threatened with another sugar crisis, the reserve stock having been reduced to ninety wagonloads. There are still 100 wagons due from Austria-Hungary in accordance with an old-standing contract. As no sugar will be produced in the country until September, the population will be practically deprived of this article before the end of summer.

The surveys for the extension on the broad gauge system of the Ujda line towards Taza and Fez are being carried out. There is as yet no question of actual construction.

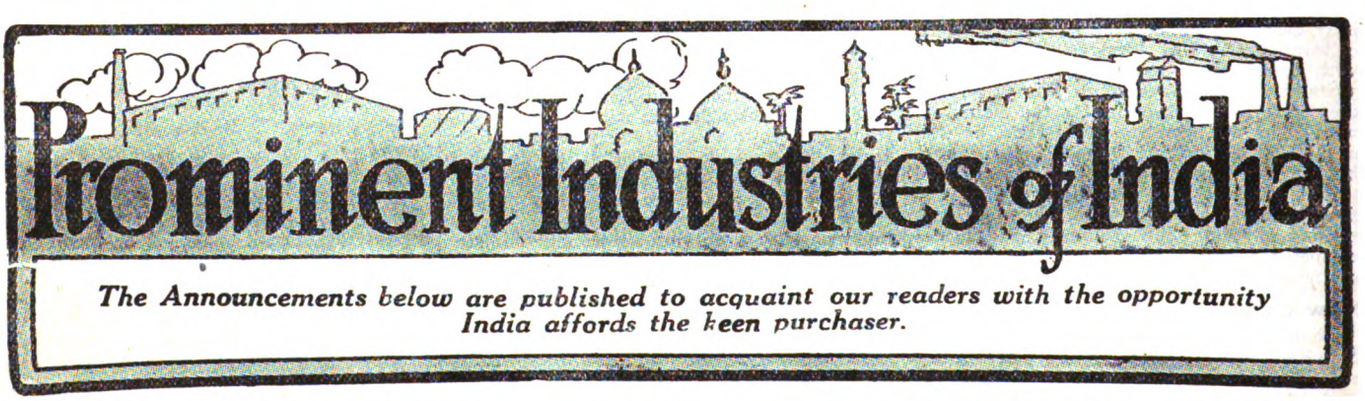
AUSTRO-GERMAN RIVALRY AT BUCHAREST.

Bucharest, July 8.

A curious rivalry has manifested itself here between the Germans and Austrians. Some time ago a great joint Austro-German organisation was set up at Bucharest to secure the export of cereals, petroleum, and groceries, and the importation of various goods from Germany and Austria. The Austrians, however, soon found that the Germans, according to their habit, were absorbing everything. Consequently, the Austro-Hungarian Legation obtained from its Government leave to establish a separate bureau, and it has now leased, at enormous expense, a big building, in which, in co-operation with the Germans, the export and import trade with Austria-Hungary is promoted and fostered.

The Germans have started an express train, which they call Carmen Sylva, running between Berlin and Bucharest. The Austrians now have their own train from here to Budapest and Vienna. It is called Mercury.—Reuter.

All the cattle which were in quarantine parks and on hand in the Khartoum and Costi districts have been forwarded to Egypt. The demand there, however, is very poor.



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PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, July 20.

Currants.

It is reported from Greece that the new crop will be about 25 per cent. less than last year's; but it must be remembered that such calculations are based on the present and visible state of the still growing crop, as well as on the existing condition of the weather. The harvest has begun, and in some districts the fruit is already being dried on the drying-grounds, but until the harvest and drying is completed calculations must not be considered as conclusive, for it depends on the weather. There is no doubt, however, that the crop will be much less than last year's; the scarcity of copper-sulphate for spraying and the scarcity of labour at the time of cultivation are chiefly the cause of this. Under the circumstances, therefore, the opening prices must be expected much higher than the present. In the meantime the market here is quiet, with only few transactions taking place at full rates.

Sultanas.

There has been some demand with small business done at recent rates.

Figs and Dates.

There has been a good demand this past week, especially for dates, the prices of which are firmer.

Seeds.

Linseed is dull, London-Calcutta afloat being sold at 71s., while July-August is quoted 71s. 6d. Rapeseed is not in much request in view of the new crop coming on the market; Toria July-August, 60s. 6d.; August-September, 62s. Cottonseed is quiet; London-Egyptian July offered at £13, and Fayoumi September £12 per ton. Rangoon beans are steady at last week's improved rates.

Oils.

Linseed oil is easier this week. Spot pipes landed, £34 10s., and barrels ditto, £35 10s. Rape oil is firmer; English refined barrels, £48 to £50. Cotton oil is quiet; crude spot pipes, £39 5s.; refined pipes, pale, £44 10s.; and barrels, sweet, £52 to £54, as to make.

TURKISH CURRENCY LAWS.

A translation is now available of the Turkish provisional law, dated April 14, 1916, on the unification of the currency. The law states that the basis of the monetary system of the Ottoman Empire is the gold standard. The piastre, which represents the monetary unit in gold, is coined in nickel and is worth 40 paras. The fractions of the piastre, the pieces of 20, 10 and 5 paras, are in nickel; the pieces of 2, 5, 10, and 20 piastres are in silver, and those of 25, 50, 100, 250, and 500 are in gold. In coinage, pure nickel is used, the silver is 830 fine, and the gold is 916 2-3 fine.

The limit of the amount acceptable in silver money is 300 piastres, and in nickel money 50 piastres. No creditor can be obliged to accept a larger amount of money in silver or in nickel. The rates of exchange of money accepted by custom in the different parts of the Empire are abolished. Speculations in money at higher or lower rates than the legally fixed value are prohibited, and the offenders will be punished. All monetary operations tending to cause differences in the legal rate of the currency are prohibited. Offenders will be punished by imprisonment from three months to two years. If the offence is committed by a company, the offender will be subjected to the same penalty, and its place of business will be closed for a period of from one week to three months.

If debts incurred prior to the date of the publication of the law are payable in piastres, without specifying in any way the amount or value of the money, they shall be paid according to the rate of the money at the time the debts were contracted. If the kind or value of the money were specified the debts shall be paid accordingly. The Treasury constitutes an exception to this rule.

EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

The monthly bulletin of the Ministry of Agriculture, dated July 1, gives the condition of the Lower Egypt cotton crops as 2 per cent. above the average, while the Upper Egypt crop is indicated as being up to the average.

The bulletin adds that the weather has been favourable. The water supply was practically sufficient everywhere, except in some few places situated near the tails of canals. In Daqahlia, however, much difficulty has been experienced in the watering of the crop. Hoeing and watering are still in progress. The cotton worm attack is more general and heavier than last year, but has caused no damage, owing in a great measure to the excessively hot weather prevailing late in the month, which has entirely destroyed the new brood of worms and the predatory insects, chiefly the rover beetle, which have also contributed to the destruction of the worm. The presence of ordinary and pink boll worms is reported in a few provinces; the former's attack is insignificant, but the latter is causing serious mischief to the flowers and young bolls. The wilting disease has caused some damage in a few fields in Aga Markaz, Daqahlia, where it appears to be endemic. Owing to the continuance of favourable weather the crop is obviously in advance of the normal, and looks very healthy. Flowering is profuse.

EGYPT WANTS BRITISH FIRMS.

The Association of Chambers of Commerce has received the following information compiled by the Egyptian Government as a result of an inquiry made by a representative of the War Trade Department in Cairo. The following is an extract:—

"As a result of the war a number of enemy firms which used to handle about a third of Egypt's cotton crop, valued at, say, £10,000,000 sterling, are being liquidated under official supervision. This is creating a gap in the distributing machinery of Egypt, which in recent years had not increased in nearly the same proportion as the size and value of the goods handled by it. So far there is no sign of any British or Allied firm preparing to fill this gap. On the other hand, there are first-class cotton experts here and agents in England, U.S.A., Russia, etc., who have lost their old standing connections, and are looking round trying to form new ones. In the opinion of the gentleman I referred to above, who is a banker, and has specialised in cotton, a good firm with relatively little capital, say £40,000 to £50,000, would soon be handling 40,000 to 50,000 bales annually, on which a normal net profit of 10s. to 15s. per bale can be looked for. It is, however, imperative that the very promptest action be taken, as I learn that within the last few weeks three new local non-British firms have arranged to start business, and they will not neglect to engage the services of the best cotton experts and foreign agents."

SUDAN NOTES.

The recent occupation of El Fasher by the Sultan's troops will eventually result in adding a vast area to the Anglo-Sudan territory, and open up new fields to the enterprising trader. At present the question of transport from the existing railhead is serious, but when the European war is over, the Sudan Government Railways will (says the Sudan Chamber of Commerce *Journal*) doubtless consider the advisability of extending their system further into the interior, and thus increase the facilities for trade and incidentally the prosperity of the country.

The cotton market at Tokar was closed on May 31. The total arrivals of cotton during the season amounted to 127,303 cantars of unginned cotton, which exceeded all expectations. Prices during the latter end of May rose considerably in spite of the inferior quality of the cotton, owing to keen competition amongst the buyers, and the small arrivals, and as much as P.T. 105 per cantar was paid for a poor second-class quality. Most of the cotton was shipped to Alexandria, where it was sold almost immediately. About 1,300 bales, or one-fifth of the crop, was shipped to Liverpool direct.

SHIPPING NOTES.

The Greek steamer Nitsa, which foundered three miles north-east of Ormigas, at the end of last month, has been reported a total loss. It was erroneously stated that the vessel was torpedoed. The Nitsa was a vessel of 3,370 tons, was owned by S. and A. Pandermaly and E. Yannagas, and was valued at £110,000.

It was reported from Naples, on July 13, that the fire on board the Greek steamer Sophia Couppa had been extinguished. Up to that time about 6,000 bags of sugar out of 14,000 in No. 1 hold had been discharged into lighters. Other bags still on board were said to be badly damaged.

The steamer Mecklenburg, of Leith, from Tyne for Leghorn, and the Greek steamer Antonios, Treport for Tyne, in ballast, collided on July 17 near the Knock John Buoy. Both vessels have reached port damaged.

Three steamers were reported by Lloyd's agents on July 18 to have been sunk by submarine in the Mediterranean—the Virginia, Euphorbia, and Sirra. The captain and forty-seven men of the British steamer Virginia have been taken into Malta, and six wounded Lascars have been removed to hospital. The chief officer, Prescott, is dead, and one Lascar was also killed. The Virginia was of 4,279 tons, built in 1901, and owned by E. Grey and Company. The crews of the British steamer Euphorbia and the Italian steamer Sirra have been landed at Algiers. The Euphorbia was of 3,837 tons, built in 1907, and owned by the Stag Line, Limited, and the Sirra was of 3,203 tons, built in 1897, and owned at Genoa.

The French steamer Ville de Rouen has been sunk by an enemy submarine. A Lloyd's message from Algiers states that the unarmed British steamer Wiltonhall and the Italian steamer Angelo have also been sunk. The Greek steamer Evangelistria is believed to have been sunk.

GREEK CUSTOMS TARIFF.

The translation of the Bill, which has been presented to the Greek Chamber, providing for a general increase of the Greek tariff rates of duty by 10 per cent., and making provision for certain other alterations in the Customs régime, has been received by the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade.

The following are the principal provisions of the measure:—

Article 1.—A surtax of 10 per cent. is added to the duties established by the Greek Customs Tariff, except in the case of the duties under Tariff Nos. 19, 20, and 21 (wheat, meslin and other cereals in the grain, roasted barley, and flours), of the duties on petroleum and cigarette paper, and of the duties fixed by conventions between Greece and other countries.

Article 3.—Articles imported into Greece from Turkey and the countries bordering on Greece by Greeks who come to establish themselves in Greece are subjected, by special permission of the Ministry of Finance, to the Greek Tariff duty, reduced by an amount equal to the duty paid on the importation of the articles into those countries, subject to the production of a certificate from the Consular authority or of other proof of the origin of such goods.

The Ministry of Finance is authorised to grant permission for the duty-free importation of phonographic machines for the technical teaching of foreign languages by special methods.

Article 6.—Such merchandise stored in the private storage warehouses at Salonika, or stored in transit at the Customs warehouses, as can be proved to have been destroyed, or such as may be destroyed in the warehouses in the country by military operations after the landing of foreign military forces at Salonika, may be exempted from import and all other duties by decision of the Minister of Finance.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Limitations of Persia.

The statement was made recently that one of the countries that would be useful after the war from a trade point of view was Persia. That may be so in regard to small wares, textiles, etc., but makers of engineering stores, machinery, etc., may leave the country out of account and prepare to devote their energies to a more potentially profitable object. There is no market, at least in the interior of the country, for machinery of any sort, although if the people were reasonably alive to the possibilities of the soil and agriculture there ought to be a great chance for makers of agricultural plant. It is not so, however, and a word in season to friends who are on the look-out for new openings may not be out of place.

Lumber Possibilities.

There ought to be an excellent chance of establishing a lumber industry in Persia after the war, however. Up to the time of the outbreak of hostilities Persia imported most of its timber, principally from Russia. Why, can only be explained by the constitutional apathy of the people. As a matter of fact, it ought not to be necessary to import a foot of wood into the country. There are resources to produce all the timber that could possibly be needed, for there are vast forests in all the districts along the Caspian Sea. They are not utilised simply because the people concerned will not exploit them. For men with enterprise, who are prepared to launch out upon an initial expenditure for the purchase of machinery, the employment of labour of the right sort and the organisation of transport there is money waiting.

Driving Belts for Russia.

The great demand in Russia for driving belts continues without weakening, and has done so for several months, so that the market for these goods has become very strained. The stocks are gradually being worked off, but the production of the Russian factories and the arrivals of belts from abroad have not constituted enough to satisfy the demand and fill up the blanks in the stocks, says the *Financier*. In consequence of this, during the past two or three months the demand and the supply have not agreed. Therefore, the speculators have been tempted into this market, and have screwed the prices up to quite extraordinary levels. Some days ago the largest houses engaged in the manufacture of driving belts sent a circular to their clients saying that, owing to the continuous increase in prices for labour, the dearness of raw material, and the shortage of the same, they were obliged to send out a revised price list. On driving belts—English, American, balata, camel hair, universal, etc.—the prices are raised by from 5 to 25 per cent.

Prices.

Leather belt makers will be interested in the prices their goods now command in Russia, adds our contemporary. Russian leather belting, ordinary, sells as follows :—1-in. wide, 85 copecks per arscheen; 2-in., 1 rouble 72 copecks per arscheen; 3-in., 2 roubles 87 copecks; 4-in., 3 roubles 90 copecks. Thereafter, every additional inch in the width adds a rouble per arscheen, so that a 12-in. belt comes to 13 roubles 5 copecks per arscheen. These belts double are priced as follows :—Beginning with 2 inches wide, 3 roubles 35 copecks per arscheen, and finishing for 14-in. wide at 30 roubles 15 copecks. The difference between the width per inch is fixed at about 2 roubles. The prices of the strongest balata belts run as follows :—1½-in. wide, 2 roubles 85 copecks; 2-in., 3 roubles 71 copecks; 3-in., 5 roubles 83 copecks; 4-in., 8 roubles 60 copecks. Then the price increases up to 14 roubles 85 copecks for 6½-in. wide. The prices for camel hair belting have gone up 20 per cent. The same applies to English belts.

Demand for Iron, etc.

Those who are interested in iron, steel, and rails will do well to note the growing demand for these in Russia, a demand which is likely to continue and expand after peace has been attained. According to figures given out by the "Prodameta" syndicate, the demand in May showed a considerable increase compared with the corresponding figures for 1915 and 1914. The increase extends over the whole list, except in respect to girders and sleepers, the orders for which fell by about two-thirds. But the total for the first five months of the current year shows a decline compared with the years 1915 and 1914. The total weight of orders received by the Prodameta for the period named was 41,700,000 poods, against 56,100,000 poods in the period January-May, 1915, and 58,300,000 poods in the corresponding period of 1914. The orders for sheet-iron came to 5,176,000 poods, against 7,306,000 poods. But the figures for girders and sleepers are very striking, namely, 1,560,000 poods only, against 6,755,000 poods in 1915. The explanation is, of course, the great decline in the building industry. On the other hand, there was a great increase in the demand for merchant iron, namely, to 31,749,000 poods from 28,236,000 poods in 1915. The demand for rails showed a great decline.

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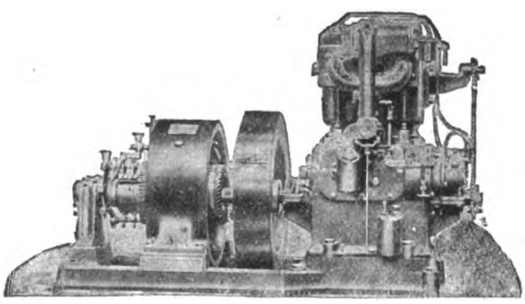

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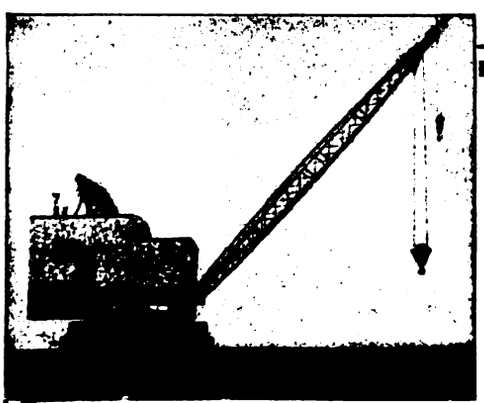

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TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

That great public interest is centred in this important question is evidenced by the letters we have received in connection with the article published in these pages last week.

It is satisfactory to observe that the Prime Minister has appointed a Committee to consider the commercial and industrial policy to be adopted after the war, with special reference to the conclusions reached at the Economic Conference of the Allies, and to the following questions:—

(a) What industries are essential to the future safety of the nation, and what steps should be taken to maintain or establish them?

(b) What steps should be taken to recover home and foreign trade lost during the war, and to secure new markets?

(c) To what extent and by what means the resources of the Empire should and can be developed? and

(d) To what extent and by what means the sources of supply within the Empire can be prevented from falling under foreign control?

The Committee is composed as follows:—Lord Balfour of Burleigh (Chairman), Mr. Arthur Balfour, Mr. H. Gosling, Mr. W. A. S. Hewins, M.P., Mr. A. H. Illingworth, M.P., Sir Joseph Maclay, Sir Alfred Mond, Bart., M.P., Mr. Arthur Pease, Mr. R. E. Prothero, M.P., Sir Frederick H. Smith, Bart., and Mr. G. J. Wardle, M.P., together with the following, who are presiding over Board of Trade Committees on the position of important industries after the war:—Sir Henry Birchenough, Lord Faringdon, Sir Clarendon Hyde, Sir Charles Parsons, K.C.B., Lord Rhondda, and Mr. G. Scoby-Smith. Mr. Percy Ashley, of the Board of Trade, and Mr. G. C. Upcott, of the Treasury, have been appointed secretaries to the Committee.

Who's Who.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh, who has had much experience as chairman of commissions, is one of the best-known Unionist Free-Traders. Some years ago he was Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade. Mr. Arthur Balfour is the well-known ex-Master Cutler of Sheffield; Mr. Gosling is a member of the Port of London Authority, with special knowledge of Labour questions; Mr. Hewins, Unionist M.P. for Hereford, is an authority on economics, and secretary of the Tariff Commission; Mr. Illingworth, Liberal M.P. for the Heywood Division of Lancashire, is a prominent Bradford business man; Sir Joseph Maclay is a Glasgow shipowner; Sir Alfred Mond is managing director of Brunner, Mond, and Co., Ltd., and other companies, and treasurer of the Free Trade Union; Mr. Pease is a northern colliery owner; Mr. Prothero, Unionist M.P. for Oxford University, is the well-known authority on agriculture and food supply; Sir F. H. Smith is an indiarubber and cotton manufacturer and colliery director in North Wales; and Mr. Wardle is Labour member for Stockport and editor of the *Railway Review*. Sir Henry Birchenough is a director of the British South Africa Company, and served on the Commission on Shipping Rings; Lord Faringdon (formerly Sir Alexander Henderson) is chairman of the Great Central Railway, and became a member of the Tariff Commission in 1904; Sir Clarendon Hyde, formerly Liberal M.P. for Wednesbury, is chairman of the Cannock Chase Minimum Wage Board, and a partner in the firm of S. Pearson and Son (contractors); Sir Charles Parsons developed the steam turbine, and is chairman of the Parsons Marine Steam Turbine Company; Lord Rhondda, one of the New Year peers, is still better known as Mr. D. A. Thomas, managing director of the Cambrian Colliery Combine.

Business Names.

An important point has been made by the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the Registration of Firms Bill. The Committee say in their report that the title of the Bill should be "Registration of Business Names," as the Bill is not confined to trading firms, but includes professional partnerships.

The object of the Bill being to include not all partnerships, but only those where the style conceals the identity of the actual traders, the Committee think the most convenient limit would be expressed by requiring registration by all who do not use their true surnames to designate their business. It is very difficult to provide a means of enforcing registration which shall not be either ineffective or oppressive. The Committee propose that anyone coming within the Act who does not register shall be disabled from suing on a contract made while he is in default, but that the Court in proper cases shall be able to give relief from this disability.

The Committee express their strong opinion that the Bill would be of special value under the conditions both of the warfare now prevailing and of the state of things which may be expected to arise immediately afterwards. Events have shown how desirable it would have been to have had at the beginning of the war and still would be to have ready to hand such information as this Bill provides, and without entering upon any controversial matter relating to trade after the war, it may be generally accepted that the identity of those concerned with trade will be in the future an element of the greatest importance. The Committee accordingly venture to submit the Bill to the House as one which ought to be pressed forward without delay.

We hope to see this vital principle extended to the Oversea Dominions.

SILK PRODUCTION IN 1915.

The Union of the Raw Silk Merchants of Lyons has published provisional statistics for the production of raw silk throughout the world for the year 1915. The figures for the Levant and Central Asia are as follows:—

	Pounds.
Asiatic Turkey:—	
Anatolia	385,809
Syria and Cyprus	771,618
Other Provinces	143,300
European Turkey—Adrianople	66,138
Balkans—Bulgaria, Serbia, and Roumania	220,462
Greece, Salonika, and Crete	176,370
Caucasus	275,578
Turkestan and Central Asia (exports)	110,281
Persia (exports)	88,185
Total	2,237,691

The figures are much below those of the preceding year, but though the crops show a weakening tendency, the importance of the deficit is due only to the war.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

Union Fonciere d'Egypte.

At the postponed annual general meeting of the Union Foncière d'Egypte, held at Alexandria on June 15, the accounts for the year ended March 31, 1915, were approved. The report, which was also adopted, stated that the area of cotton cultivated during the past year by the company was 1,936 feddans, as compared with 2,669 feddans in the previous year. The total kantars were 2,590, as against 4,428 in the previous year. This represents a falling-off of one-third of a kantar to the feddan. This was due to the ravages of the worm. The decline in the returns has been particularly compensated by the rise in price, and the company's cotton this year has been sold at an average of PT468, while last year the average was PT262.2 mills. The past year's working closed with an actual loss of £E5,286.492 mills, which, with what remained over from the former year's working, brings the total to £E9,783.638 mills. The following is the profit and loss account to March 31 last:—

		£E
Depenses.		
Frais Culturaux		15.014,147
Intérêts		13.642.964
Abonnement au Timbre Français...		93,886
Divers		78,975
Amortissements.		
Bétail, Matériel et Mobilier Domaines	£E501,714	
Dépréciation Moteurs	465,728	
Dépréciation Mobilier Siège Social	31,724	
		999,166
Provisions.		
Fonds de Prévision pour Risques Fermages	£E1.500.000	
Fonds de Prévision pour Intérêts irrecouvrables	1.392,620	
		2.892,620
		32.721.758
A ajouter perte exercice précédent...		9.783,638
		£E42.505,396

		£E
Recettes.		
Revenus Culturaux		20.292.055
Intérêts sur Vente Terres		5.113,643
Bénéfice proportionnel sur Vente Terres		1.169.563
Pour Gérance Domaines		860,000
Profits et Pertes.		
Perte Exercice 1915-1916	£E5.286,492	
A ajouter perte Précédent	9.783,638	
		15.070,130
		£42.505.396

COMPANY NOTES.

Anchor Line (Henderson Bros.)

There is an increase of £16,262 in the net profits of the Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers) for the year ended April 30 last as compared with the previous twelve months, the amount being £323,539. The smallness of the increased profits is accounted for by the fact that provision is made for a special reserve for war taxation. Including £95,413 brought in the available balance is £418,952, and after writing off £128,699 for depreciation, against £125,867, and again placing £100,000 to the reserve account, it is proposed to pay a dividend on the ordinary shares of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 10 per cent., both tax free, carrying forward £107,606.

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Anglo-Persian Oil Co.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that payments amounting to £1,001,000 had been made to the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. on account of the £2,000,000 authorised by the House of Commons.

Oilfield News.

Maikop Orient. — Cablegram, dated July 10 :—" Plot 436a.—Well No. 1.—Drilled 26 ft., total depth 1,501 ft.; small bailer produced Saturday, 50 poods, five hours; yesterday, 100 poods, ten hours; level oil remaining, 340 ft.; cannot bail night, no men. Shall continue bailing three days, then by pump. Gas between 6 in. and 10 in. casing sufficient one boiler; now putting in gas reservoir, when hope sufficient both boilers. Well No. 3.—Drilled 114 ft., depth 538 ft."

New Caucasian.—A cablegram states as follows :—" Well No. 1.—14 ins. 2,254 ft."

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Production last week :—Gemsah, 502 tons, against 980 tons; Hurghada, 479 tons, against 502 tons.

Baku Russian Petroleum.—Week ended July 8 :—85,900 poods.

Bibi Eibat.—Week ended July 9 :—979 tons.

Black Sea Amalgamated. — Week ended July 8 :—345 tons.

British Maikop.—Week ended July 1 :—46 tons. July 8 :—43 tons.

Cheleken.—Two weeks ended July 15 :—535 tons.

European Oilfields Corporation. — Week ended July 9, 98,500 poods.

Maikop Combine.—Week ended July 8 :—106 tons.

Maikop Pipeline and Transport.—Received for pumping week ended July 8, 12,477 poods.

Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields.—Week ended July 8, 655 tons; production for the month of June, 2,822 tons. Week ended July 15 :—667 tons.

Ural Caspian.—Week ended July 13 :—2,441 tons.

Dividends, etc.

Egyptian Markets.—Coupon Serial No. 23, on share warrants to bearer for dividend declared of 6 per cent., less income-tax, for the year ended December 31, 1916, is payable at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., London, Cairo, and Alexandria.

Land Bank of Egypt.—Coupons No. 22 of the 3½ per cent. and No. 20 of the 4 per cent. bonds are payable, in Alexandria, at the Siège Social; in Paris at the Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris; and in London at the Agency of the Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.

Société Anonyme du Béhéra.—Coupon No. 44, due July 1, and the bonds drawn on May 31, 1916, will be paid at the offices of the National Bank of Egypt, at Alexandria, Cairo, and 6 and 7, King William Street, London, E.C.

Meetings.

Gharbieh Land Company.—The postponed general ordinary meeting will be held on July 31, 1916, at 11 a.m., at the Siège Social, 7, Rue Gameh Charkass, Cairo.

Spies Petroleum.—The seventeenth ordinary meeting will be held at Winchester House, E.C., on July 27, at noon.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended July 15.		1916. Week ended July 13.
Cattle markets	375	..	390
General markets	356	..	399
Cattle markets closed	36	..	31
Receipts (£)	731	..	789
Total from commencement of year (£)	29,706	..	30,493

Yenidje Tobacco Co., Ltd.—This concern, well known in the Eastern Mediterranean, has been ordered by Mr. Justice Astbury to be wound-up on the ground that, owing to the relations between the two partners (Messrs. Weinberg and Rothman), a deadlock had been reached, and that winding-up would be a just and equitable decision.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Price July 14.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74⅞	74
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	46½	47
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	90½xd	90½
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	62½	62½
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93⅛	72	71⅝
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	80	80½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	70	70½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	68	67
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	65	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	55xd	56
Do. 5 %, 1894	56	56½xd	56
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	50½	51
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43½	42
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	53	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	49⅜xd	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	65½xd	65½
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	75½	76½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	55½	55½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	77¼	77¼
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	85	85
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	77	77
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	69½	69½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	51½	52¾
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	38	38
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	90/7½	4⅛
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7	7
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	69	68⅝
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	71	70⅝
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12	11¾
Bank of Abyssinia	¼	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	1¾	37/11¾
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	6⅜	6⅜
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6¾	6⅝
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	75/-	75/-
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	100/6	5⅞
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	12 7/16	12⅝
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	5	93/9
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	5⅛	5
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	88⅜	88½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	10	10
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	11⅜	11⅛
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	58xd	58
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	55	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10 1/16	10 1/16
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	55	55xd
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 3/16	⅜	14/6
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	89½	89½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	⅛	⅛	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2¼	2¼
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	6	5¾
Do. Pref.	4½	62/6	62/6
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	8/9	8/10½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	86½	87½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	¼	2/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	14/4½	3¼
" " Founders	¼	(—	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	95	95
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	6⅝xd	6⅝
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	77	73
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	8/9	9/-
Sidi Salem Co.	1/16	1/16	1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	⅝	15/3
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11⅜	11⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1¼	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	24/3xd	24/9
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	95	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	18/3	18/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	24/6	24/-xd
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜	3 1/16
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	89	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2¼	1½	1½

OIL.

	Price on July 12.	July 19.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/1½	7/6
Anglo-Persian	21/6	21/9
European Oilfields	4/-	4/-
Roumanian	15/1½	14/3

PARIS BOURSE.

	July 12.	July 19.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4430	4440
Credit Foncier Egyptien	—	—
Turkish Unified 4%	59	60
Egyptian Unified 4%	—	—
Serbian, 1895	—	—

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Cote du 4 Juillet, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt		12⅜	to	12¾
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	92	,,	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11⅜	,,	11½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5⅛	,,	—
priv.	L.E.	3⅜	,,	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	123	,,	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	92	,,	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs.	62	,,	—
Privilégiée	Frs.	90	,,	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	75½	,,	—
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2⅜	,,	—
Comptoir Financier et Commercial d'Egypte	£	11/16	,,	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 1/16	,,	—
Union Fonciere d'Egypte	L.E.	⅜	,,	9/16
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	4⅛	,,	—
Bonded Warehouse	L.E.	4⅜	,,	—
Unifiée	L.E.	80⅝	,,	80¾
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4⅜	,,	5
Fondateur	£	23	,,	—
Pressage et dépôts	£	28½	,,	29
Nungovich Hotels	£	2⅛	,,	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	4 1/16	,,	4⅛
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3 7/16	,,	—
Ord.		20/6	,,	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3⅜	,,	4
Egyptian Delta Light Railway	£	5 1/16	,,	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£	104	,,	—
Jouissance	£	154	,,	—
Egyptian Markets		24/6	,,	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	220	,,	—
Div.	Frs.	145	,,	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	93	,,	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda		18/9	,,	19/-
Crédit Foncier d'Egypte	Frs.	580	,,	—
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	305	,,	—
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	246	,,	—
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	256	,,	257
Delta Land		3/16	,,	—
Port Said Salt		34/3	,,	34/6xc
Cotton Ginners		9/16	,,	5/8
New Egyptian		8/3	,,	8/6
United Lands	P.T.	4	,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.		24/6	,,	—
Fondateur		90/-	,,	—

Marché ferme.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts on the Suez Canal were as follows on the days named :—

	1915. Francs.	1916. Francs.
July 12	400,000	210,000
July 13	320,000	120,000
July 14–16 (both inclusive)	840,000	600,000
July 17	240,000	110,000

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 273.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The most striking feature in the chronicle of events for the past week in the East is supplied by the Russians. Their recovery in Armenia, after having been forced back some distance for nearly two months, has been so complete that the Turks were unable to rally at any one point. Within three weeks after our Allies resumed the offensive Erzinjan has fallen. Although not a large town, it is the most important military depôt in this part of Asia Minor, and its capture completes the Russian conquest of Armenia. The failure of the Turks to offer a successful resistance at Erzinjan is eloquent of the extent to which their organisation has broken down. It would be of interest to know whether this collapse has been brought about by the inherent difficulties connected with long lines of communication or by the absence of the German support and supervision which were available on Gallipoli. To the north of Erzinjan the Russians have also made rapid progress. The whole road from Trebizond to Erzeroum is in their hands with the exception of a small stretch between Ardasa and Jevizlik, where the Turks, according to the latest report, were holding a high pass. But the advance of the Russians west and south-west of Trebizond should enable them to turn this position without much difficulty.

The Government has submitted to the House of Commons its proposals for the composition of the Special Commissions to carry out inquiries into the Mesopotamian campaign and the Dardanelles operations. For the former the names proposed are Lord George Hamilton (Chairman), Lord Donoughmore, Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P., Sir Archibald Williamson, M.P., and Mr. John Hodge, M.P.; for the latter, Lord Cromer (Chairman), Mr. Andrew Fisher (High Commissioner for Australia), Sir Thomas Mackenzie (High Commissioner for New Zealand), Sir Frederick Cawley, M.P., Mr. J. A. Clyde, M.P., and Mr. Stephen Gwynne, M.P. The composition of these Commissions it to be discussed in Committee. Mr. Asquith stated that the Government was quite willing to accept any proposal for strengthening them. It had, however, come to the conclusion, after careful consideration, that it would be more satisfactory to have neither naval nor military advisers on the Commissions.

Whether it will be the opinion of the House that the Commissions can be strengthened by the inclusion or substitution of other names remains to be seen. As they stand they will command general confidence, although it would be possible to suggest the names of many public men, whose services might equally well have been utilized. It is a matter for satisfaction that Lord Cromer should have felt himself able to stand the strain of such an investigation, and his presence on one Commission justifies the expectation that the labours of both—as there will necessarily be a healthy rivalry in this respect—will be carried out with thoroughness and despatch. It remains to add that the Government has promised that the scope of the inquiry shall include the question of the initiation of the campaigns. It welcomes as wide an inquiry as possible; but there will hardly be general agreement with the Prime Minister's contention that the Cabinet's responsibility is shared in part by members of the House of Commons as well.

There is little news from Persia apart from an occasional Turkish *communiqué*, which represents the Russians as falling back on Hamadan, both along the Kermanshah road and by a second route lying to the north. On the other hand, the tenour of private advices is satisfactory. The work which the India or British Government ought to have taken in hand at a much earlier stage in the war is now being carried out systematically. Sir Percy Sykes, who was last reported at Kerman, is engaged in organising a new gendarmerie, which with the help of other forces should before long be in a position to restore confidence and order in southern and south-eastern Persia. One point, we understand, that has given rise to some surprise is that the officers selected for the gendarmerie should in several cases be entirely devoid of Eastern experience. It is held that there must be many officers of the Indian Army who have not been able to leave for France or Mesopotamia, from whom a small selection might be made for gendarmerie purposes in Persia. Even if a knowledge of the Persian language is not considered an essential qualification, it is suggested that acquaintance with Eastern ways and traditions on the part of the officers under him must enable Sir Percy Sykes to bring his gendarmerie up to the requisite standard of efficiency more rapidly than if he has to rely upon officers who are now in the East for the first time in their lives.

This question of the selection of suitable officers for the new Persian Gendarmerie is one that the authorities concerned will do well to bear in mind. The greatest confidence is felt in Sir Percy Sykes, but he ought to be given the best support available in order that his mission may be assured of success. It is, of

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course, impossible to generalise on the subject. In this connection it is of interest to note the testimony to our new officials in Mesopotamia contributed by Lord Cromer on the strength of a communication "written from Mesopotamia by a well-known lady, who can speak with an almost unrivalled knowledge of Arabian affairs." In the letter, dated June 12, from which Lord Cromer quotes, is the following passage:—". . . and more interesting still is the new administration in the making, the wavering of sheikhs between the Turks and ourselves, and the complicated tribal politics which result. On the whole, I think we have done it wonderfully well; the actual administration is really almost beyond praise. I am lost in admiration of the young men I meet in high places, ruling a town, administering justice, learning Arabic so as to free themselves of interpreters, and showing a fine combination of patience and common sense." If the young men referred to are new to the East, there is no reason why a similar experiment should not be successful in Persia; if they have all had Eastern experience, there is no reason why the authorities should not exercise the same discretion in making their selections for the Persian Gendarmerie.

From the sudden silence of the German Press in regard to Persia and Afghanistan it has to be inferred that the Berlin authorities have realised that they have shot their bolt in that part of the world. It is, however, unkind of them not to display more interest in the German mission sent to Afghanistan for the purpose of stirring up the Afghans and creating trouble on the Indian frontier. The mission, there is every reason to believe, did its best; but found the Amir, we are glad to state, loyal to Great Britain. Consequently, it has decided that there is nothing to be achieved by staying on in Kabul, and it is now concerned in retracing its steps. It is reported to have started on its homeward journey more than a month ago. If the members should succeed in making their way across Persia the achievement would be a testimony to the power of German gold. But the situation in Persia has changed since they entered Afghanistan; there are fewer German agents at large, and a considerable distance will have to be covered before the mission can join hands with any Turkish troops.

It is to be hoped that the attention of the Allied Governments has been directed to the terms of the warrant issued by Field-Marshal von Weber, Military Governor-General of Montenegro, in connection with the flight of General Radomir Veshovitch. General Veshovitch is accused of having, in company with two of his brothers, assassinated the officer sent to acquaint him with the Austrian Government's decision that he must leave Montenegro and take up his residence in Austria. The warrant continues:—

> In view of this dastardly act, unworthy of an honourable man, I now make the following order:—If General Veshovitch and his two brothers do not voluntarily report themselves to some representative of the Imperial and Royal Military Authority within five days, his father and his third brother, who are in our hands, will suffer death on the gallows. . . . I am severely punishing the whole district of Kolasin, and especially the clan Vasoyevitch, for the crime committed by men from their midst.

If this version of the text of the warrant should prove correct, it is obvious that Field-Marshal von Weber comes within the undertaking given by the British Prime Minister that the Allied Governments will hold individually responsible those of the enemy who can be proved to have violated the canons of civilised warfare. If General Veshovitch has rendered himself amenable to Austro-Hungarian law, whether military or civil, he is doubtless prepared to answer for his acts, when captured. But that vengeance should be wreaked on a man's relations places the State which countenances such acts on the part of its high officials outside the pale of civilisation. If General Veshovitch's father should have been hanged, it will be in the interests of the hapless Montenegrins that the Russian Government should lose no time in announcing the penalty to be paid by Field-Marshal von Weber before peace is ratified with Austria-Hungary.

The Turkish garrison continues to hold out in Medina, but, up to the present, the Arab revolt has progressed without anything in the nature of a setback. On the occasion of a recent sortie from the town the Turks are said to have lost 2,500 men, the Arabs 500. The number of the Turkish casualties, if approximately accurate, points to Medina being strongly held, and there may be truth in the report that Enver's recent visit was connected with the strengthening of the garrison. Mention is now made of the advance of the forces of Said Idris. If these effect a junction with the Grand Shereef's armies before Turkish troops arrive on the scene, the Arab position will be considerably improved. So far, the only step that the Turkish Government is known to have taken to deal with the revolt is to announce the deposition of Grand Shereef Hussein Pasha and the appointment in his place of Ali Haidar Bey, Vice-President of the Turkish Senate. The latter was formally installed in his new office in Constantinople at the beginning of July. A few days earlier, it is learned from the German Press, the Turkish Embassy in Berlin had been at pains to deny "categorically" the statement in the Allied Press that there had been a revolt in the Hejaz.

In view of the climatic conditions at this time of the year in the greater part of the Near and Middle East the general lull in the operations, however unfortunate, is almost inevitable. Even the Turks have felt called upon to quote the temperature in Mesopotamia. On the other hand, they have despatched a force from El Arish, which is reported to be entrenching itself some five miles east of Katia. In spite of the successful air-raid on El Arish on June 18 the enemy is still able to send machines to the Canal. A number of these dropped bombs on Suez on July 20, causing a few casualties. Turkish air-raids are probably the only inconvenience the Egyptian population has suffered from the war. It would be more satisfactory, if it could be rendered immune even from these occasional visitations.

The dispassionate manner in which the attitude of Roumania is now discussed in the German Press is significant of a chastened frame of mind. Neutrality is still held to be the wisest course for the Roumanians to pursue in regard to a war which, we are asked to believe, is to end in a draw; but few, if any, of the German correspondents in Roumania seem confident that neutrality will be maintained until the end. Various versions of the negotiations between the Roumanian Government and the Allies are given. They agree in accepting a Roumanian leaning towards the Entente Powers, and differ only in respect of the alleged demands made by the Allies as a *quid pro quo* for the munitions for which Roumania must wait before she can join in the struggle. For the rest, they insist upon points to which attention has already been drawn in these columns, the difficulty Roumania will have in attacking the Austrians on the immediate frontier line, where the advantage of position is altogether in favour of the latter, and the natural anxiety of the Government to have the harvest gathered before hostilities begin. For these reasons the German correspondents, writing at the beginning of July, expected Roumania to announce her final decision in August.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 13.

The Kitchener Memorial.

The proposal to create a memorial to the late Lord Kitchener is steadily gaining ground, and subscriptions have already been offered in the provinces. The original idea in general favour was to erect a statue or statues, and, pending the raising of the requisite funds, to name certain streets after the celebrated Field-Marshal. The Alexandria Municipality at a recent sitting took a decision to this effect. Both these projects bid fair to be supplanted by something of a more practical nature. In the first place, there is very strong objection to the street-naming idea, for the simple reason that the character of districts in towns out here changes very quickly. We have no wish for a repetition of what has happened in Alexandria, where the street named after Gordon Pasha has become one of the most disreputable in the city. Secondly, the erection of statues in these circumstances in Western countries may be very desirable, but in a country situated as Egypt is it is sheer waste of money, which could be expended in a manner of more practical utility to the people. H.H. the Sultan has taken a most praiseworthy initiative in this respect. Through the medium of an interview with Dr. Sarruf, one of the proprietors of *Al Mokattam*, his Highness strongly deprecated the proposals made by the Alexandria Municipality. Egypt was still in a backward state as compared with other countries, and if the Egyptians wanted to create some permanent memorial to the men who had done so much for them, they could not do better than raise a subscription for the building of some useful institution, such as a maternity home, a first-aid hospital, or a lunatic asylum, none of which exist in Alexandria; or for the provision of training on an extensive scale of women doctors, who are sadly lacking in Egypt, and through whom coming generations would benefit morally and physically to a very great degree. His Highness added that he was all the more in favour of some such memorial, seeing that Lord Kitchener, if it had been possible to ascertain his views, would most certainly have declared against the statue idea and have pronounced himself in favour of a project of practical utility to the Egyptians, whose material welfare had always been his first consideration. This intervention on the part of Sultan Hussein, which will be applauded by all who know the circumstances of the country, serves but still further to prove what a practical-minded, enlightened Prince he is; and it is to be hoped that the committees that are being formed for the purpose of setting up memorials in various parts of the country will follow the excellent advice given them by their Sovereign, who with characteristic generosity has contributed £E500 towards the execution of any of the projects suggested by him.

The New Summary Military Court.

With regard to the new Summary Military Court, to which I referred last week, more information is now available as to its procedure and powers. Europeans are for the present not subject to the jurisdiction of the court, which will have power to inflict imprisonment, with or without hard labour, up to three months; whipping, up to twenty lashes; fines, up to £E10; police supervision, up to one year; or any combination of these penalties. Actual arrests will, as far as possible, not be made, offenders being served with summonses, and formalities of every description will be avoided so long as the liberty of the defence and the validity of the proceedings are not affected. The motive of the creation of the court is to deal with offences which, though not indictable under Egyptian civil law, have become so under martial law in virtue of the military proclamations, and its object is to assist and supplement the civil machinery in the maintenance of law and order and decency in Cairo. The court's fair but firm treatment of the cases already brought before it has not passed unnoticed amongst the masses, and, if the methods initiated are only persevered in, its operation should have an excellent deterrent effect.

That the martial law régime does on occasion materially assist the civil authorities, especially in a country situated as Egypt is, has been evident in the case of the liquor trade. In an admirable report on the work done during 1915, to which I hope on some subsequent occasion to do more justice than is possible within the limits of this letter, Mr. A. Lucas, Director of the Government Analytical Laboratory, clearly sets forth the serious abuses that were practised by the local trade to the detriment, moral as well as physical, of the great number of those who frequented the bars, cafés, and other establishments of the lower quarters. Prior to the war greater freedom was enjoyed in Egypt in regard to the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors than probably in any other country in the world, owing to the fact that the trade was largely in the hands of foreigners, and that the Capitulations prevented the Egyptian Government from adopting any satisfactory measures to control it. The declaration of martial law removed this obstacle, and a series of proclamations made by the General Officer Commanding the British Forces in Egypt, primarily for the protection of the troops, have given the civil authorities a more or less effective control over the Egyptian liquor trade. It is not contended that these proclamations have stopped all the former abuses, but the fact remains that they have conduced to a marked improvement in the quality of alcoholic liquors retailed in the lower quarters, and there can, therefore, be no doubt as to the assistance rendered by the martial law régime in this respect to the civil authorities.

The Egyptian Dispatches.

Great interest has naturally attached to the dispatches recently published in London from General Sir John Maxwell with regard to the defence of Egypt since the outbreak of war up to the date of his relinquishment of his post. It is noticeable that although the "recommendations" include a list of civil officials concerned in the administration of the country, and Sir John Maxwell was in supreme charge of that administration, nothing is said with regard to the various political events that have taken place here or the general state of the country during the eighteen months in question. There may, however, be very good reasons for this silence; so we must possess our souls in patience until the powers that be consider it opportune to publish the report that must undoubtedly have been written in this connection.

Attention must, however, be drawn to one point, because unwittingly an injustice is being done. General Maxwell made what is understood to be a departure from precedent by including in a military dispatch names of ladies who had rendered services worthy of mention in connection with the military and civil administrations. This was indeed a very graceful act on the part of the late G.O.C., and as such due recognition thereof is accorded to him. But his list is lamentably short, and is certainly quite incommensurate with the

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work done by the women of Anglo-Egypt. No one wishes for one moment to detract from the merit of the ten ladies whose names are mentioned. Of one accord it is admitted that they have rendered very signal assistance. But at the same time so did many others, and a recital of the names of merely the more important of those omitted from the list would certainly indicate that sufficient care was not paid to the drawing up thereof. It is a thousand pities that this should have happened; for although those who so ungrudgingly gave of their services never did so with any *arrière pensée* that their action would cause their names to figure in official dispatches, nevertheless the fact that it should have been considered necessary to make such a list, and that it should have been so meagre, is bound to create unnecessary irritation and leave the impression that the services rendered by the ladies in question at a time when, it is no exaggeration to say, they saved the situation, have not been appreciated. I feel sure—in fact, I know—that Sir John Maxwell was fully alive to the valuable work done by the women of Anglo-Egypt, but the mere knowledge of that opinion cannot affect the unfortunate impression left by the careless editing of the list, and it is to be hoped that in the circumstances an early opportunity will be taken to put on record the great debt which the military administration owes to the women of Anglo-Egypt.

RAMADAN AT KHARTOUM.

Our Khartoum Correspondent writes, under date of June 30:—The new moon was duly observed, and procession made round the town with flags and drums to warn the Faithful that Ramadan had begun.

The weather has been the chief source of interest recently. Almost every day has had a dust storm, and there has been some rain. This brings a very welcome coolth, but disturbs the European colony by making the ground too soft for tennis or golf.

JUDICIAL REFORMS IN EGYPT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—My attention has been called to a letter in your issue of July 21 from Coles Pasha, late Inspector-General of Prisons in Egypt, concerning his own share in certain judicial reforms in that country. In this letter he charges me, hypothetically, with taking all the credit for a number of reforms for which he alone was responsible. I have hesitated to trouble you with an answer, since such personal matters can have but little interest for the public. Inasmuch, however, as his letter, if allowed to pass unchallenged, might give an entirely false impression to a number of people in Egypt and elsewhere who are unacquainted with the truth of these matters, it appears to me to call for a few words in reply. Coles Pasha is in such a hurry to attack me that he has not even waited to peruse my report—which is on sale to the public—in order to ascertain what I had really said before launching hypothetical charges against me. Had he done so he would have found that I have claimed no credit for anything, and that my account of legislation was a bare summary, giving the references to the Annual Reports for the full history of the inception of these measures. Coles Pasha undoubtedly took the initiative in several laws during his service in Egypt, and his action received due recognition in my Annual Reports at the time. When, however, he asserts that none of the laws about the various matters he enumerates (the more important of them being the work of the Penal Code Committee, with which he had nothing whatever to do) originated in the Ministry of Justice, that most of them were strongly opposed by that department, and that all of them were due to his own efforts, he is either himself guilty of "colossal effrontery," or is labouring under a profound and highly remarkable delusion.—I am, etc.,

MALCOLM MCILWRAITH.

Travellers' Club, Pall Mall, S.W.,
July 24, 1916.

Writing from Kordofan respecting the recent operations against the Sultan of Darfur, a Staff non-commissioned officer says: "By the acquisition of Darfur we have gained an exceedingly rich and fertile province, and one that is worth a thousand times more than all the trouble and expense we have been put to. The work had to be done, for the Sultan Ali was a menace to the whole Sudan, and now that all is over so much the better for Egypt and ourselves."

At the annual general meeting of the British Academy (held on the 14th inst.) Lord Bryce announced that the Academy had appointed a Committee to deal with the question of the transliteration into English of names and words in Russian and other Slavonic languages and in the languages of the Nearer East.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CYPRUS, July 10.

The Island and the War.

The successes on all fronts have given great satisfaction amongst all parties here. Among the Greeks interpreters are being engaged, and mules are being purchased at present by officers who have arrived recently. Native muleteers are being taken to look after them.

So far there have been no English visitors from Egypt or elsewhere. Few or any are likely to come from Egypt, partly owing to the difficulty which ladies would be likely to meet with in returning, the regulations not being relaxed. Nor is it likely that there will be many of other nationalities, so that the season is not likely to be a profitable one.

The Price of Blood.

An important decision of the Supreme Court respecting the pecuniary compensation which a person convicted of murder, or the village community to which he belongs, is liable to pay to the heirs of the victim has caused no little interest. The question arose out of a claim for £250 by the heirs of a peasant who was murdered by a fellow-villager. The District Court charged the properties of the perpetrator with payment of £180 as compensation. The Court of Appeal, confirming the decision, has further laid down certain principles for guidance, applicable to cases in which the murderer is not discovered.

If, *e.g.*, the murder is committed in the road or streets of a village the whole community is liable to pay the price of blood, just as it is (in accordance with a law passed since the British occupation) for malicious injury to property by a person or persons unknown. The amount of compensation is fixed according to all the circumstances, including age, of the victim. Justification for the decision that the village collectively should be held responsible is found in the practical certainty that in every case the victim cries out for help, and, the cry being heard, fellow-villagers, if they do their duty, could hardly fail to identify the criminal.

If the murder is committed inside a house, the occupiers, whether owners or tenants, are held liable. If the crime is committed outside a village, but within the lands of the community, or on forest land within a distance from which the human voice can be heard in the village, the entire community is similarly held responsible.

The carefully considered judgment, which deals at length with the whole subject, is of no little interest and importance, and may have very good results, as has been the case with the "Malicious Injury to Property Law." Murders are far too frequent in the island, and the payment of money is a consideration which weighs more strongly than any other with the Cypriot. In the case of premeditated crime, the knowledge of the prospect now made clear may have a deterrent effect. It is, at any rate, very satisfactory that details of this judgment should be published far and wide in the rural districts.

WATER COLOURS OF EGYPT.

Mr. Talbot Kelly, a collection of whose water colours of Egypt, together with a few oil paintings, are now on view at the Fine Art Society's Galleries in New Bond Street, is one of the few artists who are really capable of translating Egyptian scenes in terms of colour. A realist before all else, he brings to his work an imagination which gives it an infinite and, it may be added, an inimitable charm. The realism is always present, but it is coloured with just that flavour of romance necessary in a finished work.

The present exhibition contains a number of excellent examples of Mr. Talbot Kelly's style, notably 2—"Tombs of the Mameluks, from the Mokattam Hills," an exquisite study in grey tints, with a suspicion of colour in the group in the right foreground. The remarkable colour in this picture merits more than a cursory examination. Towards the horizon the grey takes on a purple hue, while above it is the bluish grey sky. Another kind of subject is presented in 4—"The Nile, near Toski," which is interesting for its curious colour contrasts. In the foreground the water is purple, and further back it changes by the reflection of the sunset to a light gold, and then to a light blue, fringed by the purple of the wooded shores, while above is a glorious sky effect with a crescent-shaped moon just visible.

As a study in clever shading, 7—"A Corner of Luxor Temple"—may be noted. There white and grey and purple stand out in strong contrast against a limitless blue sky. 9—"A Dust Storm at Assuan"—is an imaginative piece of work, notable for its fineness of perception. On the water in front lies a solitary dahabieh, and behind the rising shore wrapped in a gentle mist of purple. In 11—"Tel-el-Kebir"—an admirable representation of a desert scene, the sense of distance is indicated with pleasing effect. Of the remaining water-colours mention may be made of 19—"The Theban Hills, from Luxor"—an interesting river scene, with the grey and purple banks, faintly relieved with touches of green; 35—"Squally Weather at Beni Hassan"—a wonderful cloud effect; and 31—"The Desert by Night"—a fine night study, with the deep grey in front in striking contrast with the dark blue sky.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 4.

Government and Opposition.

The parties representing the Parliamentary Opposition cannot be accused on the whole of having placed many obstacles in the path of M. Bratiano during the time that the war has been in progress. They knew too well that the Prime Minister's duty was to view current events in an objective spirit, keeping in the background his national instincts as a Roumanian and suppressing any blind impulse to ill-considered action which, while doing him credit as a patriot, might compromise him as a statesman and cause him to fail in the great responsibility he bore towards the country.

Roumania's position as a small nation, without reserves and geographically separated from any friendly Power capable of supporting her in a war of long duration, was recognized by all parties to be most precarious, from whatever point of view matters were regarded. M. Bratiano's responsibilities demanded a clear head, a spirit of extreme prudence; while the fluctuating course of international events made a careful balancing of pros and cons imperative. Any serious action tending to dull the clearness of his vision or hamper his movements would have been indicative of a party spirit unworthy of the Opposition in such moments of national crisis. Then, too, is not the Sphinx-like reserve of a Bratiano calculated to inspire confidence among a quick-witted people to whom speech comes but too readily? However, silence maintained beyond a certain limit tends to become irksome, and the initial confidence is succeeded by distrust; and this is what seems to have occurred in the present instance. Moreover, there are questions connected with the internal administration which have given rise to discontent, matters relating to export and contraband which have been productive of general economic distress, and to which I have purposely avoided giving undue prominence in my letters. Conservatives will tell you that the toleration shown in regard to such practices has exceeded the limit of their patience; that the mal-administration has become a crying scandal; and that when a Government has shown such flagrant incapacity to maintain order within the frontiers it cannot claim a greater degree of confidence in its ability to direct with judgment the external affairs of the nation. Finally, we shall not be far out if we assume that recent military events have given an extra spurt to the agitation of the Nationalists, for there ever hovers above their heads, like the sword of Damocles, the harrowing concern lest the opportune moment should fail to be seized.

These are reasons why the third meeting organized by the Unionist Federation, which took place on Sunday, July 2, surpassed in magnitude all previous gatherings of this kind. The Dacia was as crowded as the proverbial tin of sardines, and thousands of people who could not find accommodation within the building occupied the passages, the courtyard, and the adjacent street. An imposing reception was given to Messrs. Michel Cantacuzène, Greceano, Argetoiano, and other members of the Federation, all staunch interventionists and Quadruplists, who denounced the Government's vacillating attitude in scathing terms.

The Fusion of Opposition Forces.

On the day preceding the date of the great assembly at the Dacia M. Take Jonescu delivered an address at the headquarters of the Conservative-Democrat Club, in which he stated that the fusion of the two Opposition parties was an accomplished fact, and that the resulting Conservative party would be directed conjointly by M. Filipesco and himself.

What is the real meaning of the fusion? The matter, as we understand it, is simple enough. The parties representing the Opposition have come to the conclusion that the greatest pressure must be brought to bear on M. Bratiano to determine him to take the necessary steps for the realization of the nation's legitimate claims and aspirations by an active support of the Allies. Failing this, they will forsake the more or less peaceful tactics pursued up to the present, and use their united forces for the purpose of overthrowing the Government.

BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 3.

Hun-Welcome Guests.

In order to give more *éclat* to the reception of its German guests the Bulgarian Government was obliged to invoke the aid of the Sofia schoolboys. And as it feared that the young scholars might not be sufficiently enthusiastic regarding the eleven German Deputies who were gracing the capital with their presence, special instructions were issued to them as to the interjections and exclamations to be employed on the appearance of the group representing the new and powerful "Ally" of their country. "The scholars," say the instructions issued to the boys, "will be arranged in rows on each side of the road, from the Sharénix Bridge to the Hotel Bulgaria. They must carry Bulgarian and German flags, must throw flowers at the guests, and shout "Hoch" and "Hurrah."

In spite of these instructions, however, the enthusiasm could only be kept slightly above zero by great efforts on the part of the authorities. The cheering was of the feeblest, and there is little doubt that the German deputies must have observed quite plainly that the excitement was forced and weak.

The most significant fixture in the programme for the reception of the German Deputies was undoubtedly the visit to the Pernik mine, where a luncheon was served. This mine was ceded to Germany some months before the commencement of the war, when the big loan was made to Bulgaria. It is, in German eyes, one of the most satisfactory proofs of Germany's hold on Bulgaria. The visit to the mine was no doubt regarded as an "appetiser" by the Germans, a foretaste of what is to come later as regards Bulgaria—if the Allies permit it.

Deserters' Stories.

Deserters from the Bulgarian Army continue to arrive daily in both Greece and Roumania; in the former country the rate is from six to thirty per day. All show signs of the miserable state in which the army in general now is, being almost in rags and uniformly thin, and all tell tales of acts of insubordination, and state that a spirit of revolt exists in nearly all quarters.

Except for the high commands, everybody seems sick of the war, if these men are to be believed, and an advance on the part of the Allies would be welcome, inasmuch as it would soon put an end to the war as far as Bulgaria is concerned. One deserter, an officer, states that King Ferdinand has not visited the front for months, for obvious reasons.

Queen Eleonore in Dresden.

Queen Eleonore has arrived at Dresden, where she intends remaining for two months, being greatly fatigued by her strenuous work among the wounded. It is, in fact, three years now since she last quitted Bulgaria, and she may be said to have been entirely occupied with her works of charity and benevolence during that time. It was principally due to Queen Eleonore's good offices that Lady Ralph Paget's unit received such good treatment.

IN BULGARIA: "OPPOSITION" AND THE GOVERNMENT.

Whatever may have been the case before the outbreak of hostilities, it is only too clear that to-day all parties in Bulgaria are in thorough sympathy with the Government of King Ferdinand, at least as regards matters connected with the war. We are able to give in this connection the plain statements, first, of an "Opposition" Bulgarian paper, and, secondly, of the Sofia correspondent of the Budapest paper, the *Pester Lloyd*.

The Gueshoff organ, *Mir*, in its issue of June 20, states:—"In Bulgaria the Opposition has proved itself equal to the situation. Ever since we have been at war the Opposition has never sought by any means to allege that the Government was asleep. It never did anything to weaken the spirit of the Bulgarian nation in arms. On the contrary, in everything connected with the war or that demanded the unity of the Bulgar nation, the Opposition avoided rupture with the Government, and gave it its wholehearted support."

The Sofia correspondent of the *Pester Lloyd* (June 22) reports as follows:—"I have had an opportunity of speaking to people in widely different circles in Bulgaria, about Macedonia and the opposition between Serbs and Bulgars on the Macedonian question. No matter what social stratum they occupy, no matter to what party they belong—whether they be Russophile or Russophobe by conviction or training—on the Macedonian question all are at one. From personal explanations I was able to convince myself that on the Macedonian question the Socialist leader holds the same opinions as the most devoted adherent to the Government party, and from no single Bulgarian scholar did I ever hear a different opinion expressed upon the Macedonian question than that held by the great mass of the nation."

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, July 6.

Postal communications between Turkey and Greece appear now to be entirely suspended.

It is reported that Mr. James Gatheral is also one of those who were arrested on June 6. They were eight in all, corresponding, it is said, to the number of Ottomans arrested by the British authorities at Mytilene, whose arrest appears to have been the cause of this reprisal at Constantinople. Mr. Scudamore has been exiled to Broussa, and his daughter (Phyllis) has been allowed to join him.

Constantinople appears to have come within the range of the great heat wave which has recently visited these parts, and it is reported that cholera is spreading there as well as in Smyrna.

The town is evidently more "Hunnish" than ever; the Turk appears to have no power or initiative, and the animosity between the Germans and the Turks increases rather than diminishes.

Munition-laden trains arrive daily at Constantinople, and men and material are hurried to Asia Minor. It is not yet known what effect the insurrection in Arabia had had on the Turks in Constantinople; but there is a rumour that Jemal has refused to take his army to fight against the Arabs. There are also rumours of air raids over Smyrna, with much loss of life and destruction of property, but it is impossible to learn what has really happened.

We are indebted to a correspondent for permission to publish the following extracts from letters received recently from Constantinople:—

". . . but as regards our property at Constantinople, that is quite a different story. ——'s house, as well as yours and mine, are only fit to be burned! —— has managed to save some of our furniture, and her house is packed from top to bottom with our belongings, but the houses themselves are worse than stables; they are full of sick—not only wounded, but sick with disease and vermin. Your kitchen is the operating-room; ——'s roof is the laundry for the bedding, on which stains of disease are visible. Of course, all his tiles are broken, and the rain pours into the house. Two-thirds of our fir trees are dead. The front of your house has the appearance of a bottle of ink or some dye having been spilled at a top window, and this the rain has carried in streaks all down the façade. Our piano went on a journey to ——, and then —— had it brought back to her, together with your grand, which had been made use of as a stand for medicine bottles and the like. The doors to our gardens are kept open all day long, and stray horses and cows are often to be seen grazing on what foliage there remains.

"——'s stamp collection is safe—at least, it was when —— left. Of course, even the furniture she has saved has suffered in the hasty moving, as it had to be carried off surreptitiously. The gas is kept burning in our houses all night; but as the mantles are all broken, the shades and chandeliers and ceilings have suffered in consequence. To cut this short, our houses are no longer habitable, but are only fit to be burned. God save the King and help the Allies! This is our share of trouble in the common cause; let us bear it bravely. We must hope that the Turks will be made to pay heavily for this in the end.

"As to our personnel: *à tout seigneur tout honneur!* Our cook has been disposing of my wife's dresses, and her worthy spouse, the gardener, of my clothes. After being kept on and fed for a year, this is their idea of gratitude.

"The cost of living is enormous. One can still find almost everything if one can pay the price. A pair of shoes costs £4. Bread is sold at 6, 8, and 10 piastres a loaf; lemons, 5 piastres each. A suit length of Anatolian cloth costs £4 wholesale without the tailoring. Misery all around, it is painful to see professional men, lawyers, architects, doctors, and ladies begging for food to eat and living on charity!"

According to a telegram from Berlin the participation of Turkish troops in the fighting against the Russians in Galicia may shortly be expected. The telegram adds:—"This fact proves the military preparedness of Turkey and the uniformity of the battle front of the Central Powers."

The Turkish Red Crescent, in reply to the protest lodged by the Russian Red Cross against the torpedoing of the hospital ship "Vperiode" in the Black Sea, states that it was unable to find the "Vperiode" in the list of registered hospital ships. The Russian Red Cross has replied giving the date on which the vessel was registered.

A message from Athens to the Paris *Journal* states that M. Zaimis has asked Germany to intervene at Sofia to put an end to the doings of the Bulgar *komitajis* on the Greek frontier.

It has been arranged to hold a meeting of the British community in Cairo on the occasion of the second anniversary of the war, at which a resolution affirming determination to carry on the war to a successful conclusion will be moved.

THE "YOUNG TURKS" AND ISLAM.

A correspondent in Cairo sends us the following translation of an article which appeared recently in *Al Mokattam* under the title "The Atrocities of the Turkish Government and its Unlawful Conduct in this War." The article is said to have been written by one of the Moslem Ulema:—

It seems to be generally believed by the majority of people, Moslems, Christians, and Jews, that the Turkish Government is a Moslem Government. It is, however, our bounden duty, according to the *Sheriat*, to expose this error and destroy this belief.

Islam rests on five fundamental conditions and rules, without which it cannot stand, and which are elementary knowledge to those who are at all conversant with the books of Moslem law. Now, the persons holding the reins of the present Turkish Government possess few or none of these essential qualifications, and certainly not the first, which indeed underlies the other conditions and constitutes the vital constituent thereof, viz., belief in Allah and His Angels and His Holy Books and Prophets. We, the Believers, find them [the present Turkish Government] devoid of Faith. For have they not openly declared in their books, and confirmed it by word and deed, that Islam has been harmful to them, and the cause of their retrogression; that (supreme blasphemy) it has been a great calamity to them? It is notorious that their governors in Yemen and Syria neither pray nor fast, nor perform the sacred duties of pilgrimage and almsgiving; but rather drink wine in the day and during the holy month of Ramadan. All this is directly contrary to Islam, by the unanimous judgment of the nation and by the Book and the *Sunna*. They have no notion of the great precepts enjoined by the *Sheriat*, such as the ordering of good and the forbidding of evil, and the maintenance of justice. In short, they ignore the fundamental principles of Islam, both religious and moral, lacking the veneration due to the exalted position of the Prophet and his *Suhaba*. Have we not heard with our own ears, and read with our own eyes, how they, in 1330 [A.H.] delegated to Medina their philosopher and great writer, known as the Akshoura, who on his return started preaching to the people in Syria, saying that the existence of the Prophet and of his Tomb in Medina is a fiction, that there is no proof of the existence of that God whom they worship, and that the Arabs are a people ruled by empty dreams and superstitions, and such like preachings, calculated to mislead and poison the minds of the young? Some of them have gone so far as to recommend the effacing of the names of the first four Khalifs, Abu Bekr, Omar, Othman, and Ali, from the pillars of their mosques, and the replacing thereof by great Turkish names for the perpetuation of their memory, as representatives of a young and vigorous race that has come to supersede the effete Arab race. Thus do they cast derision on the four great Khalifs who consolidated the foundations of our faith and work, and upheld Allah and His Prophet, by offering all their possessions and their very selves for that noble cause.

Furthermore, their disdain of the Arabic tongue, and their systematic efforts for the suppression thereof in their books and schools and official correspondence, all this is a patent act of hostility. Besides, Islam without the Arabic tongue is an unthinkable proposition.

As to their acts in connection with this war, they are again directly contrary to the *Sheriat*, and essentially anti-Moslem. Witness the fact of their throwing themselves and the country into the arms of Germany without consulting the leading heads of the Moslem world, such as the Shereef of Mecca and other notable chieftains and Ulema, and their audacious attempt at consecrating such an act by the pretended application thereto of the *Sheriat*. What rules of the *Sheriat* can they invoke to justify their despotic actions in regard to Moslem families whom they dispossessed of all their belongings and whose men they enrolled by force for the attainment of the aims of Germany, who proved to be the enemy of Islam and the Moslems by their declarations and deeds, as has been officially confirmed and clearly seen by us of late? Indeed, far from Germany being the defender of Islam, it has been the cause of its misfortunes.

Among their most unlawful acts is their expulsion of Moslem women. The Moslem law ordains the punishment of women, when convicted of an unlawful act, at the place where it is committed, thus differentiating between the case of man and woman, even where the offence committed is the same. But when, as in the present case, the women are innocent and yet treated thus, the persons committing this act against them are deserving not only of contempt, but also of curses. These Moslem women had interfered in no way in this war or in politics in general; and no real Moslem can refrain from condemning the Turks in the strongest terms for their mean and unlawful conduct towards them, or from expressing his wonder at their impiety reaching such a degree of disregard for the Sacred Law.

We have just learned, through their papers, that their commander-in-chief in Syria has expelled hundreds of families from Syria to the interior of Turkey for acts for which the women are in no way responsible, and which are supposed to have been committed by their husbands or sons. Such an act is foreign to Islam and true Moslems, and the original author of it can only be Germany. Moslems cannot admit of a Moslem government being under the direction of such a Power as Germany, as this is clearly contrary to law.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE TURCO-PERSIAN FRONTIER.*

Two years ago the Turco-Persian frontier would have seemed very remote from everyday life in Great Britain. Students of foreign affairs would have known of it vaguely as a fruitful source of international trouble; if they had been particularly well posted in contemporary history they would have recalled that at that very moment a Joint Commission of representatives of Turkey, Persia, Russia, and Great Britain was engaged in delimiting the frontier. To-day no one would be willing to confess that this part of the world had no interest for him. True, the actual *tracé* of the frontier may seem at this moment a matter of minor concern; but public attention has been strongly attracted to the Middle East, and a book which adds to our knowledge of its topography and of its inhabitants is assured of a welcome. Mr. G. E. Hubbard was Secretary to the British delegation of the Commission of Delimitation, and in these pages he records his personal experiences and impressions of the people and countries through which he passed. Politics, he tells us, have been eschewed; but in the circumstances they can hardly be considered a loss. The story of Great Britain's connection with Mesopotamia is told succinctly, and to this chapter the average reader will turn with particular interest. For the rest, Mr. Hubbard deals with country which witnessed the landing and early progress of Indian Expeditionary Force D., is the scene of the swaying battle-front between Baghdad and Kermanshah, and was the ground over which the Turks started their massacres of the Armenian population on the occasion of their first raid into Persian territory.

Fate, the author reminds us in connection with the delimitation of the Turco-Persian frontier, has contrived to stage this particular scrap of history in her most dramatic style by arranging a "curtain" for each one of the three principal acts in the shape of a European war—the Crimean, the Russo-Turkish, and, lastly, the Armageddon of to-day. Unless we are mistaken, she has reserved her worst tricks for the last. For seventy years this frontier has been the subject of diplomatic *pourparlers*, special delimitation commissions, and international conferences; but when, for the first time, the demarcation has been invested with an appearance of finality, Fate steps in and promises to make the whole business a labour of supererogation. The future of the Middle East is for the moment uncertain. It may, however, be taken for granted that the Turco-Persian frontier, so carefully marked out by this last Delimitation Commission as the result of ten months' work, is already consigned to the melting-pot. Some, perhaps many, of its boundary stones may still be utilised; but that they will indicate the division between Turkish and Persian territory the whole length of their 1,180 miles is by no means likely.

A chapter devoted to the history of the Kurds introduces the reader to the customs and character of these tribesmen in the intervals of their less reputable pursuits. The author sums up the Kurd as a loyal clansman, a pretty fair rogue, and a born fighter. His rôle as Turkish butcher cannot be denied; but, as he has to be dealt with in the near future, and persuaded into better ways, it is as well that we should try to discover his good points. It was unfortunately the marauding tendency of the Kurd which brought the author's connection with the Commission to a sudden end before Mt. Ararat was reached. With four others he was shooting partridges within a mile or two of camp, when the party was attacked by local tribesmen, and Mr. Hubbard was wounded. The injury necessitated his removal to civilisation as rapidly as could be arranged, and for this reason he was not present at the ceremony which recorded the end of the Commission's labours—the construction of an unobtrusive stone pillar beneath the shadow of the 17,000-ft. peak.

Mr. Hubbard relates his experiences simply, but picturesquely. He has filled out his narrative with references to other authors, and the whole makes an interesting book, which may be commended to those who wish to know something of the Middle East. The volume contains a large number of excellent photographs.

BOOK NOTES.

In "Le Déclin de l'Hellenisme" MM. Louis Paul Alaux and Réné Puaux endeavour to show that Hellenism is dying, if not already dead, as a result of recent events. The book is published in Paris (Payot, 106, Boulevard St. Germain) at 2 fr. 50 c.

The Armenian atrocities and the causes that led up to them are described in Part 101 of "*The Times* History and Encyclopædia of the War," which contains a special map of Eastern Turkey in Asia and a number of photographs of refugees.

"From Dartmouth to the Dardanelles," which is published by Mr. Heinemann (1s. net), is the "log" of a midshipman in one of our warships which was lost in the Dardanelles. It is edited by the author's mother, who has, however, left his own words for the greater part, and wisely so, since he writes with great vividness and no little skill.

M. Nijhoff, The Hague, has published "Assyrian Sculptures: Palace of Sinacherib," by the Rev. A. Paterson.

Professor Pavlé Popovic's interesting letter on "Serbian Macedonia," which was published in this journal last autumn, has now been reprinted in pamphlet form, and Mr. A. H. E. Taylor has provided a short preface. The price of the pamphlet is 3d., and should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining copies they can be had from THE NEAR EAST Offices.

"The Story of a Red Cross Unit in Serbia," by James Berry, F. May Dickinson Berry, W. Lyon Blease, and others, was published yesterday by Mr. Churchill. The price is 6s.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Questions Balkaniques. By Jovan Cvijic, Professor at the University of Belgrade. (Paris: Attinger Frères. 2 fr.)

Behold the Woman! By T. Everett Harré. (Lippincott. 6s.)

SUFISM AND MOHAMMEDAN EVOLUTION.

At the lecture given by Mr. Alexander Sefi at Count Zogheb's house in Bruton Street on Saturday, it was refreshing to listen to words of love for God and for His creation, and to the sweet Sufi poetry, in the midst of the strife and struggle of the present more than Titanic war.

The lesson which the lecturer sought to convey was that Sufism, taking its origin in Arabia, was the best antidote to the prevailing fanaticism and ignorance in the Mohammedan world, as it was the best subjective philosophy that the world has known. Sufism, however, in its full sense could never be mastered except with full learning and deep meditation, which will ever be denied to the great masses necessarily engaged in their daily round of worldly pursuits. A small part of it nevertheless would suffice to give the masses that sense of happiness which is desirable and felt by anyone who feels himself to be at peace with himself and his neighbour. In the lecturer's opinion Sufism derived its inspiration from men like Cus ben Saidat, Bishop of Nejran, and consequently was nothing more than the Islamic name for the Christian aspirations of saintly lives as lived of old in monasteries and hermitages. He is opposed to prevailing notions about it, that it is Pantheism or that it teaches what certain Mohammedans believe, the dogma of "Helul." He views it simply as no new dogma, but purely a subjective, elevating feeling applicable to all thoughtful and religiously inclined people of all creeds. With Sufism there could be no massacres, murders, or any base action or intention; while theological problems are all talked of or looked upon with the utmost kindness and respect to individual thought.

Mr. Sefi translated a few lines from the great Syrian Sufi poet, Sheik Omar El-Farid, giving the basis of Sufism, and showing the beauty of Arabian poetry, but space will not allow us to do more than express regret to have no opportunity of hearing and knowing more of that spirit so dear to humanists, as it is helpful to our Eastern and Western every-day folks, especially as Sufism urges utmost industry in all life's walks, and proscribes neither harmless pleasure nor the just redistribution of crime.

A RARE M.S.

"Slavonic scholars and others interested in Serbia will be glad to learn that the famous 'Gospel of Miroslav,' which is the oldest ecclesiastical document extant in the Serbian language, but which had been missing since 1903, has turned up at Corfu," writes the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post*. "This book of the Gospels, which was written in Cyrillic characters for Miroslav, Prince of Zachlumia (the present Horzegovina), and brother of the famous Serbian ruler Stephen Nemanja, about the year 1180, was one of the treasures of the Serbian Monastery of Chilandar, on Mount Athos. When the late King Alexander of Serbia visited the monastery in 1896 the monks made him a present of this precious codex, and in the following year it was phototyped by Ljubomir Stojanovich, and published at Vienna. It disappeared from the Palace at Belgrade during the revolution of 1903, but information now reaches me that it has been found in Corfu, whither it must have been brought by one of the Serbian refugees."

* "From the Gulf to Ararat." An Expedition through Mesopotamia and Kurdistan. By E. G. Hubbard. (William Blackwood and Sons. 10s. 6d. net.)

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Armenian Tragedy.

On Tuesday *The Times* published a leading article entitled "Nemesis in Armenia." The ruthless massacre of the Armenians was, says the writer, "no spontaneous outburst of fanaticism or of race hatred"—

It was a deliberate attempt, organized from Constantinople and executed with the help of German officers, to realize the "Pan-Turanian idea" in the form of a scheme suggested by a German writer, Dr. Rohrbach. The scheme involved the "removal" of the Armenian population that separated the Turks in the heart of the Anatolian Peninsula from the other Turkish-speaking populations in North-Western Persia and Russian Caucasia. The original "Pan-Turanian idea" is believed to have been extracted from a notable "Introduction à l'Histoire de l'Asie," published twenty-two years ago in Paris by an eminent Franco-Jewish Orientalist, M. Léon Cahun, whose record of the aims and exploits of Jenghiz Khan fired the imagination of Young Turkish fanatics like Dr. Nazim and others. Its practical application has resulted in the massacre of hundreds of thousands of innocent people under Turco-German auspices. In his analysis of Turkish characteristics M. Cahun placed foremost that of blind obedience to orders. When the Turk is told to behave himself he obeys; when he is told to torture and massacre, he tortures and massacres.

Apropos of the same subject, in the course of an article entitled "Germany's Blackest Crime," which is "written upon information supplied from entirely reliable sources, by those who have recently returned from Turkey," the *Christian* asks:—

Why did a prominent German officer in Constantinople recently tap his fez significantly, and say: "We wear the Turkish fez, and it is to our advantage to make those who wear the fez hate those who wear the hat"? Why was it that, toward the end of last year, at a meeting of the leaders of the Union and Progress Party in the Turkish capital, the Germans tried to exact from them a written official statement that their hands were free of blood in all this devil's business, and the Turks laughed in their faces and refused to give it to them?

The answer to these queries was given recently to an American missionary on his journey from the interior to Constantinople, by a German officer with whom he conversed: "Yes; it is wretched, wretched business, the worst I have ever looked upon. It is simply unspeakable, barbaric, but"—and this Teuton spoke true to the ideal of his Fatherland, as that ideal has been instilled into the German mind from Potsdam—"to interfere would stand in the way of our reaching our military goal." That is why Germany did nothing and said nothing to restrain the blood-lust of the half-civilised Turk. It might have interfered with reaching her military goal!

"Union" and "Progress."

Under the titles, "La Fin d'un Peuple" and "Les Caravanes de la Mort," *Le Messager d'Athènes* publishes (July 2 and July 4) articles which give a truly harrowing picture of the massacres of the Armenians at Trebizond and on the Euphrates. At Trebizond, we are told definitely, three individuals—a Turk *and two Germans*—organised the massacres, and must bear the chief responsibility for them. The names of these three are given as: Irail Bey, President of the Union and Progress Party at Trebizond; the German artillery officer, Schtange, and the German Consul at Tiflis, who is named Schallenberg. The first article concludes:—

Parmi la horde sauvage des massacreurs, les "tchetas," les gendarmes et les Turcs Deunmés se distinguèrent par leur férocité.

Les horreurs commises furent telles qu'elles indignèrent et terrifièrent la majorité de la population musulmane qui s'efforça, au moins pendant les premiers jours, de sauver quelques victimes. Un Turc, Echadir Oglou, tenta même de s'opposer, les armes à la main, aux tueries, mais il fut tué dans les montagnes avec quelques Arméniens des villages environnants qui s'étaient joints à lui.

A Trébizonde, l'œuvre d'extermination a été complète. Sur les 14,000 Arméniens qui habitaient la ville, il ne reste plus aujourd'hui que "deux familles" et "quatorze femmes" isolées qui, grâce à la protection de Grecs, ont réussi à échapper à la férocité turque. En outre, selon l'opinion du consul américain, on pourrait espérer retrouver dans les villages environnants quelques centaines de petits enfants arméniens.

The "Young Turks" and the Germans are surely running up an account which it should be the duty of the civilised world to see that they pay to the uttermost farthing.

"Audi Alteram Partem."

The following passage is taken from a leading article ("The Supreme Decision") in the *Morning Post* of Monday:—

Wherever the war is being decided it is not in Mesopotamia, and the more we consider that adventure the more we regret the wild and amateur strategy which led us into such places as the Tigris Valley and the Gallipoli Peninsula. It is easy to see now how valuable that hundred thousand men we lost in Gallipoli would have been on the Western Front, where men have to fight not with disease and sunstroke and Turks, but with Germans and Germans alone. They are the enemy, and against them our blows should have been directed from the first. When, for example, Lord Crewe argues that our prestige in the Persian Gulf is important he forgets that Baghdad is a very long way from the Gulf. Certainly no prestige is to be gained from an inadequate attempt with an ill-equipped force at an eccentric objective. This is perfectly true, but the harm done, in our opinion, has come from not making an adequate attempt to reach Baghdad with a well-equipped force. Geographically Baghdad is a long way from the Gulf, but its political fortunes are bound up with those of the Gulf. Our contemporary, however, concludes its article with the expression of an opinion—apropos of the Mesopotamia Inquiry—with which we are in entire accord:—

We trust also that Parliament will see to it that a Committee is appointed which will be both fearless and impartial. We do not want another Marconi Committee when the lives of our soldiers, and not merely the reputations of our politicians, are at stake.

The Wolf and the Lamb.

The Balkans bulk large in "The Little Nations and the War," an interesting article which Mr. E. Bruce Mitford contributes to the current *Fortnightly*. "The Imperialists of Potsdam," says the writer, "looked to achieve the Germanisation—piecemeal, and without a world-war if possible, but with one if necessary—of all the little States, both on the north and on the south of the Germanic Empire." And he continues:—

Had there been no British Fleet invincible there can be no doubt as to the direction in which the imprisoned soul of *Kultur* would first have sought relief. As it was, the call of the East prevailed. And not without reason. *Drang nach Osten* opened to the Pan-German mind a vista of splendid possibilities. The Turk was not only valuable as an ally, but as a testator. In the taking up of his estate no more serious opposition need be looked for than the passive resistance of a party-logged administration in Britain. Already Asia Minor was as good as German. Beyond lay the wide plains of Mesopotamia; Syria, Egypt—Persia, too, perhaps, and the rich gateway of the Indies; nay, all the vast spaces of the Middle East waited but the waving of the Hohenzollern wand to bloom again as a Greater Germany. . . . In pursuit, then, of that universal dominion hypocritically described by German publicists as "a place in the sun," the Teutonic plan was, in the first instance, to take the line of least resistance. It was more prudent, and the *milieu* favoured. Out of the troubled waters of the Nearer East he would be a poor Chancellor who—without unduly stirring them—could fail to catch some fish.

Egged on by Germany, "the Hapsburgs soon became as wolfish in their dealings with the Balkan peoples as any Hohenzollern could wish"; and though the result of the first Balkan War and the rise of the Balkan League imposed a check on the Teutonic designs, it was only for a moment. "A few months later the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand—as the result of a plot hatched not a hundred miles from Berlin, to remove all possibility of danger from the Heir Apparent's pro-Slav proclivities—furnished an unexceptionable pretext and set the ship of *Welt-politik* fairly on her blood-course." The only thing to save the situation in the Near East, the writer holds, would have been the restoration of the Balkan League. That might have seemed impossible, but he believes that "prompt action on the part of the Entente would have made it possible." He continues:—

In the interests of the States themselves it was the appropriate reply to the Pan-German "*divide et impera*." Bulgaria, still smarting under the rebuffs embodied in the Treaty of Bucharest, was the sole obstacle. But the policy of Bulgaria was one of unblushing opportunism. What, indeed, could be expected from the statesmen who had initiated the system of brigandage in Macedonia for the express purpose of aggrandisement at their neighbour's expense, who fell treacherously upon their allies in the dark, who turned their backs upon their liberator, Russia? Bulgaria was out for the highest bidder. So keen was the competition to secure her war-services that that small State, with armed forces not exceeding a quarter of a million men, conceived herself to hold in her hands the balance of power in Europe. The only way to bring her over to the side of the Entente was to convince her that we could "deliver the goods."

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But our Foreign Office—ever in the world but not of it—merely sought to heap Macedonian coals of fire—at the expense of our Allies—on the head of "the spoilt child of the Balkans," while the fox-Tsar bargained with Berlin the price of betrayal.

Sins of Omission.

But it is not the Allies alone who have lost opportunities in the Near East, says Mr. Mitford.

Greece, like Bulgaria, by proving false to her past, has marred her future. . . . Yesterday an empire awaited her in Asia Minor—a Greater Greece, where four millions of people of Greek descent look for their deliverance from Turkish misrule. As that is an empire which the Pan-German has ear-marked for himself, the course for Greece to take was obvious. She chose, instead, a shameful neutrality. Greece, the child of Freedom, stood by while her Ally was butchered to make a German road; and, as many an unborn Greek will painfully reflect, the Empire that might have been was lost through a woman—consort of a pro-German King, kinswoman of the Hun.

The Allies themselves, however, "are not without sin" in the tragedy of Serbia's destruction. Had they acted more promptly in regard to sending troops to Salonika, had they cut the Central Empires off from their Turkish Ally, there would, perhaps, have been a different tale to tell.

The Situation at Salonica.

Writing in the *Field* (July 22) on "The Present Situation at Salonica," Mr. H. Charles Woods remarks:—

Whilst it may be logical to say that the Allies were either right or wrong originally to send an expeditionary force to Macedonia, that in the former case we ought at once to push forward our attack, cost what it may, and that in the latter we ought now to withdraw altogether, there may well have actually arisen a situation in which we are proved to have made an initial mistake, but that situation may not be such as to justify us at present in retiring from this theatre of war. But if this be so, and personally I think that it is so, it would obviously render a complicated position worse confounded to endeavour to insist that because we happen to be at Salonica the Allied forces based upon that town should immediately do something to justify their presence there, and that they must at once undertake a far-reaching offensive in order to conform to the movements in progress in other theatres of war.

During the first stage of the Salonica campaign—that is, so long as the Allies were endeavouring directly to prevent the subjugation of Serbia—we were compelled to conform to the enemy's movements. Since then, however, and particularly since we have turned Salonica into one vast fortified camp, the conditions have been entirely reversed. We can move or we can refuse to move, and in the former case we can choose the most expeditious moment for the making of our "push."

He also points out that

Outside the Balkans the Central Powers have a military advantage in that the Kaiser's General Staff is in a position to control the nature of the enemy's plan of campaign, and in that the interests of Germany and of her Austrian ally are in the main common. In the Near East, however, the situation is quite the opposite. Whatever she does elsewhere, Germany must here angle for the whole-hearted support of Bulgaria and of Turkey—countries which were led to go to war not really for Germany, but for more local reasons. She (Germany) cannot therefore sanction the inauguration of any policy which might still further alienate public opinion in these countries, or which might bring their interests into open opposition to one another or to those of Austria.

And he concludes that, "so far as the Balkans are concerned, the aspirations of the Germanic Powers and of their Allies are so conflicting and the situation is so complicated, that, left to themselves, friction and internal trouble are almost sure to arise—friction and trouble the favourable meaning and results of which for the Allies it is obviously impossible to discuss here."

The "Hajj Railway."

The following passage is taken from an interesting article, "The 'Pilgrimage Railway,'" contributed to *Chambers's Journal* (July) by A. Hilliard Atteridge:—

The line is officially known as the Hedjaz Railway, but it is sometimes called the "Hajj Railway"—that is, the "Pilgrimage Line." The work of constructing it was begun in 1901. I have seen it stated that the construction was proposed under German influence at Constantinople, and the work carried out by German engineers. But I doubt if this is true. Indeed, I suspect that this theory of its origin is an afterthought, prompted by the fact that the line has lately proved useful for the movement of Turkish troops from Damascus to the eastern edge of the Sinai desert, in connection with the German projects for an invasion of Egypt. I believe that, as a matter of fact, the only foreign engineers employed in the construction of the railway were Italians. Military labour was largely used, detachments of the Damascus army corps being employed in making the cuttings and embankments, and generally preparing the road-bed for the track. This made the work very economical, as the soldiers were given only a small addition to their ordinary pay. It is very likely that this economic method of construction was suggested by the fact that, a few years before, Lord Kitchener had used the same method in the laying of the Soudan Railway. Indeed, it is not improbable that the successful construction of the Sirdar's railway across the deserts of the Upper Nile suggested the making of the Hedjaz line.

An Eastern Poe.

The current issue of the *Asiatic Review* contains a short story by the famous Armenian writer Raffi, translated by "Varténie." It is a grimly fascinating tale, the scene of which is laid at Bibi Sharabani, "a cemetery surrounded on all sides by high walls, which still exists not very far from Teheran, amongst the ruins of the old town of Ray." Here is the description of this spot, as given in the opening passages of the tale:—

A lonely road, leading in a south-easterly direction from Teheran, brings the traveller to a desert place, where he will notice a large enclosure surrounded by high walls. One who is accustomed to seeing Asiatic towns will at once take it for an enchanted city swallowed up in its ramparts—only the walls are to be seen—not even a minaret or a tower is visible from the outside. But where is the entrance?

This enchanted city has no gate either.

The stories told about it by old people in Persia are fabulous. They say that inside those walls, so calm and silent in the daytime, fearful sounds are to be heard at night; that myriads of ghosts then hover about the ramparts; that they never wander far away, but cluster near the walls, where they keep their fiendish revels. But when the dawn approaches everything melts away, stillness reigns, and the silent ramparts are again painted out upon the desert in their gigantic stretches. The superstitious Persian never approaches these walls, and even in broad daylight there is no trace of any human being to be seen there. Only the great vulture hovers above, describing various curves and circles in the air; you might almost take him for one of the ghosts that are said to haunt the place.

The story itself is not unworthy to rank with Poe's efforts of the imagination, but it is distinctly Oriental in its style and its details. As an editorial note says, it is a good example of Raffi's short stories, "combining as it does imaginative qualities with the terrible facts of everyday life as he knew it."

In Crete.

A delightful article in the July *Blackwood* is "A Greek Island," by "G. E. H." Not the least interesting part of it is that devoted to Cretan antiquities, in the course of which the writer pays a well-merited tribute to Sir Arthur Evans for his judicious work of restoration of the palace of Minos; and draws a comparison between the antiquities of Egypt, Greece, and the island. This, however, must be read in the original to be justly appreciated. Here is a telling little bit about the intense independence of the modern Cretan:—

The one-ox threshing floor is a feature . . . which is particularly typical of Crete. Co-operation is quite unknown in the island, and independence is exalted almost to a vice, so that a man will rather have the tiniest threshing-floor of his own than combine with his neighbour for their mutual benefit. A Cretan once quoted to me a local proverb to illustrate this point. It ran thus: "To every Cretan his own olive-tree—be it only to hang himself from!"

And here is a pleasing note reminding us of the Venetian occupation:—

The Venetians, who possessed Crete in the Middle Ages, were solid builders, and the walls with which they surrounded the three small cities of their island dominion were of such massive proportions and excellent workmanship that the combined ravages of the Turk and time have done but little to deface them. The lion of their patron Apostle, which so invariably betrays Venetian handiwork, still stands watch above the gateways and on the bastions of the great harbour walls. Walking along the quayside at Canea you come upon a row of some half-a-dozen long, narrow buildings, which serve nowadays as the Customs warehouse, and are crowded with casks and bales. They were originally the old Venetian galley-sheds, and one can form an interesting idea, by studying their shape, of the curious long proportions of war-vessels of that day—they were certainly *longæ naves* with a vengeance! In the days when the galley-sheds and the harbour walls were built, the Mediterranean, of course, teemed with pirates, and the fortified Cretan ports must have spelt safety to many a flying merchantman hard pressed by Barbarossa's corsairs.

Articles to Note.

"Pig-sticking in Irak Arabi," in the *Field* (July 22).

"The Result of Balkan Inaction," by West F. De Wend-Fenton; and "The Unsolved Mystery," by Francis Aldridge, in the *World* (July 25).

"The Implacable Sun: Difficult Cycling in the Balkans," in *The Times* (July 26).

"The Resurrection of the Small Nations." Interview with Professor T. G. Masaryk, in the *Christian Commonwealth* (July 26).

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. July	1916. July.		1334. Ramadan	5676. Tamuz
28	15	Friday	27	27
29	16	Saturday.....	28	28
30	17	Sunday	29	29 Ab.
31 Aug.	18	Monday	30 Shawwal	1
1	19	Tuesday	1	2
2	20	Wednesday	2	3
3	21	Thursday	3	4

Wednesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Alexander of Greece, who was born at Talji in 1893, and is the second son of King Constantine.

Prince George, who for some time has been at school at St. Peter's Court, Broadstairs, has passed the qualifying literary examination for a naval cadetship, and will enter the Royal Naval College, Osborne, in September.

The Countess of Cromer left London on Wednesday for Scotland.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, arrived at Corfu on Sunday from Rome, accompanied by M. Jovan Jovanovitch, Minister Plenipotentiary.

Prince Cantacuzene of Roumania left London for Ireland on Tuesday.

Lady Maxwell is progressing very favourably, and hopes soon to go to Ireland.

H.E. the Hellenic Minister was received by the Marquess of Crewe, Acting Foreign Secretary, at the Foreign Office on Wednesday.

Madame Také Jonescu is now at Sinaia.

Mme. Boerescu, the wife of the late Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, is spending the summer at Sinaia.

M. Alexis Catargi, of the Roumanian Legation in Paris, has taken a house for the summer at Weybridge.

It is expected that Sir Murdoch MacDonald, Under-Secretary of State for the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works, will arrive in this country on leave shortly.

M. A. S. Levitch, the Director-General of the Serbian Ministry of Finance, who is now in London, will visit Paris prior to returning to Corfu.

Madame Criezis, the wife of Captain A. Criezis, Naval Attaché to the Greek Legation in London, has left with her daughter for Athens.

Colonel Lazar Guentchitch, Chief of the Medical Department of the Serbian Military Headquarter Staff, has left for Salonika.

The engagement is announced of Mr. Arthur B. Geary, H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul at Alexandria, with Miss Grace Summerhayes, daughter of Mr. Arthur Alport and of Mrs. Alport, of Johannesburg.

Mr. McKillop, Chief Inspector to the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, left for England on leave on the 10th inst.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Silley and family have arrived in London from Athens.

Dr. E. W. G. Masterman, who has for the past two years been serving as Senior House Surgeon at the Coventry and Warwick Hospital, has been appointed—for the duration of the war—Medical Superintendent of the Camberwell Infirmary. He will take up his new appointment about the middle of August.

Writing on July 10, our Cyprus Correspondent informs us that the English Chaplain at Limassol and Mrs. Taylor have left the island, and will not return.

Our Khartoum Correspondent writes (June 30):—

Mr. Sandford has returned from England, where he has had a spell of leave, and the Governor, Mr. R. E. More, is expected shortly from Alexandria, where he has been upholding the best traditions by his success in winning the doubles at tennis, scoring 100 in a cricket match against the I.Z., and winning two races at the last meeting.

Captain F. Balfour has returned from Cairo, where he has been working in G.H.Q. He is reported to be appointed to Gedaref.

Captain Field, R.A.M.C., also returned from Cairo, where he was married a short time ago.

In a later letter (July 9) our Khartoum Correspondent writes:—

Lt.-Col. C. E. Palmer, D.S.O., O.C. Ordnance, left Khartoum for Cairo on July 3, on his way to England, as he is leaving the service of the Egyptian Army. A guard of honour was at the station, and a salute was fired. A number of his friends were there to see him off.

Major Spinks, who will probably succeed Lt.-Col. Palmer, arrived recently from Darfur and proceeded to Erkowit to report to the Sirdar and Governor-General.

Amongst other passengers for North on the same train were Major Coutts, Director of Stores and Prisons; Major and Mrs. Mostyn, who came from Singa and have recently been on a trip to Fazogli and Roseires; and Mr. Norton, of the National Bank of Egypt.

On Saturday, July 8, a farewell dinner was given to Lt.-Col. W. H. Drake, C.M.G., Adjutant-General of the Egyptian Army, at the Sudan Club. He left with the usual military honours on the 10th for Cairo. Universally popular, he will be much missed in Khartoum, and bears with him the good wishes of both the Army and the Sudan Government in his future career.

Major Townsend returned from leave and passed through Cairo at the beginning of July. He is going straight back to Kassala.

Mr. Bethune William, the manager of the Um Nabardi, who has been spending a month in Cairo, returned on July 7.

Mr. McGillivray is returning to Khartoum again to examine the development of his company's farms, and see the year's prospects. Several of the company's employees are being employed on special service in connection with the Darfur expedition.

Mr. Jackson, Inspector in the Blue Nile Province, is returning from Egypt, where he has been attached to the Western Frontier Force.

A message has been received in London, stating that Mr. T. D. Cree, of Baghdad, who was taken prisoner (for the second time) by the Turks at Kut-el-Amarah, is now at Aleppo. By the kindness of the Turkish authorities, Mrs. Cree and their children have been allowed to join him in Aleppo, having been sent on from Mosul, where they had been detained with other British prisoners from Baghdad. An earlier message, sent in May by way of Busreh, had already allayed any uneasiness on the part of Mr. Cree's friends, since it stated that he was being kindly treated by his Turkish captors.

Mr. A. W. M. Tod, manager of Messrs. Lynch's Baghdad house, who was in Kut at the time of the surrender, is reported by the American Embassy in Constantinople to have been removed to Aleppo by the Turks. No recent news has been received of Mr. J. L. Battey, the second member of Messrs. Lynch's staff who was at Kut throughout the siege. At the time of the surrender he was reported safe, and there is every reason to believe that he is well and unharmed; but he is probably still in Baghdad or else at Mosul.

Sec.-Lieut. Charles A. M. van Millingen, 7th Rifle Brigade, elder son of the late Rev. Professor van Millingen, D.D., of Robert College, Constantinople, has been wounded at the front, and is now in hospital out there, and going on well.

Dr. and Mrs. MacGill, of the American Mission at Nasir, arrived in Khartoum on July 1 en route for Egypt and America on furlough.

Mr. F. P. Archbold, of Braila, Roumania, who is at present staying in England, has three sons serving in the Army. Two have recently been gazetted. The eldest son, Mr. F. B. Archbold, who is a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Fusiliers, came home from Chile to enlist; the second, Mr. K. Archbold, is in the Rifle Brigade; and the youngest, Mr. C. B. Archbold, has been in the Intelligence since January 1. All three enlisted as privates, and the two elder brothers are now taking part in the "big push," where we wish them the best of fortune.

Mr. Pearce, the Australian Minister of Defence, has written a letter to Borton Pasha, the Postmaster-General, Egypt, conveying to him the thanks of the Commonwealth Government for the courteous and valuable assistance rendered by the Egyptian Postal Administration to the various units of the Australian Imperial Forces quartered at various times in Egypt.

Our Bucharest Correspondent reports (July 4):—

M. Derussi, Roumanian Minister in Bulgaria, to whom we are all indebted for the services he has rendered to our prisoners in Bulgaria, has returned to his post. By special favour of the Bulgarian authorities he was authorised to return by way of Rustchuk.

M. Langa Rashcano, who has been in charge of the Roumanian Legation in Sofia during the absence of M. Derussi, is expected to return home shortly on leave.

Mr. Hearst, who recently arrived in Bucharest from Sofia, has remained in charge of the British Vice-Consulate here.

M. Psychas, the Greek Minister, has left Bucharest and returned to Athens. M. Ranghabé, who has recently arrived in the country, will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

M. Svilicositch, Serbian Consul-General in Bucharest, has left the capital on leave. M. Nastassiewitch remains in charge during his absence.

M. Simeon Radeff, the Bulgarian Minister in Roumania, has now returned to Bucharest, after a prolonged absence in his own country. He is most unwelcome in the Roumanian capital, where his presence is rightly looked upon with extreme suspicion.

The *Egyptian Mail* of July 5 reports:—Mr. J. I. Craig, Director of the Statistical Bureau, has gone on leave. During his holiday he intends to prepare a report on the industrial and economic situation in Egypt and on the possibilities of co-operation. He will also study the question of a protective tariff for Egypt.

The hon. secretary of the Central Islamic Society announces that the annual festival of Eid of Ramadan will take place on the morning of August 1, at the Mosque, Woking, Surrey, at 11.30.

Major Clement Ignatius Ryan, Essex Regiment, who is reported wounded and missing, believed killed, was son of the late Major-General T. Ryan, R.A., Scarteen, County Limerick, and of Mrs. Ryan, and son-in-law of Colonel C. Maguire. Born in July, 1876, he entered the Essex Regiment in 1897, became lieutenant two years later, and captain in 1904. He was employed with the Egyptian Army from 1907 to 1910, and received the Egyptian medal in connection with operations in the Blue Nile Province, 1908, and a clasp was added for the part he took in operations in the Jebel Nyima District of Southern Kordofan.

The Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies benefits by a legacy of £200 under the will of the Rev. Henry Fanshawe Tozer, of Norham Gardens, Oxford, who died on June 2, leaving estate valued at £37,755.

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Sir Charles Moore Watson, K.C.M.G., C.B., R.E., of Wilton Crescent, S.W., a Pasha in the Egyptian Army, and in 1866 Governor of Suakim, in which post he was succeeded by the late Lord Kitchener, left property valued at £4,158.

Lieut.-Colonel Oswald Arthur Gerald Fitz-Gerald, King George's Own Lancers, Indian Cavalry, personal military secretary to the late Lord Kitchener, who was drowned at sea in the sinking of his Majesty's ship Hampshire, has left personal property of the value of £976. It will be remembered that Lord Kitchener left to Colonel Fitz-Gerald all his lands and estates in East Africa, with the plantations, buildings, crops, and articles of every kind, free of duty.

The British Farmers' Red Cross Fund has this week paid to the British Red Cross Society £2,000 for the purchase and upkeep of two motor soup kitchens, to be sent to the Grand Duke Nicholas, for the use of the Caucasian Red Cross. These will bear inscriptions showing whose gift they are. Further help is urgently needed, and all offers of assistance should be sent to the Secretary (Room 5), Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Shad Thames, S.E.

At the annual general meeting of the British Academy Lord Cromer was elected an honorary Fellow. Only two honorary Fellows may be elected in any one year. His lordship was proposed "as a man of the highest distinction in statesmanship, as an author, and as one who has retained a keen interest in scholarship through a long life eminently useful to his country and the Empire."

Apropos of the destruction of the Chateau Tatoi, a member of the staff of the *Manchester Dispatch* gives some particulars of the place, which were given him by Mr. Thomas H. Mawson. He writes:—"The present King and Queen have always been extremely fond of Tatoi, where they have been in the habit of residing for many months during the spring, summer, and autumn. But the house has been much too small for the needs of their big family and retinue, and so a new residence has been in contemplation for some years. Indeed, plans for a new villa in the Georgian manner were prepared rather more than two years ago by Mr. George Nott in consultation with Messrs. Thomas H. Mawson and Sons, of Lancaster and London, who have prepared the plans for the Royal burial ground at Tatoi, and who are now at work upon the important scheme for replanning the ancient city of Athens. The new villa is to occupy a slightly more elevated site than the old villa, and when completed will equal in size and elegance the finest example of our Georgian country houses. Terraces, with fountains and statuary, will connect the house to the landscape, which is of a very picturesque and romantic character."

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mr. N. Wilkinson, Inspector, Repression of Slave Trade Department, Sudan Government, has been granted the 3rd Class Order of the Nile in recognition of his long and faithful services to the Government.

Mr. Ireland, Inspector-General of Irrigation, Upper Egypt, who has been granted three and a-half months' leave of absence, left for England on the 6th inst. Mr. Molesworth will act for him during his absence.

Mr. H. Symes Prideaux, L.D., L.R.C.S., has been appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Medical Department, Sudan Government.

Mr. H. Malcolm, late deputy manager of the Agricultural Bank, Cairo, who some time ago obtained a commission in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, has now been ordered for service in Egypt. He will assist Mr. Hornsby in the organisation of a new department in connection with enemy property.

Lieutenant A. J. R. Lamb, 2nd Dragoon Guards, and G. H. Heinekey, 4th Hussars, have been selected for service with the Egyptian Army.

OBITUARY.

GENERAL SIR H. J. T. HILDYARD, K.C.B.

General Sir Henry John Thoroton Hildyard died on Tuesday at Aspley Heath House, Woburn Sands, the residence of his sister, at the age of seventy years. The son of Mr. Thomas B. Thoroton Hildyard, of Flintham Hall, Newark, he was educated at the Royal Naval Academy, Gosport. He entered the Royal Navy in 1859, but retired in 1864, becoming an ensign in the Highland Light Infantry three years later. General Hildyard served in the Egyptian Expedition in 1882 as Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General, being mentioned in despatches and receiving the brevet of lieutenant-colonel. In the South African War he was first in command of a brigade and subsequently of a division, with the rank of lieutenant-general. Upon several occasions his services were mentioned in despatches, and he was created a K.C.B. General Hildyard temporarily commanded the First Army Corps at headquarters in 1901-2, and was Director of Military Education and Training in 1903-4. In 1905 he was appointed General Officer Commanding-in-Chief in South Africa, where he remained until 1907. He retired in 1911. He married in 1871 Annette, daughter of Admiral James C. Prevost.

Major Henry Gerald Pelly, late R.A., eldest son of General H. J. Pelly, died on Tuesday at Tunbridge Wells, aged fifty-nine years. Major Pelly entered the Army in 1876, and saw active service in the Afghan War of 1880, receiving the medal. He was also with the Egyptian Expedition in 1882, being at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, and was awarded the medal with clasp and bronze star.

Lieut. Hugh B. Laird, Yorkshire Regiment, who has been killed in action, was the son of the Rev. David M. W. Laird, M.A., of the New College, Edinburgh. His sister, Dr. J. Stewart Laird, is attached to the French forces at Salonika, and was in the Serbian Relief Medical Unit. His brother, Dr. David Laird, is at present serving in France.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank has lost two more members of its staff at the front: 2nd Lieutenant Bruce N. Dickinson was killed in action on June 29, and 2nd Lieutenant G. S. Samuel on July 14, both in France. These losses bring the total of killed from the London and Manchester offices up to six, and yet another member is missing and believed to be dead. Four others have been wounded. The number of those who joined the Forces was fifty-six, so the proportion of killed is extremely high.

Captain Robert Alexander Farmer Chard, Royal Fusiliers, who was killed in action on July 8, was the third and youngest son of the late Colonel W. W. Chard, late of Pathe, Othery, Somerset, and Mount Tamar, St. Budeaux, Devon, who commanded the 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers in Egypt, and of Mrs. Chard, of Pathe, Whimple, Devon.

The *Vossische Zeitung* last week announced the death of Prince Jelal-ed-Din, nephew of the Sultan of Turkey.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

DOUGLAS-HAMILTON. — On July 20, at Mazarita, Alexandria, Egypt, to Mr. and Mrs. C. A. A. Douglas-Hamilton—a daughter.

RICHARDS.—On Sunday, July 16, the wife of Captain Owen Richards, D.S.O., R.A.M.C., surgeon to Kasr-el-Ainy Hospital, Cairo—of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

RICHMOND—KELLY.—On July 8, at the Consulate, Alexandria, Egypt, Captain Arthur Eaton Richmond, R.A.M.C., S.R., eldest son of Richard Richmond, of Wimbledon, to Margaret May, daughter of William Kelly, Esq., of Tuam, Co. Galway.

DEATH.

SUMMERS.—On July 24, after a short illness, at Summit Cottage, Surbiton, Mary Garrod Summers, wife of Montagu Summers, of Langdan Hall, Worcester, and Gizeh Lodge, Cairo.

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FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1916.

THE MESOPOTAMIAN COMMISSION.

There are three aspects of the Mesopotamian campaign which the country will do well to keep separate in its mind in connection with the Commission of Inquiry about to be appointed. They are, what was meant to be done, how it was done, and what remains to be done. For the moment public attention is mainly concentrated on the second question; but we cannot lose sight of the first and third, which are concerned with the Expedition's objective. A tendency exists in some quarters to condemn any advance whatever on Baghdad, because the first attempt failed. We believe that the instinct which prompted the Government to countenance an advance was sound, and that it would be prejudicial to British interests in the Middle East if any attempt were made by Ministers to evade their political responsibility by representing the advance to have been a purely military conception. In stating the reasons which called for the dispatch of a force to the Persian Gulf, Lord Crewe, in the House of Lords, indicated why such a force had sooner or later to proceed up the Tigris. In August, 1914, he said, the Turks in Asia Minor had shown no little sign of restlessness. In Baghdad and the neighbourhood there were many threats against Great Britain, and the property of British subjects had been forcibly seized. It was also known that a strong movement was on foot, no doubt under German inspiration, to induce the proclamation of a holy war against us. It was difficult to foresee, Lord Crewe added, what the effect on Persia and on the Arabian peninsula would have been, if Islam so far east had declared itself as hostile to the Allies. To the contention that the objects in view might have been attained by the occupation of Busreh and Kurnah there is the unanswerable reply that from a military point of view the Power which holds Busreh must hold the country to the north of it and for some distance beyond Baghdad. For the advance in the circumstances in which it was actually undertaken some excuse may be found by the Commission of Inquiry; none is apparent at present. Not even the earlier successes attained by the Expedition ought to have obscured the physical impossibility of General Townshend's small force being able to hold Baghdad, when it had taken it, and the extreme unlikelihood of adequate reinforcements reaching it in time to forestall Turkish attacks. On the other hand, as Lord Wemyss pointed out in his indictment of the campaign, the Expedition entrenched at Busreh or some other place, improving its position, organising its transport, and gathering together all it needed, might have been a potential force of enormous value, available for effective use at the right moment.

In the discussion in the House of Commons, on July 20, by far the most helpful contribution was made by Colonel Sir Mark Sykes. Speaking with personal knowledge of the Mesopotamian Expedition in its earlier stages, he recalled the fact that it had at one time achieved one of its objects. "It did immense work for our prestige." Further, he was of opinion that its actions diverted large forces of the enemy down to Mesopotamia, "and this enabled our Allies in the North to make progress which otherwise they might perhaps not have been able to make." Then came the surrender at Kut, "the greatest success to the Turkish army since it surrounded Peter the Great on the Pruth in 1711," while "for an English surrender of like magnitude we have to go back to 1781." Sir Mark Sykes proceeded to insist upon the point which we have urged for so many weeks in these pages. What he hoped would emerge from the debate would be a feeling in the enemy's mind that the force in Mesopotamia was not disheartened, and that the Government and the people in England were absolutely united in the resolution to avenge the surrender of Kut. He believed that in Mesopotamia we were fighting an enemy which used to regard us with fear, and now regarded us with something like contempt. He hoped, therefore, that there would be a feeling that the Commission was appointed not merely to punish some particular official, but to assist us in carrying on and to enable us to win to victory. Here we have the third object, but in reality the primary object, of the inquiry into the Mesopotamian campaign. Little of the bitterness and exasperation which the conduct of the operations has aroused would have been felt, if the unsatisfactory condition of things to which attention was first called last December had been promptly remedied. It is the knowledge that a state of affairs which has been described as a scandal has been allowed to continue until quite recently, while a misleading description was being applied to the wholly inadequate steps being taken to remedy it, that has shaken public confidence. The Commission will have to allocate responsibility for the mistakes made, if only to ensure that those concerned are not left in a position to lower British prestige again; but its object is also to reassure public opinion that all previous shortcomings have been remedied or, if any still exist, to point out the remedy.

While the Commission is thus charged with duties which by right belonged to the General Officer Commanding the troops, or, failing him, to the authority controlling the Expedition, the Government cannot divest itself of its present responsibility in regard to the conduct of the campaign during the time that the Commission is carrying out its investigations. In this respect considerable satisfaction is to be derived from the assurances given by the new Secretary of State for War. Sir William Robertson, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, is now responsible for the direction of the operations, and very considerable orders have been given for the construction of river steamers and all kinds of river craft. Arrangements have also been made for the construction of a light railway part of the way—a fatal omission in the past, which in itself reflects gravely on the competence of those in charge of the Expedition, if they did not recommend such a line, or on the responsible authorities, if they would not sanction it. Further, Mr. Lloyd George was able to give the assurance that the mere fact of setting up a Commission of inquiry was not going to interfere in the least with the activities of the War Office in doing its best to put matters right. It is of good augury that steps are being taken to provide an adequate supply of river craft. Such a decision points to a resolve to go forward in due time. The importance of a strong flotilla of river boats for an advance up the Tigris is self-evident, but it receives confirmation from an article in the *Cologne Gazette* describing the activity of "the Germany Navy" in Mesopotamia. According to this journal the German naval personnel restored the flotilla of river boats which the British left in the hands of the Turks on their retirement after the battle of Ctesiphon. "They were placed under German command, and performed useful work in the battles near Kut and against the advancing British relief force. To the mines and guns of this flotilla it must be attributed that the British made no attempt to relieve the beleaguered city by employing fully their river war material." The statement is no doubt highly coloured, but whatever the strength of the Turco-German river fleet, it will have to be reckoned with when the British advance takes place. In the meantime, the instructions of the country to the Special Commission could be summed up in the words, "Get on with your work, in order that we may get on with the campaign in Mesopotamia."

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"MAGIC CUPS."

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

From time immemorial popular superstition has played a prominent part in the everyday life of nations. Even to-day, wherever we go, we find relics, religious and otherwise, to which marvellous curative and sedative powers are attributed, and which are held in deep reverence for this reason by the people of the country, and, for that matter, often by those of other countries. Amongst Moslems a great place has been, and still is, given to what are known as "Magic Cups," and that able Arab scholar, Ahmed Zeki Pasha, the Secretary of the Council of Ministers, who has made many valuable contributions to Arab literature and to the study of Arab art, read a highly interesting paper before the Egyptian Institute recently with regard to one of these cups, which is in the possession of the old Coptic Church of Moallaca, in Old Cairo.

"Cups of Terror."

Magic Cups fall into two categories—those which cure the sufferings caused by violent and sudden emotions, which the Arabs call "Cups of Terror," and those which serve to cure maladies, physical as well as moral, and even domestic troubles. The "Cups of Terror" are jealously preserved by those who possess them, and are in general use to this day in Egypt. The owners willingly lend them to their suffering fellow mortals; one condition, however, attaches to such loans, non-compliance with which will cause the cup to lose its charm for ever—the borrower must make a monetary deposit. Zeki Pasha related that in the case of one of these cups, which he produced, he had had to pay the sum of £T5 to the mother of the head of the family possessing it.

The following is the procedure that must be followed to work the charm of the "Cup of Terror." The cup has to be filled with water at the hour when the Faithful proceed to the mosque for the dawn prayer. A bunch of keys and other metal trinkets, all of them rusty, are then dipped in the water, which is left out in the open, and which the person to be cured has to drink the next morning. This ceremony, repeated three, seven, or forty consecutive nights, as the case may be, invariably cures anyone suffering from the effects of strong emotions. The cure is probably achieved by the good effect produced by oxide of iron on certain cases.

The other category, which is far more interesting from both the superstitious and the historic point of view, falls into two classes, those that are anonymous—i.e., undated, and those that bear either the name of a distinguished personage or a definite date. It is to the second class of this category that the cup forming the subject of the paper belongs.

The Saladin Cup.

This cup Zeki Pasha calls the Saladin Cup, because of the dedication which is inscribed upon it. The inside, made of white brass, bears a circular inscription consisting of mystic and cabalistic letters, which, albeit several Arabic letters and cyphers are distinguishable, are so intermingled that it is quite impossible to make anything out of them. Above this inscription are sixteen medallions, identical in form but with alternating Koranic and mystic inscriptions on them. The Koranic medallions contain the formula: "In the name of God, the Merciful and All-Forgiving." The original bottom of the cup has disappeared, and has been replaced by a curious piece of copper, on which there are no inscriptions. On the outside of the cup, which is made of red copper, is the dedicatory formula, which is worth reproducing. It runs as follows:—

> Honour to our lord, the Sultan King, the defender of the cause of God, who is supported (by Him) the victorious, Abou-l-Mouzaffar, Yusef, the co-sharer of the Commander of the Faithful! (This cup) has been proved by experience (to be a cure for) viper and scorpion bites, fever, to bring about the return of her husband to the divorced and abandoned woman, to cure (the bites of a) mad dog, intestinal pains, colic, headache . . . to destroy the effects of witchcraft (to stop) bleeding, to exorcise the evil eye, to drive away sadness and heart qualms, and all ills and infirmities except death . . . to prevent the vexations caused by troublesome children. (It should be) placed at the head (of the patient) and be used as a bath by the old maid (to help her get a husband).

Below this inscription are ten medallions, alternately round and trapezoid in form. All are covered with mystic signs entirely incomprehensible to us to-day. Underneath the medallions is a circular inscription in Arabic characters, some of which are obliterated, but from which, with the help of contemporary cups in the Arab Museum, it has been possible to reconstruct the following text:—

> Made after astrological observations reproduced and engraved during the apogee of the star and according to the horoscopes derived from the astral tables. This has been agreed upon and adopted by the principal religious heads of the Rashidite Caliphs in order to safeguard the Moslem community. Executed at Mecca in the year . . . for all ills and infirmities.

As the original bottom of the cup is missing, it is not possible to say exactly what procedure was actually prescribed for this particular cup, but thanks to other cups in the Arab Museum and elsewhere we can fill in the blank. It was very simple. The cup was to be filled with oil, milk, or water, which was at once to be drunk by the person afflicted, or, on his or her behalf, by a third party delegated for the purpose. In the bath it was used to anoint the patient.

Zeki Pasha explains the loss of the original bottom by the fact that the cup was in constant use, owing not only to its miraculous powers but also to the dedication to Saladin inscribed upon it, which was in itself supposed to give it a supreme charm. The acids which this constant use and friction set up in the end ate the bottom away, and the owners, when they saw this happening, very ingeniously put in a new one to enable the cup to continue its good work. All the other "Magic Cups" are practically intact, which proves the popularity of the "Saladin Cup."

In the opinion of the lecturer this cup was undoubtedly dedicated to Saladin. In the first place the dedicatory formula calls the dedicatee "Co-sharer of the Commander of the Faithful," which is a title that was peculiar to the Moslem Princes of Egypt. Moreover, that dedicatee had the name of Yusef. The only ruler of Egypt who has borne that name was the celebrated Saladin. Again, the cup gives him the "Kounia" or surname of Abou-l-Mouzaffar. Custom has it that the Moslem princes, in addition to their other titles, called themselves often "Abou" (father of), and as a matter of fact Saladin did call himself Abou-l-Mouzaffar and had a son named Mouzaffar. He is so referred to in authoritative works, such as De Slane's "Biographical Dictionary," and also on the commemorative plates on the Cairo Citadel, which was built by him.

A Tolerant Prince.

That this cup is amongst the most precious treasures of a Coptic Church need cause no surprise, and is, indeed, further proof that it is dedicated to Saladin. The latter was notoriously tolerant towards the followers of other religions who dwelt under his rule. He afforded the Christian and the Jew his fullest protection against the persecution of the more fanatical Moslems. So grateful indeed were the Copts that they gave a special place in their churches to his portrait. Moslem poets have recorded this fact, which is further proved by a reproduction of one of those portraits which was in a monastery, and which the lecturer exhibited to his audience.

Apropos of portraits, Saladin was the first Moslem prince to have his effigy placed on coins. He caused these coins to be struck showing him wearing a turban, and seated cross-legged on a throne, holding the globe in his left hand and with his right hand resting on his hip. Specimens of these coins are in the British Museum and at Paris.

Zeki Pasha terminated his paper by relating two stories that showed the tolerant nature of the régime introduced by Saladin into Egypt, and his chivalrous and kindly character. A Jew domiciled in Spain was forced to embrace Islam in order to avoid exile. For sixteen years he professed the Moslem religion and distinguished himself by his knowledge of the Koran and of Malekite law; but at the bottom of his heart he remained a Jew, and, being unable to stand the strain any longer, he left Spain, and after wandering through Morocco and Syria, came and settled in Egypt, where he began again to worship his Creator in the manner of his fathers. He traded in precious stones, and at the same time gave lessons in philosophy, medicine, and theology. For several years he lived in peace, close to the Moallaca church. But one fine day an Andalusian lawyer arrived, and, recognising his fellow-countryman, and finding that he was now professing as a Jew, he denounced him. The Jew was brought before the Kadi and his fate seemed certain; for the Islamic law punished apostasy with death. But the Kadi was imbued with the broad-minded views and sense of justice of which Saladin was a shining example. To the general surprise he acquitted the Jew, on the ground that his conversion had been made by force, and was, therefore, illegal. The Jew, it is interesting to note, was the famous Rabbi, Maimonides, who became the principal physician to Saladin and his successors, and whose premature death would have deprived Judaism of a great exponent and the medical faculty of a brilliant member.

The other story is that Saladin was himself a doctor by profession, and that it was he who went and attended Richard Cœur de Lion when he was sick. Zeki Pasha admits that this is really a legend, but he adds that Arab authors nevertheless record that Saladin made it a rule to send his own doctors to attend his enemies, as he scorned to take advantage of their momentary physical weakness and preferred to conquer them face to face on the field of battle. It is also known that on one occasion Richard I. actually appealed to his arch-enemy for medical assistance, which he received. It would be interesting to know whether there are any references to this in Western literature, which might throw some light on this legendary incident.

A Reuter's message from Amsterdam, dated July 26, states:—Advices from Smyrna report that an entire Turkish regiment at Saydikeui has mutinied and fled to the forest on Mount Similou. Turkish troops have been sent in pursuit and have set fire to the forest. It is further reported that all the Austro-German forces in the vilayet of Aidin have been recalled and have already left for Constantinople on their way home.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The freakish nature of explosions has always interested me, and a friend who knows this recently told me about a Turkish (or German) shell which, on the Gallipoli Peninsula, did things that certainly illustrate this freakishness very well. It was a 16-inch shell, and it chose for its billet a dug-out in which a sergeant and two privates were engaged in sorting out a newly-arrived mail. Making its way without any ado through the roof of this dug-out, it exploded, according to my informant, *on* the small table between the three soldiers. The sergeant was killed instantaneously—blown to bits, poor man, in thorough fashion: I refrain from giving details in consideration of my readers' feelings—but his two assistants, though badly shaken up, bruised, and buried in débris, were dug out otherwise uninjured. And the table, though actually dented, was not pierced or broken. It was this latter fact that most impressed my informant; and at first I shared his astonishment. But another friend suggests a theory which seems to me to account for the wonder. He thinks the shell must have exploded not *on* the table, but just before reaching it, and the dent must have been made by a small fragment. Readers learned in such matters may argue the matter out amongst themselves. To me the theory propounded by my second friend seems likely to be correct.

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I have not yet read Colonel Patterson's new book, "With the Zionists in Gallipoli," but I look forward to doing so at an early opportunity, for I enjoyed the author's "Man-Eaters of Tsavo" immensely, and Gallipoli ought to provide him with some good material. Meantime I am wondering whether he has anything to say about the ill-fortune that seemed to dog the footsteps of the members of the Mule Corps in the matter of being suspected as spies. An officer who had quite exceptional opportunities for observing the facts assured me that it seemed to be the fate of these men to be arrested by vigilant sentries and suspicious soldiers or sailors with amazing frequency. Indeed, in his own picturesque phraseology, "The entire corps seemed to be dragged in nearly every night, and usually had to wait till daylight before they could establish their bona fides. Nobody could make them out, and they had a pretty rough time of it."

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Writing of the Battle of Jutland some weeks ago, I asked whether anybody in Turkey or Bulgaria would really swallow the thumping lie that Germany was in such a hurry to foist off on the world. Apparently official Bulgaria made a really gallant attempt to do so. We read long ago of General Jekoff's fulsome telegram to the German Navy. Now we are able, thanks to Professor Popovitch, to see what the Bulgarian Press comments were like. The *Narodni Prava*, for instance, writes:—

> German genius has on this occasion vanquished also the English power at sea. The fruit of centuries has been broken by the creation of half a century. Science has been victorious over numerical superiority. Quality has destroyed quantity.

This was on June 2. Does the *N.P.*, I wonder, still pretend to believe such bosh? And here is the *Echo de Bulgarie's* comment:—

> This battle is the first great naval victory of the Germans and the first great defeat of the English: it is, after an interval of one hundred years, a second Trafalgar, in which the English are the vanquished. The dogma of British invincibility has received a formidable shock, whose reaction will pass beyond the frontiers of the belligerents. Germany has by this victory established her power at sea, just as by her countless victories on the Continent she has established her invincibility on land. . . .

Poor little *Echo!* Should it not be renamed "Echo de Berlin"? If *that* is the sort of stuff the German Lie Bureau turns out, one may feel very thankful that this country has no such clumsy agents.

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But the creamiest paragraph of all that Professor Popovitch has been kind enough to translate for us is from the once-respectable *Mir*, which remarks:—

> The English cannot prevent the losses to their fleet in this new manner of fighting, for which the Germans are apparently better prepared. Nothing can hinder them from repeating that they are masters of the sea, that their fleet is invincible, that only individual admirals are to blame for the defeat they have suffered, . . . but it is certain that their eagerness for fresh battles with the German fleet has greatly decreased; and it need not amaze anybody if, *instead of the German ships*, English men-of-war will now begin to skulk in British harbours.

We must admit that the Germans are apparently "better prepared" for this "new manner of fighting"—by scuttling back to port; but it is a pity that the *Mir's* scribe cannot meet a real British sailor, when he would learn whether those brave fellows' "eagerness for fresh battles" had "greatly decreased." What does he mean by his foolish talk about blaming individual admirals? I, for one, give the puzzle up! And why he should think that the German ships are now likely to "skulk" in British harbours instead of in their own I fail to understand. But I suspect that the Germans will hardly admire his naive admission that their ships *had been* skulking before the battle. That "instead of the German ships" is a beautiful touch. Perhaps the *Mir* does not, after all, love its German Allies so very, very greatly.

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Apropos of this subject, I observe that the *Neuste Nachrichten*, in the course of a typical article, inspired by news of the destruction of a few English trawlers, vaunts the prowess of the German navy. "The German shells," it goes on to say, "that hit the houses of Seaham proclaim to England the fact that German warships are in undisturbed possession of the North Sea. Jellicoe is powerless, the British Fleet is impotent, and German bluejackets triumph as the real masters of the North Sea." How truly German! A single submarine, sneaking under the seas, bombards an undefended port, and—"German bluejackets triumph," etc. Neutrals will believe that Germany rules the waves when her surface vessels dare show their flag on the high seas. Not before. Even the Kaiser's submarines are by no means "undisturbed" in their "possession" of the North Sea. Does the German public know how many of them have been "accounted for" so far? Germans who do know can hardly feel happy.

CORSAIR.

THE B XI.'S FEAT.

In the Prize Court on Monday Sir Samuel Evans had before him a motion on behalf of Lieutenant Norman Holbrook, V.C., and the ship's company of H.M. submarine B XI., for a declaration that they were entitled to prize bounty in respect of the destruction of the Turkish battleship Messudieh in the Dardanelles, on December 13, 1914.

Lieutenant Holbrook stated that he received information that a Turkish battleship was lying off Chanak, and that she was being used as the headquarters of the Dardanelles German Naval Staff. He accordingly proceeded up the Dardanelles and, having dived under five lines of Turkish mines, extending across the channel, sighted the Messudieh at anchor off Chanak. He fired a torpedo at her at 800 yards. He heard the torpedo explode, and after an interval of three minutes came up and saw that the quarter deck of the battleship was awash. She was going down by the stern. He returned as he had come, by diving under the minefield once more.

The President: What was your complement?—Fourteen men and two officers, including myself. At the time, added witness in reply to questions, the nearest British warship was seventeen miles away.

The President: All I can say is that you showed splendid courage.

After some discussion as to the complement of the Messudieh, the President said: "I do not think this is a case in which I ought to encourage any splitting of straws. I declare that the officers and crew of his Majesty's submarine B X1 are entitled to prize bounty as being present at, and having brought about, the destruction of the Turkish battleship Messudieh. I declare the number of persons on board the battleship to be 700. The amount of the prize bounty, at the rate of £5 per head, therefore, will be £3,500."

FOR BRITISH PRISONERS IN BULGARIA.

The following is a first list of donations to the fund, which Madame Také Jonescu is raising in this country in aid of British prisoners in Bulgaria:—

Parish of Christ Church, Clifton, per Miss M. Mackenzie, £1 1s.; Colonel Gleig, £3; Miss C. Taylor, £2 2s.; Mr. H. Mallaby Firth, £2 2s.; the Misses Green, 10s.; Mrs. Howard Tozer, £1 1s.; Anonymous, 5s.; Miss M. E. Maingay, £1; Mrs. Kinsey Peile, 5s.; Lady Kennedy, £5; C. Simmons, £5; Mrs. Basil Braithwaite, £5; L. and N.W. Ry. Loco. Staff, Willesden Junction (Wounded Soldiers' Fund), £1; Sydney (N.S.W.) Chamber of Commerce, through the London Chamber of Commerce, £50; total, £87 6d.

As already announced in these columns, the Bank of Roumania has opened an account for the fund, and the Earl of Bessborough has kindly consented to act as Honorary Treasurer. All subscriptions should be sent to him at the Bank of Roumania, Limited, 27, Throgmorton Street, E.C.

A Sofia telegram to the *Vossische Zeitung* states that M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, by his speech, agreeing to the demand of the Opposition that the Budget, as passed, should be restricted to three months, has disarmed the extremists of the Ghenadieff group, and that it now only remains to turn out of the Cabinet M. Apostoloff, the Minister of Railways, who belongs to the Ghenadieff group and refuses to resign voluntarily.

The Serbian boys who were entertained at the Mansion House on "Kossovo Day" have written to the Lord Mayor thanking him for their reception, adding that when they go back to their own country they will try to use the knowledge they have acquired in England for the benefit of their countrymen and in gratitude to their great English friends.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Mesopotamia Expedition. July 20.

The Earl of WEMYSS moved that a full inquiry ought to be held into the whole conduct of the Mesopotamia campaign, especially in relation to the transport arrangements and the provision for the wounded. Since the curtain fell on the tragedy of Kut, so many rumours had gathered about the question that to clear the air of them would be to the public advantage. He was prepared to believe that for the original expedition—not the later develop- of Baghdad—a very good case could be made out; that, entrenched at Busreh or some other place, improving its position, organizing its transport, and gathering together all it needed, the force might have been a potential force of enormous value, the moment for using which might by this time have already come. It was a matter of common knowledge that General Townshend objected to the advance, but, having lodged a protest, he did his duty as a British soldier. It was a most unfortunate coincidence that the advance on Baghdad should have coincided with the obvious failure of the Dardanelles expedition. Many people thought the advance was a gambling venture on the part of the Government. He did not hold that opinion, but he believed the mistake was that they did not connect the Dardanelles expedition with the advance on Baghdad; for so long as there was a chance of the Dardanelles expedition succeeding there would have been a chance of the advance to Baghdad coming off. The moment that expedition failed the advance ought to have been abandoned. It was an extraordinary thing that nobody, either in the Cabinet or on the General Staff, appeared to have thought, even if the expedition got to Baghdad, what would happen to it afterwards. If the expedition had been able to get into Baghdad, and to remain there, the only way that could really have been brought about was by having an expedition of the most perfectly equipped kind. Yet those who were responsible for this expedition neglected nothing that lack of foresight and organization could effect to eliminate any possible chance of success that there might have been. It would be wrong to put the whole failure down to lack of transport, because General Townshend's force was armed with artillery so obsolete and inadequate that if it had not been for the loss of prestige he might just as well have handed it over to the Turks. At the battle that took place on January 21, when it was all important that the troops should get across the river, the sappers had no material of any sort to make a breach, or the cable necessary to make a flying bridge. All the comforts which were so rightly given to the troops on other fronts were absolutely lacking for the troops in Mesopotamia. And this was the expedition of which the Prime Minister had said that he did not think that in the whole course of the war there had been a series of operations more carefully contrived, more brilliantly conducted, or with better prospects of success! As regarded the treatment of the wounded, when they heard of what went on in Mesopotamia people rubbed their eyes and wondered whether they were back in the days of the Crimea. He could not believe that the Government realised the rage and exasperation with which our troops in Mesopotamia read the debates in Parliament, which led them to think that the Government cared more for its Parliamentary position than for the lives of the people. Two things were required in Mesopotamia: one, that everything possible should be taken out of the hands of the Indian Government, in which the troops there had no confidence at all, and put into the hands of Sir William Robertson, in whom they had every confidence; the other was that an inquiry should be held at once, and the very fact of an inquiry being instituted would do a good deal to remove what was complained of. If he were accused of washing dirty linen in public, his reply was that it was better to wash it in public than to wear it indefinitely in public. The time for cleaning up this subject was long overdue. He did not move for an inquiry in any desire to find a scapegoat, but rather in the faint hope that some things that were alleged might be found to be exaggerated, and, above all, in the confident belief that ventilation of this subject would render for all time impossible a recurrence of scandals which, whatever the result of the war, would be a blot on our otherwise magnificent share in the conduct of it.

The Marquess of CREWE, after a graceful compliment to the previous speaker, announced the intentions of the Government regarding the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry. Referring to the reasons for the expedition to Mesopotamia he said:—In August, 1914, although we were not at war with Turkey, and did not become so for some months, the Turks in Asia had shown no little sign of restlessness. At Baghdad and the neighbourhood many threats had been uttered against this country and the property of British subjects had been forcibly seized. It was also known that a strong movement was on foot, no doubt under German inspiration, to induce the proclamation of a Holy War against us. It was absolutely necessary for us also to support the interests of our tried and faithful friends, the Arab Chiefs on the Gulf. We were also bound to protect as far as possible the valuable oilfields, in which not long ago we acquired an interest of much importance to our naval oil supply. At the beginning of November we found ourselves at war with Turkey. Our preparations had been carefully made—although without perpetrating an act of any kind which could be said to have had a shadow of hostility against Turkey—and on November 6 we landed in the face of some resistance. Two brigades were available, and after some sharp fighting Busreh was occupied on November 22. It was always possible that if we had not then shown our strength Islam as a whole might have been deflected against us. It is impossible to foresee what the effect on Persia and on the Arabian peninsula would have been if Islam so far East had declared itself as hostile to the Allies. Further, we had to consider the position and prospects of the great Moslem population of Africa, which in turn might easily have been roused against us and our Allies. From those dangerous possibilities, in our judgment, we were altogether saved by the prompt move to the head of the Persian Gulf.

Lord BERESFORD said that nothing could be said too laudatory of General Townshend; it was not the enemy who beat him, but famine and bad management. Why were General Townshend and his officers reduced to less than half-pay? The General received £200 a month when he was in command of the force and maintained the credit of the British name before the world, but since he had been unfortunate enough to have to surrender his pay had been reduced to £83. That was a scandal.

Viscount MIDLETON asked whether what had been complained of in the past had been set right. It was alleged that at a recent period there was still a lack of transport and barges and a considerable insufficiency of doctors. There was also total absence of the comforts which had been provided in France most generously.

Lord ISLINGTON said that within the last forty-eight hours a telegram had been received containing the satisfactory announcement that all the troops in Mesopotamia were on full rations, with the exception that there was a shortage of vegetables and milk. In order to assure that what was sent should find its way to the troops up the river a supply officer of high rank was going out to control matters of supply.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Dardanelles and Mesopotamia. July 20.

Sir E. CARSON had on the paper the following motion:—"That, in the opinion of this House, Select Committees should be appointed forthwith to inquire, respectively, into the conduct of operations (a) in Gallipoli and the Dardanelles, and (b) in Mesopotamia, including the supply of equipment to the troops, the provision for sick and wounded, and the responsibility of those Departments of the Government whose duty it has been to minister to the wants of the forces employed in those theatres of war, respectively."

When Sir Edward was about to propose his resolution, however,

Mr. ASQUITH rose and announced that the Government thought it right to institute two separate inquiries in regard to the two sets of transactions. These inquiries, he went on to say, should be conducted by small bodies on which both Houses of Parliament would be represented, but which were not to be confined to members of those Houses—Australia, for instance, ought to be represented on the Dardanelles inquiry. When necessary the Commissions would sit in secret, and their constitution and the terms of reference would be submitted to Parliament by a Bill which would confer the power to compel the attendance of witnesses.

Sir E. CARSON thought it would be futile to proceed to discuss the question after the Prime Minister's statement. He added that he had great confidence in Sir William Robertson, "a man of great judgment and ability, and, above all things, a man who could not be influenced by the politicians." He would not pursue the motion he had put on the paper, but hoped the Bill would be prepared and brought in at once, and put through all its stages quickly, and that public confidence would be restored by a real and thorough investigation.

Sir H. DALZIEL thought it would have been better if the House itself had appointed the tribunal, which was going to inquire into the acts of Ministers as well as soldiers, rather than that it should be appointed by the Government.

Captain A. HERBERT could not feel that the Prime Minister's statement was entirely satisfactory. They wanted to have the responsibility fixed, and fixed soon.

Colonel Sir M. SYKES said that the Mesopotamia campaign was conducted by a very small force, which, however, felt itself, against anything but overwhelming odds, invincible. He imagined that a force never went into the field in which there was more splendid co-operation between the various commanders than there was in this case; the staff and the regimental officers were absolutely as brothers, and that wonderful little force met the enemy on six occasions—an enemy superior in one arm as seven to fifteen, in another arm, two aganist three, and in another, one against thirty, and always it emerged victorious. There was courage, decision, and immense hope, and its action diverted large forces of the enemy down to Mesopotamia which he was certain enabled our Allies in the North to make progress which they might perhaps otherwise not have been able to make. More than that, they conquered an enemy province and a half and retained it to this day. These were things we should not forget in regard to that little force. It did immense work for our prestige. The picture which we had now was not so happy. We had had a sad surrender. It was well we should not minimise a thing which the enemy did not minimise. The surrender of Kut was the greatest success the Turkish arms had had since it surrounded Peter the Great on the Pruth in 1711. For an English surrender of that magnitude we had to go back to 1781. From the correspondence one saw one could not help feeling that people regarded that force as disheartened. He hoped there would emerge from the debate a feeling in the enemy's mind that that force was not disheartened, and that the people in England and the Government were absolutely united in the determination to

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avenge the surrender at Kut. He believed that in Mesopotamia we were fighting an enemy which used to regard us with fear, but which now regarded us with something like contempt. He hoped that there would be a feeling that the Committee was appointed not merely to wreak vengeance on one particular official, but to enable us to win to victory, and that the united purpose of that House and the Government was to co-ordinate our military brain to achieve that end. If the enemy once recognised that this country was united and determined he would pass from contempt to the sense that he was not going from one victory to another, but that he was going to fail.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE announced that the Prime Minister wished him to give an undertaking on his behalf that the Bill should be introduced on Monday, and he also announced that, under an arrangement come to within the last few days with the Government of India, while the force in Mesopotamia would continue to be administered by the Commander-in-Chief in India, the latter would receive his instructions from and be responsible to the Army Council in matters of personnel and supplies. Arrangements had been made to send to India men representing the War Office to assist in the organization of supplies. The War Office would take responsibility for transport, which had been the main difficulty. Supplies at the base at Busreh were abundant at the present moment, but the transport had broken down.

The Kut Prisoners.

July 24.

Lord R. CECIL informed Sir E. Cornwall that the Foreign Office was without any information as to the treatment of the non-commissioned officers and men who were taken prisoners at Kut-el-Amara. The United States Embassy at Constantinople were sparing no effort to obtain the information.

Dardanelles and Mesopotamia.

Mr. ASQUITH asked leave to introduce a Bill constituting Special Commissions to inquire into the conduct of the war in the Dardanelles and Mesopotamia. The Commissions would have to decide for themselves whether, with regard to the special conditions of the questions involved, their proceedings should be in public or in private; and they would exercise that discretion in connection with particular cases as they arose. An important provision would authorise the holding of sittings in India. If sittings were required elsewhere, as, for instance, in Egypt or a Crown Colony, authority would be given by Order in Council. As to Mesopotamia or any place not under British sovereignty, the military authorities must be relied upon to order persons under military law to attend the Commission. He suggested that the Bill should be circulated before the House engaged in a general discussion. It would be put down for the next day.

Leave was given and the Bill was introduced and read a first time.

Prisoners in Bulgaria.

July 25.

Lord R. CECIL informed Sir E. Cornwall that copies of a report, dated June 19, by the United States Consul-General-in-Charge at Sofia regarding the treatment of British prisoners of war in Bulgaria had recently been received. The report was of a satisfactory character. The Government had asked the United States Ambassador whether there was any objection to its being published.

Occupied Greek Territory.

Mr. FORSTER, replying to Sir E. Cornwall, said:—As far as is known the only parts of Greek territory occupied by Bulgarian or other enemy forces are the Rupel Pass and its vicinity to the southern slopes of the Belasica Range, north of the railway, between Doiran and Demirhissar.

Want in Serbia.

July 26.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Sir E. Cornwall, said that information received by the Foreign Office with regard to the condition of things in Serbia was to some extent conflicting, but unfortunately there seemed little doubt that in some parts of the country distress from want of food was serious, and reflected great discredit on the occupying Power.

Dardanelles Prisoners.

Mr. FORSTER informed Mr. Malcolm that the number of officers and men captured in the Dardanelles who were now prisoners in the hands of the Turks were believed to be 19 and 359 respectively. These figures represented the totals of the lists received from the Turkish Government, after check and verification at the War Office and collation with information received from other sources.

Sir Percy Sykes's Mission.

Mr. MALCOLM asked the Secretary for India if he could state the result of General Sykes's campaign in the direction of Kerman.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: Brig.-General Sir Percy Sykes left Bunder Abbas in the latter half of May. He arrived at Kerman, without encountering any opposition, on June 2. He was welcomed there and found the officials anxious to do all in their power to carry out the instructions of the Persian Government in restoring order and controlling the disturbers of neutrality.

Mesopotamia and the Dardanelles Commission.

On the motion for the second reading of the Special Commissions (Dardanelles and Mesopotamia) Bill,

Mr. ASQUITH announced the names of the Commissioners who, the Government proposed, should undertake the Mesopotamia and Dardanelles inquiries (these names are given elsewhere); and pointed out that the Government had suggested as the terms of reference the actual words of Sir Edward Carson's motion last week.

Mr. CHURCHILL suggested that there should be an interval of twenty-four hours between the announcement of the names and the discussion of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. ASQUITH said he would only ask the House to read the Bill a second time that day, leaving the Committee stage till Thursday.

Sir H. DALZIEL considered that the reference to the two Commissions was not wide enough. The public wanted to know all the circumstances relating to the initiation of the Dardanelles expedition and also who it was that ordered the advance on Baghdad, and everything connected with that operation. Both Commissions should have power to cross-examine Cabinet Ministers and the heads of public Departments, and to call for all relevant documents, unofficial as well as official.

Colonel A. HERBERT suggested that the Commission should be empowered to strengthen themselves by co-opting members. He hoped that the appointment of the Commissions would have immediate effects. He looked forward to men in high positions trembling in their shoes now that the inquiry was started, and that result would be good for our people. The bonds of red tape would be looser and rather less glutinous than they had been in the past, and that would be for the good of our men in India, Mesopotamia, and in Bushire. The Commissions would find themselves up against something more than individual incompetence and negligence; they would be up against a very big system which was even more cumbrous in India than at home. All knew of the loyalty of the Indian troops and the generosity and loyalty of the Indian princes. The Secretary of India, in the fine defence he made the other day, which was characterised by that loyalty to his colleagues and subordinates for which he was distinguished, said that nothing was refused by the Government of India that was asked for. He could only say he believed the right hon. gentleman had been misinformed. The campaign had been starved from its very initiation. It had been fought on lines of heroism by the soldiers and conducted on lines of pauperisation by the Administration. In no other theatre of war had our soldiers to put up with so much as in Mesopotamia. To him the country was like ancient Egypt with all the plagues. The only difference was that the plagues in Mesopotamia went on all the time; they might change their form, but they never ceased. Things important and trivial were asked for and refused by the Government of India. It might be said in reply that the men in Mesopotamia did not want anything, that they were happy with the mosquitos and did not want nets, that they did not mind drinking water from a river with dead bodies in it, and did not want filters, and that they did not want to be pampered with high explosives. As the men were human they wanted those things, and did not get them. The question was whether the Commander-in-Chief in India received application for those essentials; whether he believed they were necessary; and whether he asked for them to be sent.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said the whole of our misfortunes in the East were due to the failure to arrest the German ships Goeben and Breslau in the Straits of Messina, yet those responsible for that failure did not come within the purview of the inquiry. He attributed a great deal of the Sinn Fein bitterness in Ireland to the neglect to publish the immortal deeds of the Dublin and Munster Fusiliers and the 29th Division generally at Gallipoli.

Mr. ASQUITH, replying to various points raised in the course of the debate, said that the Government desired to make the scope of the reference as wide as possible, and had no objection to the insertion of the word "initiation." The Commissioners would have the advantage of the best naval and military evidence, and they were a thoroughly competent body of men, competent to pronounce judgment without any special assistance. Mr. Healy had suggested that the operations which led to the escape of the German battleship and cruiser should be included. These subjects had been inquired into by naval tribunals, and he did not think it desirable to complicate either of these inquiries by such matters. These things took place before Turkey declared war.

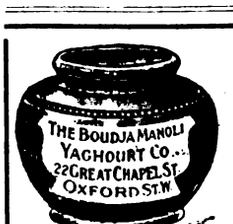
Mr. CHURCHILL asked whether the indemnity clause in the Bill simply meant that it gave protection from punishment for giving evidence.

Mr. ASQUITH: That is what I understood. It is put into every Bill. The Commissions are bound to present a public report and will not shroud under a veil of secrecy any part of the inquiry which they think could be legitimately and in the public interest conducted in public. But there is the relation of these military and naval operations to the future conduct of the war. There are also diplomatic negotiations of a very delicate and secret kind. I hope the House will read the Bill a second time, and be assured that the Government desire that the inquiry should be as comprehensive, impartial, and exhaustive as possible.

Sir J. REES hoped that the Commissions would be instructed to present interim reports on the more pressing matters with which they would deal.

Mr. ASQUITH: That is provided for in the Bill.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, answering two questions, said the inquiry would cover the Army and medical administration in India, and the representatives of Australia and New Zealand upon the Commissions were not the nominees of their respective Governments, but the invitees of the British Government, sitting with the knowledge and assent of their own Governments.



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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The resumption of trade between Egypt and the Hejaz is to be welcomed, and doubtless the Khedivial Mail Line will come again into a little of its former commercial importance in those waters. Apparently a steamer has left, or is about to leave, an Egyptian port for Jeddah, and probably—unless the unexpected happens—a more or less regular service will be re-inaugurated. The effect, both in Egypt and throughout the Moslem world, of communication between the holy places of Islam and enlightened El Masr will be great indeed, and will lead to greater intercommunication between the two shores of the Red Sea. Incidentally, it may be pointed out that, thanks to the benevolence of the British Government, occasional "sambuks" laden with foodstuffs for the famished inhabitants of the Hejaz have been permitted to load at Port Sudan for Jeddah. Now, however, and in view of the new steamer service, the supply of commodities for the brave Arabs who are fighting for the tents of Islam against the Ottoman dupe of the Huns will be greater and more regular.

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The fact that Great Britain and France have agreed to place a sum of £800,000 to the credit of the Greek Government in the Bank of France is to be welcomed as definite proof of the Allies' belief that matters in Athens are improving. At the time of the downfall of the Skouloudis Cabinet I gave it as my opinion that the direct cause of the crisis was the opposition of France and Great Britain to that hare-brained financial scheme whereby the paper currency of the country was to be heavily augmented to the detriment of the Greek exchange. I see no reason now to alter my previous opinion, and therefore look upon the present financial arrangement as a barometric reading pointing to fair weather. May I not be mistaken as our diplomats were as regards Bulgaria's sincerity!

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Matters between Roumania and Bulgaria are not improving. The question of transit across the Danube has become more difficult, owing to Bulgarian highhandedness, with the result that Roumania, not to be ordered about by her impertinent neighbour, has ordered the suspension of all transit traffic. The matter, to us, may appear unimportant at the present moment; but later on, when a state of normality has been granted to Europe, the question of the right of an upstart State like Bulgaria to interfere with traffic up and down and across the Danube will have to come up for definite settlement. In other words, we have in Bulgaria's present attitude towards Roumania an apt illustration of the whole Danube problem as frequently dealt with in these columns. The future must see Roumania, with whom the Danube is as important as it is to Austria, in a position to carry on her river trade without hindrance from neighbours. The Boches, I have every reason to believe, are well aware of the importance of the Danube—the great fluvial artery of the Near East—in all political combinations, and doubtless the Kaiser, in sending another German Prince to the Court at Bucharest, is attempting, among other things, to compromise between Bulgaria and Roumania as regards river traffic.

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Put a beggar on horseback and he will ride to the devil, and that is apparently the destination of Bulgaria and her politicians. Reference to the letter of our Bucharest Correspondent, published today, will show that the Sofia mob, not content with their treacherous ingratitude to Russia, are preparing a quarrel with their Austro-Hungarian Allies and are issuing a direct challenge to Greece and Roumania. A challenge is certainly involved in the "hint" given to Bulgaria's "neighbours" to prepare to fall in with the new railway arrangements by which she proposes to serve her "new frontiers." The ambitious programme of railway extension set out by the *Echo de Bulgarie* is so obviously an "echo" that I need not lend dignity to it by discussing it. I will venture to agree with the paper, however, so far, that Bulgaria will have new frontiers after the war; but they will not enclose as much of Bulgaria as they do at this moment. There is a day of reckoning coming soon for these creatures of Attila, a day for which we can afford to wait with confidence and calm.

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The Central Powers made a bold and unprincipled attempt to extort from Roumania several millions of francs in gold, but the authorities at Bucharest were not such easy victims. The Roumanian tax on cereals exported to Germany and Austria amounted to about 19,000,000 francs, and, as per contract, Roumania demanded payment of the money in gold. The Central Powers are fully aware that the law in Roumania is that no gold shall be exported from the country. Notwithstanding this, however, Berlin and Vienna have combined to demand that Roumania shall pay them in gold for merchandise imported into Roumania. I am glad to see that Bucharest has resisted this preposterous claim. Whatever might have been the case a year ago, the Central Powers are no longer in a position to threaten force. A threat to overwhelm Roumania by sending half-a-million apostles of Hunnish "kultur" would have no effect now, unless it was to produce a good deal of amusement.

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A correspondent writes as follows from Casablanca, Morocco:—"It is, I think, apparent that British interests in Morocco may only prove a pawn in the game of International politics, and that all that those interests can hope is that there is no indecent hurry in 'swapping' them. It seems pretty evident that we may be on the eve of surrendering the Capitulations in exchange for something of the same sort in Egypt, and an excellent market may, perhaps, be lost to England, as have been Algeria and Tunis. Whether Great Britain can afford to sacrifice any markets after she comes out of this war is not for me to appreciate. But that the matter should have full and public discussion, and not be settled by a ring of politicians—of that I am perfectly sure."

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The writer of this letter is a keen and able man of business who may be relied upon to know what is happening in the country in which he is living and working. Without prejudice, as the lawyers would say, to the accuracy or otherwise of his estimate of the situation—and I have no reason to doubt it—I agree that the matter is one that requires very careful attention indeed. We must not forget, however, that the British Chamber of Commerce, formed in Tangier some time ago, is a watchful and discerning body, not likely to allow a threat against our interests to go by default. Moreover, we have the Bank of British West Africa now at work, with a statesman interested in its welfare in the person of Lord Milner. This combination may be trusted to be watchful.

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I am entirely in sympathy with the sentiment which has led the Australian Government to request traders and manufacturers to refrain from adopting as trademarks, or for other commercial purposes, the word "Anzac." Its use in connection with trade has been forbidden entirely in the Commonwealth. The name has tragically glorious associations with the Australian people, and it is little wonder that they should desire to keep it sacred; indeed, the wonder to me is that, as so many of our own splendid fellows, both of the Mother Country and from India, were associated with the Australians in Gallipoli, the use of the name was not anticipated by prohibition in this country as well as "Down Under."

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At the risk of being charged with importunity I must refer again to the fact that the Huns are already beginning to prepare for the days in which "open" trade will be the rule, and to refer readers of THE NEAR EAST who, so far, have not realised the importance of being in earnest in this matter, to the report of the British Vice-Consul at Zante. It is obvious from this document, which was published in a recent issue of THE NEAR EAST, that time lost in pushing trade now will be difficult to recover later on. "There are indications," we read, "that German exporters are already making preparations to resume business operations and to resume their position in trade as soon as the war is over." It is better to be sure than sorry, and business "left over" until "to-morrow" is always potential sorrow.

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The British Government have always suffered through their tendency to be long-suffering and of great mercy, and I am therefore glad to observe that during the last week or two they have given some sign that they are now proposing to add a certain amount of discretion to their benevolence. The decision to withdraw from the Declaration of London was the first sign of an awakening; last week we had another, that is if the President of the Board of Trade may be regarded as a responsible representative of the Government. The Minister has laid it down that "as British traders are unable to obtain payment of amounts due to them by enemies, he is disposed to think that it would be inexpedient as a general rule to diminish the capital available for carrying on their businesses by compelling them to pay to the Public Trustee the debts which they owe to enemies." The only wonder is that it has taken two years of war with the most barbarous and unscrupulous enemy the world has ever known for Britain to find the way of wisdom.

COMMENTATOR.

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The One Hundred Firms.

Why Manufacturers should Co-operate with Producers of Raw Materials.

We take the following from the *Morning Post*:—"For some little time past there have been informal talks among several of the leaders of British manufacturing industry as to the need for a strong organisation to represent the national interests. Various attempts have hitherto been made in this direction, but have all, for one reason or another, come short of expectations. The present movement, which began in a private conversation, had for its central idea that a hundred strong firms should each put down £1,000 as a guarantee, and that they should then meet and discuss the project more closely. It is an excellent sign of the spirit of the country that the hundred firms were soon forthcoming, and indeed the number is now considerably more."

John Wesley once said that if he could get a sinner convicted of sin he would get him "saved," no matter how great a sinner he might be. Similarly, if the British manufacturer could be induced to submit himself to a course of thorough self-examination, and then to admit his shortcomings, he would soon be able to free himself from the condemnation which has been his for so many years. It is satisfactory to observe the indications that he is approaching the stool of repentance. He has certainly entered upon his self-examination and, given the requisite frankness and the inclination to tear himself away from his old and cherished heresies, he will emerge from the ordeal a regenerated man. But the lost British position in industry and commerce is not going to be won back merely by talk, or by newspaper publicity, or by tentative promises of amendment. To win there must be definite action in two directions—backwards, for the tearing up of the effete and obsolete, and forward, for the adoption of the modern and scientific. That is the only way of salvation, and those who are not prepared to pursue it may as well get out of the way of others who have abandoned the old road, with all its paralysing inadequacies, and require all the room they can get in the new.

Manufacturers' Association.

The movement spoken of in the first paragraph of this article culminated in a meeting last week of a number of British manufacturers, led by Sir William Peet and Mr. Dudley Docker. The general drift of the speaking, we are told, was that the national interest of the kingdom had suffered terribly in the immediate past by the fact that our manufacturers were disorganised and helpless. It was decided to form an association the policy of which would be decided by events; pressing problems would have to be settled as they came up. Other points which concerned the meeting were the need to combine on a national basis to meet the competition of other countries after the war, and the unfair manner in which the Government had taken advantage of the patriotism of controlled firms. It was strongly emphasised, too, that the association should be exclusively British and exclusively manufacturing. We do not propose now to concern ourselves with the charge against the Government, although it is possible that arguments may be found to support it. It can be dealt with later, however, when there is time and opportunity to embark upon a complete and general survey of the relations of the Government with our great national industries. The outstanding vital need of the moment is to discover how lost ground is to be made good, how best to co-operate with British producers of raw material, how to get into close and sympathetic touch with markets at home and abroad, and how to compete in them with those who are our most formidable rivals. If we are to accomplish this great task successfully—and time is the very essence of it—we shall have no time to waste on recriminations. There must be a truce to such diversions in the fullest sense of the word, and it must be a matter of honour to observe the truce, for division at home will mean failure abroad.

Before the war broke in upon our national self-complacency complaints were made very frequently—so frequently, indeed, that hope was almost killed—that our manufacturers had become so indifferent to the march of events that they had ceased to care whether they were out of touch with modern demands or not. It was said of them that they were hopelessly conservative, selfish, and self-sufficient, and that they refused to adapt themselves to the needs of the time. As a matter of fact, some of the charges were true, some of them were false, and some of them were exaggerated; but in any case it was obvious that, whatever the reason was, the British manufacturer had lost a lot of ground. That, we think, was fairly recognised, as was the proposition that before we could hope to recover what had been lost confidence had to be restored—the charges had to be disproved if they were false, or, if they were true, guarantees had to be given of absolute and permanent conversion.

One of the Guarantees.

The movement which has just been inaugurated may be regarded as one of the guarantees, probably the most serious guarantee that has been given, and those who are concerned with it are to be congratulated upon the apparently definite steps they propose to adopt. In one respect, however, we would venture upon a suggestion. It is that the association will do well to take the Oversea Dominions into fellowship. There was a time, perhaps, when exclusively home deliberations could not be described as parochial; but that time has passed never, let us hope, to return. For some years now there has been a demand for closer commercial relations between the mother country and the Dominions, and in theory, at least, the demand has been conceded. Conferences have been held, visits have been exchanged, and a good deal of policy has been outlined; but up to the outbreak of the war the result, practically speaking, was nil.

Catastrophe though it has been in the loss of so many splendid men and so much treasure, the war came to prove to us the reality of what, previously, some people had believed mere conventional claptrap. Whenever and wherever a Colonial met a Home-born Britisher—if the audience were sufficient—we heard from both sides of "the tie that binds." It came to be regarded as a platitude, as a patriotic propriety that sounded well. The war has proved it to be a cable of hope. It was neither a platitude nor a propriety; it was a fact, and to be just we must admit that most of the sacrifices that were necessary to realise this ideal of Empire have been made by the Dominions. In this war we very properly took upon ourselves the defence of a principle, or a group of principles, the foremost among them being the right of the smaller nations to exist alongside their more powerful neighbours free from the risk of aggression and the injustices which aggression must inevitably produce. In fighting for this great principle it was inevitable that we should come into conflict with nations less scrupulous than, and as powerful as, ourselves and our Allies, and the result is that the original issue of the struggle has been widened to include our national existence. That is the point at which the Dominions came in. The responsibility was entirely our own. If they had left us to settle with the enemy single-handed, while our sentiment would have been mortally wounded we could not have found fault with their decision. Happily, however, they made the cause of the mother country theirs; they shouldered part of the burden which would have been too heavy for us to carry alone, and with us have shown to the world an example of unity which is unparalleled in all the ages. That is one of the reasons why the Dominions should be given an opportunity of coming into this association.

Another Reason.

In a recent article we discussed the question of preserving British produce for British manufacturers, and that brings us face to face with another reason why this exclusively British manufacturing fellowship should open its doors to the oversea producer. We may assume that British manufacturers attach some importance to the availability of an unfettered supply of raw material, and to the possibility of establishing such relations with oversea British producers as would enable them to secure something of the character of preferential treatment. That would be an advantage which the manufacturer is not likely to undervalue. The question he has to consider in that matter is how to secure it. It would be futile for the producer to commit himself to a policy of preference if the manufacturer did not first undertake to utilise to the fullest extent all the opportunities which the producer would provide and, second, make some return to the producer for the sacrifices his restricted market would impose upon him. To achieve these results a definite alliance between the two would be imperative: alone neither could hope to succeed; together, they could not very well fail. And let this be remembered: it is the manufacturer who has the most to gain from the partnership. The producer could always find buyers for his wares, even if the British manufacturer went out of work to-morrow. Egypt, India, and Canada, to mention three, would be welcome in any market they chose to enter. India's jute, cotton, seeds, ore, minerals, hides and skins, and a hundred other articles, mention of which is to be found in the trade returns, are indispensable to industry. In 1914 we were glad to buy nearly £40,000,000 worth of these goods, and they were not bought merely to give India a show. To a less extent the same is to be said of Egypt and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, with their rapidly expanding production, and of Canada, which sent to us in the same year food and materials to the value of £40,000,000. These are facts and figures worth thinking about, and the manufacturer will do well to ask himself if, in planning means to extend and develop his operations, he can afford not to co-operate with peoples great enough to produce these masses of materials, if he can afford to ignore the possibility of securing them on the basis of preferential treatment.

Sellers and Buyers.

There is another factor to be considered also. The Dominions are not only countries of production: they are also among the largest buyers we have. Let us go back to the Indian Returns and place against sales to us our sales to India. Still taking 1914 as the basis, we find that India bought from British manufacturers goods valued at nearly £55,500,000. Canada purchased to the extent of £17,380,000, while Egypt and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan accounted for a very considerable sum. It comes to this in the end, that in many cases the British manufacturers find in the Dominions their largest supplies of raw material and afterwards secure in them their best customers for the goods they manufacture from them. Could any greater evidence in support of the contention on behalf of co-operation be submitted?

We can answer for this: if between the manufacturer at home and the producer of raw materials in the Dominions there were faith and confidence there would be no risk of aliens coming in to steal the trade. The markets of both would be assured. In this matter the onus lies on both, but chiefly on the manufacturer at home. The producer abroad would never refuse the advances of the other: on the contrary, he would welcome them. Together they would make an invincible combination, and it is a point for the new association to choose—successful ready-made trade with co-operation on the one hand, or isolated action in a fight for markets on the other. Which shall it be?

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PROSPERITY OF THE SUDAN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 11.

The Sudan Government has just published the final accounts for the year 1915, and we find ourselves face to face with another entirely unexpectedly favourable state of affairs. My review of the accounts for the preceding year terminated with the remark that we must be prepared for the possibility of a deficit at the end of 1915, for reasons which the recent note on the 1916 budget clearly set out. This prediction bade fair even at a late date in the year to become realised, but fortunately a sudden improvement set in, and as a result the Sudan Government has been able to close its books with a revenue figure which is but a few thousands less than the budgetary one, viz.: £E1,495,227, against an estimated £E1,501,000. By dint of rigorous economy, in which the loyal co-operation of the entire personnel played a prominent part, the expenditure was kept down to £E1,463,934, or £E37,066 less than the credits originally provided. The net outcome of the year's working is a surplus of no less than £E31,293, which was a result never for one moment contemplated even by the most optimistic, and which constitutes a remarkable testimony alike to the ability of the responsible authorities, and to the extraordinary manner in which, despite adverse circumstances, the Sudan has managed to recover some of the leeway lost during the past three years.

The revenue realised is £E48,322, and the expenditure registered £E67,412 less than those of the preceding year. The difference in revenue bears principally on the following heads, viz., increases: Ushur (Land Tax), £E18,399; and rent from Government property, £E12,149; decreases: animal tax, £E13,227; Customs, £E14,932; steamers, £E32,594; railways, £E4,443; whilst under expenditure, provinces diminished by £E11,167, forests by £E8,963, steamers by £E30,217, and railways by £E59,187 (General Central Services of the Finance increased by £E48,805).

Increased Figures.

It is interesting to note that the Budget figures for 1916 are somewhat higher than the results of 1915. Thus, the revenue and expenditure, which have been fixed at £E1,642,500, are respectively £E147,273 and £E178,566 in excess of those figures. The chief items where the current year's figures exceed those for 1915 are, under receipts: provincial, which include tribute £E33,379; Customs, £E5,068; agriculture and forests, £E22,651; public works, £E16,627; railways, £E76,058; and steamers, £E10,774; and under expenditure, provincial, £26,122; agriculture and forests, £E11,948; veterinary department, £E5,246; steamers, £E6,458; posts and telegraphs, £E7,491; and railways, £E117,196.

The peculiar position in which the Sudan finds herself was dealt with in full in the recent review of the Budget figures for 1915, which appeared in The Near East of July 14, and I do not to-day propose to repeat what I said on that occasion with regard to the future prospects. This much I will say, however. The increase in the estimates over and above the realised receipts of the year just closed are fully justified by the excellent reports on the agricultural situation in the Sudan, and by the general improvement in internal trade, which the opening up of Darfur is bound to produce. The financial result of the administration of the Sudan during 1915 in the circumstances under which it was obtained serves but to confirm the expression of confidence as to the future of the country which has been so often voiced in your columns—a confidence that is bound to subsist and meet with justification so long as those who have controlled its career during the past years remain at the helm.

The joint Austro-German organisation set up at Bucharest to secure the export of cereals, petroleum, and groceries, and the importation of various goods from Germany and Austria, has not worked to the satisfaction of the Austrians, who found that the Germans were absorbing everything, says a telegram to the *Morning Post*. The Austro-Hungarian Legation has therefore established a separate bureau.

RED SEA TRADE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, June 30.

The opening of trade with certain ports in the Red Sea has provided an outlet for a considerable quantity of grain for export. In the Gezira, where the chief supply of grain (durra) for commercial purposes is grown, there is said to be still a third of last year's crop in store against the possibilities of a bad year. As the prospects of this year are good so far, it will be advisable for the native owner to "unload" his old grain if he can, and the Arabian Peninsula, which is in great need of foodstuffs, offers a good opportunity.

Reports from the date palm districts tend to show that the crop of dates will be moderate only. This is due partially to the fact that the Nile only remained at high level for a very short period last year, and still more to the locusts, who ate down the fronds of the trees and thereby weakened them. Apparently the tall trees suffered worse than the young ones from the depredations of the locusts, possibly owing to the greater care with which the pest could be driven off the shorter trees; but the latter are said to be bearing very well, whilst the tall ones have little or no fruit. The dry date of the Sudan is consumed almost entirely locally and in Egypt. It has no sale in Arabia owing to the liability of the dates to be attacked by worms or boring beetles.

SUDAN DARI AS POULTRY FOOD.

A pamphlet has been issued by the Commercial Intelligence Branch, Central Economic Board, Sudan Government, in which the value of Sudan Dari (dura) as poultry food is explained.

Dari, it is pointed out, has been known to poultry keepers in the United Kingdom for many years, and used in grain form for feeding growing chickens as an alternative to millet, to which it is distinctly superior. A small percentage of dari is generally to be found in poultry mixtures. Hitherto it has not been regarded with favour for adult stock or laying-hens. This is due in large measure to its seed-like form, and also to the fact that the total supplies are comparatively small. This grain—for such it is—varies considerably. Some samples are small, whilst others are larger, the last-named of which are generally preferred, due to the fact that there is less risk of wastage when fed as grain. It is flat, with a fine skin, and the flour content of that generally exported from the Sudan is white and soft, even though it is the product of a hot country, and it is low in water contents. As revealed by analysis, the amount of fibre and ash is relatively small—in one sample only 2.7 per cent.—so that the percentage of nutrients is high. Poultry are very fond of dari, as it is palatable and easily digested by them. Hitherto it has not been fed in meal form. With extended use that will be changed.

Until the outbreak of war, Sudan dari was sold at about the same prices as maize, with which it was, to a limited degree, in competition. Experiments at Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and elsewhere in feeding milk-cattle, have given as good results with dari as with maize. For poultry, a decided advantage possessed by dari is that the fats are white—not yellow, as in the case of maize, which makes yellow, oily yolks in eggs and yellow flesh on birds. Recently, the price of dari has been lower than that of maize by several shillings per quarter of equal weights (480 lbs.), although the advance in freights has affected both classes of grain. With greater shipments from Port Sudan the difference in values should be maintained. Dari is the better food for poultry, not alone by reason of more perfect balance and greater percentage of proteins, which supply the elements for eggs and flesh, but from the fact that it is higher in digestibility—the chief factor in appreciation of food values.

The large size of Sudan dari enables it to be fed among litter in scratching sheds without waste. Greater use of Sudan dari for feeding poultry of all species and ages will enlarge the range of feeding stuffs and cheapen the cost of producing eggs and poultry.

Copies of the pamphlet may be obtained on application to the offices of the Sudan Government Railways, Northumberland Avenue, S.W.

TRADE OPENINGS.

The Army Finance Department, Cairo, invite tenders for the supply of fourteen tons of candles to be delivered c.i.f., Alexandria or Port Said. Date, September 5, 1916.

The Director of Personnel and Equipment Department (Supplies Office) invites tenders for the supply of photographic material required, for a period of one year commencing on August 1, 1916, and ending on July 31, 1917, for the Ministry and the Identification Service of the Ministry. Date, August 1, 1916.

Accepted Tenders.

Citadel Stores, Alexandria and Cairo.—Vacuum Oil Company's tender for petroleum, value £E1,139.326m.; Paul Lifshitz's (Cairo) tender for copper cooking utensils, value £E179.326m.

War Department Stores.—Banco di Roma's tender for wheat, value £E14,572.500m.

TRADERS' BLACK LIST.

United Kingdom.

By an Order in Council, dated July 18, the following additions have been made to the statutory list of firms abroad with whom trading is prohibited:—

Haji Amin-ut-Tujjar Brothers, Ispahan, Persia.

The following name has been removed from the list:—Constantacopoulos and Co., Patras.

The *London Gazette* announces that orders have been made by the Board of Trade requiring the undermentioned business to be wound up:—

Roumanian Oil Trading Company, Ltd., 6, Lloyd's Avenue, E.C., shipping agents of a Roumanian company. Controller: Rodway Stephens, 31, Lombard Street, E.C.

Egypt.

Mr. E. D. Joyce, Imperial Ottoman Bank, Alexandria, has been appointed receiver of and instructed to liquidate, the business of A. Stross.

Mr. R. E. Moore, Savoy Chambers, Cairo, has been appointed Receiver of, and instructed to liquidate, the business of the Gasmotoren-Fabrik Deutz.

TRADE FACILITIES.

Commenting upon the work of the committee appointed to investigate the best methods of providing financial facilities for trade after the war, with special regard to the financing of overseas contracts, the *Financial News* writes:—"The composition of this committee is such as to inspire confidence that their report will provide a solution of this vexed question, and that such report will be issued in good time to enable the necessary steps to be taken before the declaration of peace. If the German papers are to be relied upon, German bankers and merchants, with the aid of their Government, have already perfected a scheme for the prosecution of a gigantic trade war immediately the seas are once again open to them, and it would be a thousand pities if the commencement of their new campaign should find this country in a state of unpreparedness."

ADVANCE SERBIA.

The little kingdom, so cruelly treated in the course of the European war, is in a parlous economic condition, but it will get back its own, with compound interest, when the "special settlement" takes place. Hence the demand for Serbian bonds at rising prices on the Paris Bourse, the Four and a-Half per Cents. selling at 59¼. I recently mentioned the shares of the Bor Copper mines, freely dealt in both there and in Geneva, dividends being paid in spite of the German-Bulgarian occupation. Serbia has large mineral resources, which will be exploited to her great advantage "after the war."—"Alert II." in the *Financier*.

A report from Petrograd says that in Merv the market prices for carpets have risen by about 80 to 90 per cent. Carpets that cost 50 roubles before the war now cost 80 or 90 roubles, whilst goods worth 100 roubles before the war cannot be had now for less than 180 roubles. The cause for the dearness in carpets is the material prosperity of the Turkomans, who can sell agricultural products at good prices, a large demand for carpets in Persia and the fall in the Russian exchange compared with Persian money.

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EGYPT'S FOREIGN TRADE.

We take the following from a translation of an interesting article on the import trade of Egypt in 1916, which appeared in a recent issue of the journal of the Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, Egypt.

The monthly statistics issued by the Egyptian Customs on Egypt's foreign trade from January 1 to May 31, 1916, show a persistent increase in imports, a fact which is considered by those acquainted with the actual dullness of the market, as an ill-omened symptom, which might have rather serious consequences unless a return to the old activity and demand sets in.

The following table shows a progressive increase in imports as compared with those of the corresponding period in 1915.

	Imports in 1916. £E.	Imports in 1915. £E.	Increase in 1916. £E.
January	1,695,054	990,166	704,888
February	2,254,517	1,165,174	1,089,343
March.....	2,469,781	1,332,390	1,137,391
April	2,348,274	1,476,767	871,507
May.....	2,970,052	1,578,769	1,391,283
Total	£E11,737,678	£E6,543,266	£E5,194,412

In this large increase in imports during the first five months of the year, amounting to £E5,19,412, England ranks first with an increase of £E3,022,457, being 58 per cent. of the total increase table :—

Imports from the United Kingdom	1916. £E.	1915. £E.	Increase in 1916. £E.
January	781,287	436,786	344,501
February	1.087,062	608,677	478,385
March.....	1,228,720	643,176	585,544
April	1,287,275	588,645	698,630
May.....	1,679,262	763,865	915,397
Total	£E6,063,606	£E3,041,149	£E3,022,457

Out of the amount of £E11,737,678 representing the value of general imports from January 1 to May 31, 1916, a sum of £E3,138,597 represents the value of groceries, foodstuffs, liquors and other colonial products as against £E1,834,885 during the corresponding period in 1915, being an increase in 1916 of £E1,293,712.

The great activity of trade in these commodities in 1915, which was not due to the buying capacity of the people, but to the presence of many troops, drawing at that time their supplies direct from the market, turned the heads of the traders and tempted them, besides many outsiders, to throw themselves recklessly into the import trade, with the results as shown in the figures given above. Many companies have been started for this exclusive object.

At the outset, the supply could not, indeed, cope with the growing demand, and this induced the merchants and traders to pass orders, especially to the United Kingdom, for large quantities of goods, expecting that the demand on the spot would continue.

In this expectation they have been badly disappointed. Experience proves that such is the usual end of a trade activity based on an unstable factor such as large expeditionary forces, which are always on the move. On the one hand, large numbers of troops left unexpectedly, and on the other, the Army Commissariats found time to make arrangements for supplying the remaining troops by arrivals direct from England. The principal factor of trade activity, therefore, ceased just at the very moment when it was most necessary to the market. Unluckily for traders, most of their orders, owing to scarcity of tonnage, were accumulated at the docks in the United Kingdom and were almost all shipped at one and the same time. To make matters worse, British manufacturers and merchants availed themselves of the growing advance in prices and invoiced old and fresh orders alike at the highest limit. Of course, manufacturers always reserve the right to charge prices ruling at the time of shipment, but this is meant, we think, to apply to orders for prompt shipment and not to orders having been executed months ago and delayed through lack of tonnage.

The market is now consequently much overstocked and does not know how to dispose of the goods, many of which are principally consumed by troops. Some of those liable to damage have been re-exported to England, but the bulk remains unsold, and it is most advisable that the market should in some way dispose of the goods and so be relieved from undue overstocking.

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The Announcements below are published to acquaint our readers with the opportunity India affords the keen purchaser.

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Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
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PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, July 27.

Currants.

There has been more activity in the market during this week; but the amount of business done was comparatively small. Prices are hardening for all grades, and with the unfavourable advices from Greece regarding the new crop, and the anticipation of higher freights, it is expected that they will be very high this year. New crop fruit has been offered for early September shipment, at 49s. for Pyrgos, but there were no buyers. However, owing to later advices such offers were withdrawn and in some quarters higher prices are asked now. There is no doubt that under the circumstances there will be a certain amount of speculation.

Sultanas.

The demand is very moderate, business being done more or less in Afghan fruit of the cheaper grades. Prices, however, are well maintained.

Seeds.

Linseed is firm, but quiet, London-Calcutta spot and afloat offered at 71s. 6d., July-August 73s., August-September 73s. 6d., and Bombay ordinary August-September 74s. 6d., while small grain ditto 73s. 6d. Rapeseed is dull, Toria being quoted, July-August 60s. 6d. and August-September 62s. Cotton-seed is quiet; London-Egyptian July is offered at £13 5s., and Fayoumi, September, £12 15s. per ton.

Oils.

Linseed oil has been very steady, and pipes on spot are quoted £34 15s., barrels ditto £35 15s., landed terms. Rapeoil is firmer, ordinary brown, naked, nominal; whilst English, refined, barrels is offered at £48 to £50. Cotton oil is firm, crude spot, pipes selling at £40; refined pipes, pale, quoted £44 10s., and barrels sweet £52 to £54, as to make.

Oilcakes.

Cottoncakes.—Only a small quantity of Egyptian is available on spot, for which £9 12s. 6d. to £9 15s. is asked. English makes are dear, £9 5s. to £9 15s. per ton being asked. Linseed cakes are in better demand and prices are advancing owing to an anticipation of further enhanced prices. Best London made are quoted at £13 to £13 5s., and fine seedy Calcutta at £12 17s. 6d. to £13 ex ship.

IF GERMANY RULED.

Lord Cromer's contribution to a recent debate in the House of Lords, initiated by Lord Haldane's motion regarding education, appears to have occasioned some heartburning in Germany. Our amiable friend, the *Cologne Gazette*, says:—

It makes an immense difference whether one pursues humane studies with a private income of £2,500 a year, or whether one is appointed to a German Gymnasium with a commencing salary of £150. Lord Cromer is also very enthusiastic about the capable British agents—the Proconsuls of the British World-Empire. Give our administrative officials Burma and the Sudan and India to govern, and it would be a miracle if they did not produce splendid results—probably something just as good as is produced by the English gentlemen from Oxford and Cambridge.

Commenting upon this comic lament in a letter to *The Times*, Lord Cromer writes:—

It is not probable that the Germans will ever have an opportunity of letting the world judge whether, either in the case of Burma, the Sudan, or India, the "miracle" of turning out capable and sympathetic German administrators can be accomplished. The precedents afforded by the treatment of Schleswig, the Polish provinces of Prussia, and South-West Africa, where the Herreros have been well-nigh exterminated, foster the belief that, even if the opportunity were afforded, it would not be seized. The Germans appear to have failed to grasp the fact, which lies outside the question of the personal fitness of individuals, that their Imperial policy, being based on a process of ruthless Germanisation, is the extreme antithesis of that persistently, and in most cases successfully, adopted by the Governments and people of this country.

BULGARIAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, July 3.

A quarrel has been in progress for some time between Bulgaria and the Austro-Hungarian Danubian steamship companies regarding the rate of freight charged by the companies, which introduced a system altogether unjust and arbitrary. Negotiations were protracted, and as there seemed no chance of the steamer people coming to reason, the Bulgarians settled the question, to their own satisfaction at least, by seizing all their ally's steamers that happened at the moment to be in Bulgarian ports on the Danube.

Some time ago all the Opposition members of the Committee of Public Supply resigned as a protest against the action of the Government in converting that body into an instrument of party intrigue. With the disappearance of the Opposition representatives the only independent members of the Committee left were the delegates of the various Chambers of Commerce who declined to support the Government policy, desiring that the Committee should preserve its legitimate character. This attitude did not satisfy the Government, who ousted the commercial men and replaced them with more complacent tools. This action has elicited a spirited protest from the Chambers of Commerce.

Ambitious Railway Projects.

The *Echo de Bulgarie*, the publication of which was suspended for some time, has reappeared as an official organ, and has signalised its new life with a vehement demand for the recognition of Bulgaria's "new frontiers." "The new Bulgarian frontiers," it writes, "will need the institution of new railway routes, and our neighbours should now make their arrangements to come into line with our organisation of the same." The new lines suggested by the paper are:—"(1) Eastern Hungary: Arsova-Rustchuk-Varna-Constantinople; (2, Budapest - Arsova - Sistor - Tirnovo - Stara-Platina-Constantinople or Dedeagach-the Ægean Sea; (3) Budapest-Arsova-Lom-Sofia-Constantinople or Dedeagatch-the Ægean Sea; (4) Budapest-Arsova or Basiach-Bridge over the Danube-Valley of the Timok-Pirot-Sofia-Constantinople or Dedeagatch; (5) Budapest-Belgrade-Nish-Skopje-Valley of the Vardar-Salonika or Kavalla; (6) Nind and Western Hungary-Mitrovitza-Skopje-the Valley of the Vardar-Salonika-Kavalla.

TURKEY'S PAPER CURRENCY.

The American Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople has transmitted to the Washington Government, under date of May 5, 1916, a translation of a Turkish law as passed in final form by the Ottoman Parliament on December 31, 1915-January 13, 1916, providing for the issuing of 150,000,000 fr. of paper money, based upon a deposit of gold with the Ottoman Public Debt Administration. The law provides that this paper shall be received in exchange in the same manner as coin, in all expenditures and commercial operations in any part of the Ottoman Empire, whether between the Government and individuals, or between individuals. Those who do not obey this obligation are to be punished by a fine of £T1 to £T15 and from twenty-four hours to one month's imprisonment.

The equivalent of this paper money will be paid to the bearer in gold upon presentation at Constantinople six months after the conclusion of peace. In case this paper money shall not be presented for payment, according to this provision, within five years from the date it falls due, the provisions of the statute of limitations are to apply in favour of the Treasury.

"The activity of cultivation in Turkey has led to the foundation of an Ottoman Agricultural Bank, and that as an efficient adviser on the credit system the Chief Counsellor of Finance, Herr Kautz, of Berlin, has been appointed general director of the Sultan's new bank," is a statement for which the *Frankfurter Zeitung* has made itself responsible.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Lime is reported to have been discovered close to Raga, Bahr-el-Ghazal Province, Sudan.

Orders of some magnitude from Cairo for steel tools are being executed in Sheffield workshops.

Persians living in the British Isles are reminded that they must have a Persian "passeport de séjour."

It is estimated that over 120,000 Bursh mats were exported to Egypt from the Berber Province last year.

According to a recent message from Bucharest, the recent rains and the resulting considerable improvement in the crops induced the chief export committee to continue the export of maize, in accordance with the second treaty with the Central Powers.

The increase of the Greek tariff rates of duty by 10 per cent., which was proposed by Article 1 of the Bill recently introduced in the Greek Chamber, and provisionally enforced, has now been suppressed, and the sums already paid to the Greek Customs in respect to this increase will be refunded.

In return for permission to bring 7,000 tons of Roumanian petroleum and 4,000 tons of benzine across Austria, it is reported Switzerland has had to promise Austria 150 tons of salad oil, 50 tons of sulphur, 50 tons of cotton, 50 tons of Manila hemp, and 350 tons of coffee.

It is reported that the central railway station at Benghasi is now open, and that the line from Benghasi to Er-Regana is in working condition. This line will, in due course, be prolonged to Merg, Cirene, and Derna, and will follow the coast beyond to Tobruk and the Egyptian frontier. A second line from Benghasi to Gidalia is said to be contemplated.

Writing to a London newspaper from Kordofan respecting the recent operations against the Sultan of Darfur, a Staff non-commissioned officer says: "By the acquisition of Darfur we have gained an exceedingly rich and fertile province, and one that is worth a thousand times more than all the trouble and expense we have been put to. The work had to be done, for the Sultan Ali was a menace to the whole Sudan, and now that all is over so much the better for Egypt and ourselves."

NEW TURKISH LOAN.

According to a Constantinople telegram, dated July 25, the *Official Gazette* (says Reuter) publishes a law authorising the Government to conclude in Germany an advance of £T2,359,000, which raises the amount of the third advance to £T9,599,000. An equivalent for the new advance will be deposited by the German Government in German Exchequer bonds, against which the Turkish Government, as heretofore, can issue paper money to such amount as it thinks necessary, and on the same conditions as the previous advance.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Looking Ahead—for Serbia.

An interesting reference was made recently to the future of Serbia when she shall have been released from the devastating presence of her enemies. In a paper read before the Municipal Electrical Association the other day, Mr. W. T. Kerr dealt with the uses of electricity in agriculture. The paper was based on the writer's experience in farm electric supply, and he described in detail how the necessary energy is supplied in agricultural areas in various continental countries. Farmers in Switzerland, North Italy, Austria-Hungary, and Germany are very well served by numerous hydro-electric installations, both as to availability and cost. Serbia, said the lecturer, need not be without these advantages when she has been liberated. If her resources of water power are developed along scientific lines the establishment of hydro-electric installations will not be a difficult matter. The uses of these valuable power works are not confined to agriculture, it goes without saying, and we may look forward to the industrial resurrection of Serbia with great hope. It is too early, perhaps, to form estimates of what may happen, but this much may be said with some assurance, namely, that no scheme for the rehabilitation of the presently stricken country could leave out of account the restoration of her suspended industries.

Handicaps on British Firms.

A large number of complaints have been made recently, both at home and abroad, that orders placed with British engineering firms are very much in arrears, and that, in consequence, they are likely to suffer in future through the diminished confidence of customers. Already, it is said, inquiries are not being made in anything like the same volume that was the case up to a short time ago. This was to be expected, perhaps, in all the circumstances, and we are glad to see that the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* has given some prominence to an explanation which, for once, clears the British manufacturer from the usual charge of indifference and slacking. According to our contemporary, the trouble is due "to the gradual development of all industrial machinery and organisation by war demands. In the ratio in which these demands become more pronounced must private trade disappear." It is, we think, desirable that this point should be emphasised, for buyers in neutral countries are not disposed to be patient for long periods, especially when other markets are possibly open to them. So long as this war lasts, British war orders must receive exclusive attention, for if we are to resume normal or, as we hope, increased trade afterwards, we must win the war. At the same time, it would be a wise proceeding to let the facts be known. Foreign customers would be more ready to forgive delay of which they have had warning, than being kept waiting when they expected quick delivery.

A Sheffield Story.

A great story which exemplifies the success which the Huns have achieved in scientific research is told in a report just issued by the Board of Trade of evidence given to the Advisory Committee in connection with the manufacture of cutlery. "Some time ago," the story runs, "Sheffield largely used 'dyed stag.' A German, wishing to ascertain the process, sent a sample to Leipzig, where experiments were made, the method discovered and improved upon, and the result given to Solingen manufacturers. Sheffield now buys 'dyed stag' from Germany." It would be interesting to know in what other of our great manufacturing industries piracy has been made so easy for the pushful German. One of the reasons why the British manufacturer has lost trade, it has been said frequently, is the disinclination he has shown to strike out in new lines. Another, it would seem, is that in his innocence he is prepared to give away his trade secrets. One really wonders which is the greatest, the assumption of innocence by the cunning foreigner or the real thing in the Briton.

A Scathing Indictment.

Although it refers to the cutlery trade, it will do good to British manufacturers generally to read this scathing indictment, contained in the same report as that referred to in a previous note. Reference is made to the suggestion that dumping of German goods is extensive in the United Kingdom. Read this:—"This dumping could be prevented . . . . but the decline in the trade is really caused, it is alleged, by incompetence in management, ignorance of workmen, and mischievous interference by old-fashioned trade union officials, while after the war, it is added, a slight measure of protection will be needed to foster industries which have been allowed to decline largely by apathy and neglect on the part of manufacturers." Will this indictment of an important British industry go unheeded? If so the less energy that is given up in Sheffield to an after-the-war propaganda the better. It will be infinitely more profitable to begin now to set a tumbling house in order.

The Rare-Earth Industry.

Another amazing example of German exploitation of a purely British product is that of Rare-Earth. At the annual meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry, held in Edinburgh last week, Mr. S. J. Johnstone read a paper on the subject. He said that notwithstanding the fact that the most valuable deposits of monazite sand so far discovered are in territory under British protection, that is, in Travancore, these deposits and the gas mantle industry dependent on them, were before the war virtually under German control. The sand was obtained in Travancore at a cost of about £4 per ton and shipped to Germany, for the use of the manufacturers of thorium nitrate and incandescent gas mantles in that country. Only a limited quantity of the sand was allowed to be sold to gas mantle manufacturers and others in the United Kingdom, and from them a price of about £36 per ton was demanded and obtained. For most of the mantles made in England, however, thorium nitrate made in Germany was used.

German Slimness.

The manner in which the Germans obtained control of the monazite deposits is characteristically German. A lease for working the deposits was granted some years ago by the Travancore Durbar, with the approval of the Government of India, to the London Cosmopolitan Tin Mining Company, a condition being that the concession could be transferred only to a British company. The Travancore Minerals Company was formed to work the deposits and contracted to sell the whole of its output to a German firm. Soon after the outbreak of war it was found that the whole of the preference shares and 11,000 of the ordinary shares of the Travancore Minerals Company were held in trust for the Auer Company, of Berlin. The India Office has now decided that in future all the directors of the company working the concession must be British-born. German contracts have been cancelled, and the company must be ready at all times to sell monazite sand direct and at a fair price to British firms. A second company, Thorium, Limited, has now obtained a twenty years' lease to work 150 acres in Travancore for monazite sand and is now exporting the sand and manufacturing thorium nitrate from it at works in this country.

Pirates and Copyists.

Like others who could be named, the Persian workmen are clever copyists. For example, the cans in which they buy their petroleum are converted into imitations of European stoves, the tin linings of packing cases in which goods are exported to the country are converted into lanterns, "steel" trunks, boxes, lamps, and a variety of other domestic articles. There is no great durability in these home-made articles, of course, but they serve the purpose of the Persian peasant, and nothing else matters. Wherefore, manufacturers of all kinds keep your travellers employed elsewhere.

SOUTHERN ABYSSINIA.

According to a recent report submitted by Mr. A. Hodson, the British Consul for Southern Abyssinia, the country abounds with opportunities for trade which Egyptian traders would do well to look into. Mr. Hodson gives a pretty long list of imports into his district, viz., coloured cloths, black muslin, silk for head-cloths, cotton and woollen blankets, cooking utensils, enamelled ware, sewing needles, brass wire for earrings, bracelets, tea, sugar, tobacco, soap, matches, cowrie shells, lead, glass, amber, beads, etc.

The report continues: The Boran Province is chiefly remarkable for its livestock and is almost entirely pastoral. The chief places of entry into the province are Moyale and Dolo. Through Dolo a large trade takes place with Italian Somaliland. Through Moyale the chief trade with British East Africa is in cattle, horses, mules, tobacco, grain, and coffee (unhusked) of excellent quality, mainly from the Sidamo Province. The other provinces of Southern Abyssinia produce nearly every kind of cereal and, in addition, coffee, tobacco, cotton, rubber, pepper, chilies, beeswax, honey, vegetables, butter, etc. They would also appear to posssess great mineral possibilities. There are a few Greek traders in Sidamo, which is probably the most productive province, and they do a large trade. These traders obtain their goods from merchants at Adis Abeba for whom, as a rule, they work on commission.

Egyptian currency is not used in Southern Abyssinia; the dollar is the coin almost universally used. There are two kinds of dollars: the Maria Theresa, which is universally accepted, and the Menelik, which, outside Adis Abeba, is not as yet generally current. The Bank of Abyssinia is about to introduce paper money in the form of bank notes, and their use will greatly facilitate trade.

It is necessary to take great care in the packing of goods for Abyssinia, and it should be borne in mind that goods landed at Djibouti are liable to suffer from the damp heat at that port. As all transport to the south is by mules and donkeys it is recommended that boxes or bales should not exceed 80 lbs. in weight. The roads are extremely hilly, and, therefore, it is best to err on the side of lightness. A suitable size of box is 21 ins. by 14 ins. by 15 ins.

BRITISH COTTON IMPORTS.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended July 6, 1916, was 54,353 (including 237 bales foreign East African), and the number imported during the twenty-seven weeks ended July 6, 1916, was 2,130,636 (including 8,510 bales British East African and 1,296 bales foreign East African). The number of bales exported during the week ended July 6, 1916, was 3,736, and during the twenty-seven weeks 246,309.

In the month of June, 1916, 24,754 bales of Egyptian cotton were imported, compared with 34,030 in the same week in the previous year. In the six months ended June the total imports of Egyptian cotton amounted to 287,593, as compared with 391,261 in the first six months of 1915.

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SHIPPING NOTES.

Enemy submarines continue to be busy in the Mediterranean, and have succeeded in sinking many more British and Allied merchant vessels. Most of the information regarding these losses is reaching this country through Lloyd's agent at Algiers. The latest telegrams give the following vessels as having been sunk:—Knutsford, formerly Greywell, 3,842 tons; Llongwen (W. A. and C. T. Jones Steamship Co., Ltd.), 4,683 tons; Wolf, 2,443 tons. All the above vessels are British. The French steamer Cettois is also reported to have been sunk.

Lloyd's Register reports that during the quarter ended December 31, 1915, 254 steam vessels of all nationalities, of a total tonnage of 332,329 net and 546,757 gross, were totally lost, condemned, etc., of which 164 vessels, of 249,793 tons net and 408,646 tons gross, were war losses. For the United Kingdom alone the total losses of steam vessels were 121, of 178,878 tons net and 291,710 tons gross, of which 83, of 143,170 tons net and 233,177 tons gross, were war losses.

GREEK ACTIVITY.

In actual tonnage of merchant vessels, Greece is to-day eleventh among maritime countries, writes the United States Vice-Consul at Athens in a recent consular report to his Government. In proportion to population, however, Greece is third in rank, England and Norway alone possessing more ships per capita. On January 1, 1916, the register of Hellenic shipping contained 433 steam vessels, with a total of 829.991 tons, and 329 sailing vessels, of 85,750 tons.

From the earliest times the Greeks have been seafaring people, but modern scientific navigation was brought to Greece by the inhabitants of the island of Hydra, who some centuries ago procured charts and nautical instruments from Venice. In the Greek revolution against Turkey the inhabitants of this country were able to muster 700 sailing vessels of 175,000 tons, 18,000 sailors, and 500 fire ships. By 1848 Greek tonnage amounted to 967,000. Sailing vessels have declined from 1,283 in 1886 to 784 in 1915.

The entry of steam as a factor in Greek merchant marine conditions was rather late, but after its introduction it began rapidly to crowd the old-fashioned "windjammers" off the seas. In the eleven years between 1875 and 1886 the number of steam vessels under the Greek flag rose from twenty-eight of 13,000 tons to seventy-four of 30,000 tons. Only one-twentieth of Greek shipping is devoted to passenger traffic. No subsidy is paid by the Greek Government to any of its ships. On the contrary, the merchant marine is a source of actual revenue to the State, and if certain plans now contemplated concerning the taxation of war profits are put into effect this revenue will be greatly increased. In 1915 Greek owners possessed 433 steamers of 892.991 tons. In the twenty-five-year period 1890-1915, Greece developed her shipping to such an extent that the increase was no less than 1,063 per cent., or eleven times.

One thousand and eighty-three head of cattle were exported from the Sudan in May, 1916, as compared with 1,502 in May, 1915—a decrease of 419. In the same month 1.231 head of sheep were exported, as compared with 4,208 in May, 1915.

A QUESTION OF DOMICILE.

In the Supreme Court for Egypt, sitting at Alexandria, his Honour Judge Cator recently delivered an important judgment in which he held that the part-owners of the Greek steamer Nicolaos, who are Ottoman subjects, were domiciled in Constantinople when the war broke out and not at Athens as claimed. His Honour declared their interest in the vessel forfeit to the Crown.

The facts, as stated in the judgment, were as follows:—

The Nicolaos is a Greek vessel of 1,369 tons gross registered at the Piræus. She was formerly British, but was purchased in April, 1914, on a joint account by Messrs. Aivatoglou Brothers, an Ottoman firm of grain merchants doing business in Constantinople, and a Greek subject named Ktistakis. Sixty per cent. of the purchase money was found by Aivatoglou Brothers, the remaining 40 per cent. by Ktistakis, and inasmuch as the Court is no longer bound to give effect to Article 57 of the Declaration of London, it is not disputed that I am at liberty to ascertain the true ownership of the vessel, even though she flies a neutral flag.

It was arranged that the ship should be transferred to the Greek register and not to that of Turkey. The reason why the parties did not wish to fly the Ottoman flag are immaterial, but since (as we are told) no ship can be registered as Greek unless the major part of the ownership is of that nationality, 11 per cent. of the Aivatoglou holding was inscribed in the name of a Greek subject named Stratis as trustee for the firm, so as to place a nominal Greek ownership of 51 per cent. on the register.

The firm of Aivatoglou Brothers consisted of two partners, John Nicolas Aivatoglou and Charalambos Nicolas Aivatoglou. They had an office in Constantinople which was open for a long time after war broke out and was only closed when there was no more business to be transacted

In August, 1915, John Nicolas Aivatoglou left Turkey and went to Athens, and on September 21, 1915, he was naturalized by Royal Decree as a Greek citizen, but he does not pretend to have obtained the necessary consent from the Turkish authorities to change his nationality, and there can be no doubt that in the eyes of the Turks he is still an Ottoman subject. Charalambos Aivatoglou left Turkey in November, 1915, and is now residing in Athens, and tells us that he wishes to obtain Greek naturalisation too; but his family is still in Constantinople.

On these facts I am asked to say that the Brothers Aivatoglou have obtained a commercial domicile in Greece which will entitle them to a release of their share in the Nicolaos.

Now, in January, 1916, the claimants described themselves in their petition to the British Minister at Athens as Ottoman subjects resident in Constantinople, and that, in my opinion, was substantially correct, for I am satisfied that they are still Ottoman subjects even though one of them may have acquired a double nationality, and although at the present moment they are not in the Ottoman Dominion. I consider that they may properly be described as ordinarily resident in Constantinople.

COMPANY MEETING.

Anchor Line (Henderson's.)

Sir Alfred Booth, presiding on Wednesday at the annual meeting of the Anchor Line at Liverpool, referred to the large sums which would find their way to the Exchequer through the large profits being made, and said that he had always been of opinion that the excess profits tax was a blunder for which the country would have to pay sooner or later. From a strictly economic point of view it was indefensible. In the case of shipping the political and social benefits which the tax was thought to secure were far outweighed by the harm done. The money taken by the Exchequer ought to have been turned as quickly as possible into new ships if we were to maintain the size and efficiency of our mercantile marine. The burden which the war was imposing would have to be met by increased production on the part of the working classes and of decreased consumption of luxuries and superfluities on the part of the rich. The only way to achieve the latter end was by means of taxation. He believed that the industrial unrest prevailing prior to the war was largely caused by the glaring inequalities between the standard of living of the poor and the luxurious life of the rich. If we wished to increase the productivity of the country we must stop talking to the working man about thrift and must teach him to spend. If the high wages earned in war time had taught the working man new wants he believed the first step in the right direction had already been taken. The meeting declared a 10 per cent. dividend and 10 per cent. bonus.

COMPANY REPORT.

Maikop Combine.

The report of the Maikop Combine, Limited, states that the profit and loss account shows a gross profit of £85,810. After writing off £31,597 on account of general expenditure for the years 1913-14 there remains a sum of £54,212. The directors propose to write off £5,283 in respect of underwriting commission, debenture issue, and preliminary expenses, and to place to depreciation account £16,305, carrying forward, subject to income-tax, the balance of £32,622. The transactions for the year have been taken at the exchange of 16 roubles per £1, the rate ruling on January 13 last. The normal exchange previous to the war was 9.5 roubles per £1. The average price obtained for the oil at Ekaterinodar was 54 copecks per pood. Since the date of making up the accounts a further sum of £28.330 has been paid under an arrangement with the debenture holders, whereby they agree to extend the time for payment of the balance of the debenture debt (£28,330) upon the condition that this amount is paid off in three equal yearly instalments, the first of which becomes due on February 1, 1917. As additional security the company has already deposited in the names of the trustees for the debenture holders 290,729 roubles. The production of the company for the twelve months to January 13 was 4,291,928 poods. The fountain well on plot 457 is now being repaired. In accordance with the programme outlined at the last ordinary general meeting,

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active drilling operations have been carried out on plots 457, 435, and 573. From the wells approaching completion satisfactory results are anticipated. The directors have also decided to drill a well on plot 407, approximately two miles to the north-west of plot 457, which, according to the latest geological information, is favourably situated.

COMPANY NOTES.

Astra Romana.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Harcourt said he had no official information as to the directorate of the Astra Romana Co., which was registered and carried on business in Roumania. He understood that the Shell Transport and Trading Co. was interested in the Astra Romana Co. to the extent of 2,740,000 lei out of a total capital of 60,000,000 lei. It had also an interest as the owner of 40 per cent. of the capital of the Bataafsche Co., which, in turn, controlled the Consolidated Co., which owned capital to the value of 37,600,000 lei in the Astra Romana. He had no knowledge of how the products of the company had been dealt with during the war.

Anglo-Persian Oil.

Questions are still being asked in the House of Commons regarding the cash payment by the British Government to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited. On Tuesday Sir Edwin Cornwall put questions to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the First Lord of the Admiralty regarding the payment of the sum of £1,001,000. He asked how the money had been spent, and whether the policy indicated by the First Lord of the Admiralty on July 7, 1914, had been departed from.

Mr. McKenna said the agreement with the company provided for payment by the Treasury as to one-fourth on application for the shares and as to the remainder as and when required by the company, subject to one month's notice. Two ex-officio directors were appointed by the Treasury, who watched the interests of his Majesty's Government under the agreement.

Mr. Macnamara said the Government was assured through its representatives on the board of directors that the money was being properly expended on the development of the company. It was not desirable either in the public interest or in that of the company as a commercial concern to give details of the expenditure at the present stage. The heads of expenditure were given by the First Lord on June 15, 1914. From these there has been no departure.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah.—Production for week, 437 tons (last week, 502 tons). Hurgada.—Production for week, 450 tons (last week, 479 tons).

Baku Russian Petroleum.—Week ended July 15, 82,400 poods.

Bibi Eibat Oil.—Week ended July 16, 60,400 poods.

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Week ended July 15: 22,017 poods.

European Oilfields.—Week ended July 16, 98,700 poods.

Maikop Combine.—Week ended July 15: 10,044 poods.

Maikop Pipeline and Transport.—Week ended July 10: 73,348 poods (correcting previous report in which the figures were incorrectly stated to be 7,398 poods).

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended July 15, 60,000 poods.

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STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Price July 21.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	90½	82
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	62½	62½
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93⅛	71⅜	71½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	80½	80⅜
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	70½	70½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	67	67
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	56	57
Do. 5 %, 1894	56	56	56
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	51	50½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	42	43½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	53	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	65½	68
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	76½	77
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	55½	55
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	77½	77½
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	xd	xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	85	85
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	77	77½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	69½	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82⅜	—	
Do. 4 % Unified	79	52⅜	52
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65⅛	38	37½
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	4½	4½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7	7
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	68⅜	69
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	70⅜	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11⅜	11⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	37/1½	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	6⅜	6⅜
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6⅜	6⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	75/-	75/-
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5⅜	5⅜
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	12⅜	12⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	93/9	93/9
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5	5⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	88½	88⅜
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅜	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	10	10
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	11⅛	11⅛
Do do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	58	59⅛
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	55	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10⅛	10⅛
Pirseus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	55xd	55xd
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	14/6	14/6
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	89½	89½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	⅜	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2½	2½
Do. Do. Def.	⅜	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	5⅜	6⅛
Do. Pref.	4⅜	62/6	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	8 10½	8/10½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	87½	87½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	2/9	2/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	3½	3⅜
" " Founders	⅜	⅜	⅜
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	-
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	95	96
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	6⅜	7
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	73	77
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	9/-	9/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	⅛	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅜	15/3	15/3
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11⅜	11⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1⅜	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	24/9	24/9
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99⅜	95	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1⅛	18/3	18/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	24/-xd	23/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅛	3⅛
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	89	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (£r.500)	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2⅛	1⅛	1⅛

OIL.

	Price on July 12.	July 19.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/1⅛	7/6
Anglo-Persian	21/6	21/9
European Oilfields	4/-	4/-
Roumanian	15/1⅛	14/3

PARIS BOURSE.

	July 19.	July 26.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4440	4468
Credit Foncier Egyptien	—	—
Turkish Unified 4%	60	60.30
Egyptian Unified 4%	—	—
Serbian, 1895	—	59.75

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Cote du 11 Juillet, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt	12⅜	to	12⅛
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs. 93½	,,	94
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£ 11⅞	,,	12
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. 5⅛	,,	—
priv.	L.E. 3⅜	,,	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs. 126	,,	—
Bons de Panama	Frs. 91	,,	92
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs. 64	,,	—
Privilégiée	Frs. 92	,,	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs. 75	,,	—
Urbaines et Rurales	£ 2⅜	,,	—
Comptoir Financier et Commercial d'Egypte	£ ⅜	,,	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£ 1⅛	,,	—
Union Fonciere d'Egypte	L.E. ⅜	,,	⅛
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4⅛	,,	—
Bonded Warehouse	L.E. 4⅜	,,	—
Unifiée	L.E. 81⅞	,,	81¾
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 4⅜	,,	—
Fondateur	£ 23	,,	—
Pressage et dépôts	£ 28½	,,	—
Nungovich Hotels	£ 2⅛	,,	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£ 4 7/16	,,	4⅛
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£ 3⅛	,,	—
Ord.	20/-	,,	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£ 3⅜	ex coup.	
Egyptian Delta Light Railway	£ 5⅛	,,	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£ 104	,,	—
Jouissance	£ 154	,,	—
Egyptian Markets	24/6	,,	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs. 225	,,	—
Div.	Frs. 105	,,	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs. 115½	,,	117
Egyptian Salt and Soda	18/6	,,	18/9
Crédit Foncier d'Egypte	Frs. 585	,,	—
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs. 306	,,	—
,, 1903 ,,	Frs. 245½	,,	246
,, 1911 ,,	Frs. 257	,,	258
Delta Land	7/16	,,	13/32
Port Said Salt	34/3	,,	34/6
Cotton Ginners	⅜	,,	⅜
New Egyptian	8/6	,,	—
United Lands	P.T. 4	,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.	24/6	,,	—
Fondateur	95/-	,,	—

Marché ferme.

THE GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to May 31, 1916 (New Style: January 14 to June 13, 1916):—

—	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Pirsæus Customs.
	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, May, 1916	2,830,302	2,475,000
Do. do. do 1915	2,895,328	2,330,000
Estimated Receipts for 5 months (Law of Control)	12,041,666	4,458,333
Actual do. do. 1916	14,647,925	12,025,000
Do. do. do. 1915	15,612,415	11,172,867
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 5 months 1916	+ 2,606.258	+ 7,566,666
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 5 months 1915	+ 3,570,748	+ 6,714,563

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Pirsæus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts on the Suez Canal were as follows on the days named:—

	1915. Francs.	1916. Francs.
July 18	200,000	120,000
July 20	360,000	140,000
July 20 to 23 (incl.)	1,310,000	730,000
July 24	250,000	390,000
July 25	140,000	100,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended July 22.	1916. Week ended July 20.
Cattle markets	330	396
General markets	373	382
Cattle markets closed	36	28
Receipts (£)	703	778
Total from commencement of year (£)	30,409	31,271

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended June 30, 1916.

	1915. £E.	1916. £E.
June 21–June 30	3,854	5,056
April 1–June 30	33,664	42,637

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 274.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The completion of the second year of the war finds the situation in the Near and Middle East, except in the case of one theatre, big with the promise of coming events rather than conspicuous for past achievements. Armenia supplies the exception. Here the task of the Russians, though not actually finished, has reached a stage which may well serve as a goal; Trebizond and Erzinjan are in their hands, and the conquest of Armenia is nearly complete. Whether the Russian ambition is to achieve yet more decisive results in this region we have no means of knowing. Their front, however, still requires to be straightened out, even if they have no intention of pressing on indefinitely towards the west. South of the Erzinjan-Erzeroum line the Turks are able to bar their progress. How long this state of affairs will last when once a suitable position has been gained by the Russians west of the former town remains to be seen. The advance on Baghdad—on the part of the Russians from the north-east and of the British from the south—has proved for the time being abortive; but there can be little doubt that, as soon as the latter are in a position to avenge the surrender at Kut, the Russians, who have been falling back in Persia, will be found ready to recover lost ground as quickly as their forces west of Erzeroum. It is, however, in the Balkans that the greatest expectations are now being centred. The moment for Roumania to strike a blow on behalf of her national aspirations may be regarded as quite near. Her action can hardly fail to bring about within a comparatively short time a considerable modification of the whole situation in the Near East; for it is difficult to believe that the Bulgarians can survive for long any serious thrust on two fronts—or even one.

Until her communications with Germany are cut, Turkey is able to set her successes in Gallipoli and Mesopotamia against her defeat at the hands of the Russians and the Arab revolt. In regard to Egypt, she may fairly regard the honours as easy; for though defeated on the Suez Canal, she has been able to overrun the Sinai Peninsula. But this rough-and-ready method of striking a balance does not take into account either exhaustion of material or moral weariness. There can be little enthusiasm in Constantinople or in any other part of Turkey for a third year of war. But the Turkish Government still wears a brave mask, and far more decisive reverses have to be inflicted upon its troops before it will acknowledge itself beaten.

To the reconstituted Serbian Army has been allotted the rôle of inaugurating what it may be hoped will prove the combined Allied advance in Macedonia. Fighting between the Bulgarians and Serbians began on July 24, and so far the advantages have been entirely with the latter. It is not difficult to imagine the feelings with which the Serbians find themselves at last on something like equal terms with their old adversaries. But to the spirit of hatred, which is likely to be reciprocated, they will add a confidence in the ultimate victory of their cause which the Bulgarians by this time must have entirely lost. There are doubtless good reasons why the Serbians on the extreme left of the Allied line should move first. It is not, however, to be supposed that they will be allowed to bear the whole brunt of the struggle. Events in the Near East have reached an interesting stage. The patience with which the public in Great Britain and France, and, still more, the Allied Army in Macedonia, has borne with months of comparative inaction would seem to be about to meet with its reward.

The scene of these preliminary engagements is on the Greek frontier north of Vodena. At this point and eastwards to Monastir the Bulgarian line dips to the south, and a combined advance on the part of the Allies might well be delayed, if the enemy had not been first pushed back on this wing. In spite of the fact that the Serbians were called upon to attack positions which the Bulgarians have had ample time to fortify, they were immediately successful. The Bulgarians lost no time in launching counter-attacks, but all these are reported to have been repulsed with heavy losses. The Serbians have been able to consolidate the ground won and will not have failed to regard their initial success as a good omen for the final issue of the campaign. In the withdrawal of the Eleventh Division of the Greek Army from Salonika at this moment we may perhaps see another of the shadows which coming events are in the habit of casting before them. With the Allies settling down to business in Macedonia a friendly Greek Government could have no possible object to serve in adding to the congestion that will sooner or later be inevitable in Salonika.

Further reports of the Turkish force which moved from El Arish in the direction of Katia places it at 12,000 strong. Their advance appears to have been skilfully executed, as, by marching at night and resting by day, "in palm groves or in shallow holes covered with palm leaves or pieces of scrub," they kept their

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movements from the eyes of our airmen. On arriving near Oghratina they began to dig themselves in, but after the arrival of reinforcements moved a short distance farther on. British reconnoitring parties are in touch with the Turks, but no attempt has yet been made to deal with them on a large scale. The enemy's object in undertaking this advance with a small force must be political rather than military. It enables him to represent the expedition as a general movement against Egypt, while the official *communiqués* can be relied upon to attribute to it daily progress or some success, whatever may actually befall it. Egypt's rôle in this war is essentially a defensive one; but whether the military authorities will allow this small Turkish force to establish itself with impunity so near to our first line of defence may be doubted.

If the Turkish expedition in the Sinai Peninsula is meant to impress the Arabs who have not yet joined the revolt against Turkey it is likely to find a powerful rival influence in the methodical methods by which the Grand Shereef of Mecca is consolidating his position. A second coast town, Yambo, the seaport of Medina, has now been captured by his troops, while to the south the Idrissi has taken possession of Kunfidah, also on the Red Sea coast. The capture of Jeddah at the very beginning of the revolt placed the Grand Shereef in touch with the outside world and with foreign trade. In order to cope with the new situation an Arab Director of Customs has been nominated at this port, doctors have been appointed to study hygienic questions, and "an Arab of excellent character" has been given the post of instructor of police. Last, but by no means least, the new Government now boasts an Official Gazette. The Turkish public is probably not well informed in regard to the course of events in the Hejaz; if it were, it might be tempted to regret the dispatch of troops to Galicia at a time when their presence seems to be so urgently needed at a number of points in Turkish territory.

The British Government has done well to issue a further proclamation among Moslem communities in the British Empire on the subject of the Arab revolt. It was hardly a satisfactory course to adopt to assume an entirely detached attitude towards events in the Hejaz, while merely repeating the assurance that no effort would be spared to secure the Holy Places of Islam from all external aggression. The Grand Shereef of Mecca has acted of his own accord, and he is well aware himself of the extent to which he commands British sympathy; but it is preferable that our attitude should be made clear to the whole world. In this new announcement the Government points out that Great Britain has always viewed Arab aspirations with sympathy, but in the past her traditional friendship with Turkey compelled her to stand aloof. "Now, Turkey, by throwing in her lot with the Central Powers, has left Great Britain free to give practical evidence of her sympathy with those Arabs who have ranged themselves on the side of the Allies against the common enemy." This practical evidence, we may hope, will take a form which enables the forces of the Grand Shereef to be as well equipped as any Turkish army which may be sent against him. Such a policy adds to Great Britain's responsibilities; but we are approaching a moment when energetic action against the enemy at every possible point is certain to reap a quick and satisfactory return.

A further assurance is given to Moslems that "it is an unalterable point of British policy that these Holy Places should remain under independent Moslem rule and authority"—a plain statement which should place finally at rest any misgivings aroused by the false statements carefully circulated by the enemy. The message adds:—"The present state of war has placed many difficulties and dangers in the way of those wishing to perform the pilgrimage; but the action taken by the Shereef of Mecca gives rise to the hope that arrangements may be made whereby the pilgrims may in future visit the Holy Shrines in peace and security." The Mecca pilgrimage is understood to be occupying the attention of the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior. A regular service to Jeddah is being organized, but as there are only four steamers available the fares are high. The Government is anxious to facilitate matters as much as possible for the pilgrims. Thus a variety of circumstances lends colour to the supposition that the prospects of the Arab revolt are regarded as favourable in authoritative quarters.

An insight into the motives which are actuating the Mecca revolt is given by the report published in an Egyptian paper of an interview which was granted to the writer by the Grand Shereef some years ago. Even at that time the Emir could state that he was waiting for the day when Arabia would be able to throw off the Turkish yoke. Apart from the general dissatisfaction felt by all true Moslems with the Committee of Union and Progress, Shereef Hussein Pasha had special cause to dislike the Turkish Government. He had recently been engaged in hostilities with the Imam Yehya, and had learned from the latter that the Porte had provided him secretly with arms and munitions, had pushed him to fight, and had promised him the principality of Mecca and all the Arab country, if he would only destroy the authority of the Shereefs. In the light of such disclosures it is easy to understand how bitterly the Committee's claim to represent the Moslem world is resented among the Arabs.

A dispatch of General Sir John Nixon dealing with the fighting at Bushire between July and September, 1915, adds to our knowledge of what took place at that time on the Persian coast. With the main outline of the operations—the occupation of Bushire and the punitive raid against a coast tribe—the public was already familiar; but it may claim to have been kept an unnecessarily long time in the dark regarding the details of a small but stiff engagement on September 9. The Tangistanis had prepared an attack on the outposts of Bushire. General Brooking, in command of the garrison, decided to forestall the enemy, with the result that they were defeated and lost heavily before they had time to carry out their intention. The fighting, however, lasted several hours, and a squadron of the 16th Cavalry, in charging the tribesmen in the open, lost both its British officers and half of its Indian officers. In this action, adds General Nixon, the bravery and endurance of the troops in most trying heat, which claimed several victims, was most commendable.

The House of Commons added the name of Mr. W. Roch, M.P., to the Dardanelles Commission and that of Major J. Wedgwood, M.P., to the Mesopotamia Commission, while authorising the Government to include also in the membership of each body representatives of the Army and Navy. There is much to be said for the Australian contention that the proper time for an inquiry into the Dardanelles enterprise was the end of the war. The Mesopotamia campaign stands on a different footing, as the purpose of the investigation is to help future operations in that region. But the appointment of Lord Cromer as chairman of the Dardanelles Commission is an earnest of the work being well done, and it will doubtless be a matter of satisfaction to the Empire as a whole to have the two controversies disposed of by the time the war is over. The public spirit which Lord Cromer has shown in consenting to serve on the Commission receives a tribute on all sides. Together with Lord George Hamilton, the chairman of the Mesopotamia Commission, he brings to his task an ability and a detachment from all political bias which inspire general confidence.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 21.

Two Great Anniversaries.

The French National Fête, which is usually celebrated with great verve in Cairo, passed off very quietly this year. There was no entertainment in the Esbekia Gardens, and the only official function marking the day was the reception held at the French Agency by M. Defrance, which was, however, a very imposing affair, and was attended by Lieutenant-General Sir E. Altham, representing General Sir A. Murray, and by representatives of all the Entente communities, as well as by the heads of the various churches.

Two days previously Egypt celebrated an anniversary of her own, that of the death of the illustrious Mohammed Ali, the founder of the reigning dynasty and the great-grandfather of Sultan Hussein. Two ceremonies were held on this occasion, one at the Sidi Abu'l Abbas Mosque at Alexandria, which was attended by H.H. the Sultan and the Sultania Princes, and one at the Sayedna Hussein Mosque in Cairo. At both the procedure was similar, with the exception that in the capital an account of the life of the great Albanian, specially written by Mohammed Shukry Pasha, head of the Sultania Cabinet, was read. With his customary generosity, Sultan Hussein ordered that in honour of the event 8,000 poor families should be provided with a meal at his personal expense.

The Kitchener Memorial.

There is still considerable discussion in the local Press with regard to the form which the Kitchener Memorial should take; and in these circumstances particular interest attaches to an interview which the High Commissioner has granted to one of the editors of *Al Mokattam*. His Excellency declared that he deeply appreciated the spontaneous expression of sympathy at the loss sustained by England voiced by the Egyptian people; and added that he was gratified to find that all were united in their desire to commemorate the great Field Marshal. In deciding the manner in which that commemoration should be carried out, it would be well, said his Excellency, to bear in mind that Lord Kitchener's civil achievements in Egypt had lain largely in the direction of improvement of the national conditions of life, and that consequently the most fitting monument to him would be some large work of practical public utility. Sir Henry McMahon pointed out that the proposal initiated by H.H. the Sultan—the establishment in Cairo of a large women's hospital, to include a college complete with lecture-rooms and operating theatre for the training of women doctors, who would in time provide the necessary staff for provincial female hospitals—was a project quite worthy of the greatness of the occasion. During his administration Lord Kitchener had seriously concerned himself with, and had introduced measures and reforms to stop, the terrible rate of infant mortality, which, owing to the ignorance and helplessness of women in the provinces, had become an alarming feature of Egyptian everyday life; and this proposal, if carried into execution, would constitute a continuation and development of the principle laid down by him. His Excellency concluded by saying that no one is committed to this proposal, and that any better scheme that might be brought forward would be considered upon its own merits; whilst any town or community which considered that special reasons justified a memorial of a local character would find its proposal sympathetically examined and discussed. In the circumstances it would appear certain that the national memorial will eventually follow on the lines laid down by H.H. the Sultan, though centres like Alexandria may insist on erecting a statue. In any case, I understand that no public appeal for funds will be made until the autumn, when the fellaheen will have sold their cotton.

False Coinage Conspiracy.

I recently referred to the false coinage case, in which the cashier of the Native Court of Appeal was implicated, and opined that the adjournment of the hearing might quite possibly be followed by important revelations. My prediction bids fair to become realised. The police have been most active in their inquiries, and have succeeded in establishing an irrefutable connection between Shannami and the men implicated in counterfeit cases in various parts of the Delta. In fact, they have brought to light a most extensive organisation for the putting into circulation of spurious silver coins, and have laid their hands on the man who carried out the manufacture. He is a Caucasian, and has made a clean breast of the whole conspiracy. No less than twenty-five persons are now implicated, and these will all come up before the Assize Court in October.

Apropos of coinage, I understand that specimens of the new currency have been received from the mints, and that they have been approved of by the Sultan and the Government. Orders have been given for the work to be proceeded with, and the new coins will, it is expected, reach Egypt early in September. It is not known whether they will be issued at once; but this would appear to be highly probable, as they will become available just at the time when the expansion in circulation caused by the moving of the cotton crop will take place.

The Importation of Hashish.

A proclamation was issued this week enacting that anyone importing or attempting to import, or assisting in the importation, or found in the possession of hashish shall, on conviction by a military court, be liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand pounds Egyptian and/or to imprisonment with or without hard labour not exceeding five years. It is at the same time provided that the punishment inflicted by a military court may be in addition to any punishment inflicted by the civil courts in respect of the same offence. Hashish smoking and drinking has, as most people acquainted with Egypt know, for a long time been a popular form of vice out here, and indulgence in the drug has undoubtedly conduced to the increase in insanity which has been noticeable of late years. Stringent measures have been taken in the past to prevent its importation and use, but the penalties attaching to detection were by no means severe enough to act as a deterrent, seeing that the high price the drug fetched amongst habitués more than compensated for the risks of confiscation, fine, or imprisonment run by the smugglers and those who assisted them. The authorities have acted very wisely in availing themselves of the military régime in order to strengthen the existing law with regard to the traffic in hashish, and it is to be hoped that means will be found to continue this more drastic treatment of these offences after the war.

An interesting book has been published in Arabic on "Sinai" by Namé Shoucair Bey, Director of the Historical Section in the Egyptian Intelligence Department and author of the "History of the Sudan." The book contains (says the *Egyptian Gazette*) the most complete and authentic record available on the ancient and modern history of the Peninsula, its geography and people, and the important rôle it has played in the history of Egypt.

A Cairo message states that the Ministry of the Interior is studying the question of the Mecca pilgrimage. It is understood that pilgrims are asked to deposit caution money. A regular service to Jeddah is being organised, but apparently there are only four steamers available, and the fares are very high. The Government will do all in its power to facilitate matters.

The International Socialist Bureau at The Hague has received a telegram stating that two representatives of the Roumanian Socialist Party who were to have visited The Hague are unable to do so owing to the serious international political situation.

It is reported from Rome that great demonstrations have taken place in Bucharest, Constantza, Jassy, and Silistria in favour of Roumanian intervention. A parade of 100,000 people marched through the streets of Bucharest.

It is officially announced in Rome that Italy's Arab prisoners have been exchanged for the Italian prisoners at Tarhuna, consisting of twenty-three officers and 700 men.

A Vienna telegram to the *Berliner Tageblatt* states that General von Rhemen has been appointed Military Governor-General of Serbia.

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SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, July 16.

Welcome Rain.

Khartoum has at last been visited by rain. A series of stormy days and nights, in which the wind blew unceasingly, culminated in a *haboub* from the south, at the back of which came the grateful storm of rain. Oddly enough, the distribution of rain was very partial, being much heavier in the east than the west end of the town. Though the temperature has been below 100 deg. F. for several days, the weather was very trying, owing to the continuance of the strong wind. Not only does it fill air and house and person with sand, but it racks the nerves with its force, and is especially worrying at nights. The rain, however, brings great relief, and has a different set of drawbacks, such as dew and the breeding of every sort of creeping thing that bites.

A very considerable flight of locusts flew through Khartoum on July 14. So numerous were they that they gave the appearance of a snowstorm in which the flakes were driven horizontally, and the effect of watching them was to make one positively giddy. They did some damage to trees and ate many of the ripe dates, but the latter are still, for the most part, too hard for the locusts' palate.

The Nile is rising well, and appears likely to attain a high level this year.

Half the month of Ramadan is over. It is a weary period for the Moslem, and since at this season the native must work on his cultivation, he feels the strain of abstinence from food and drink all through the day, and keeps as quiet as he can. For this reason there is little news.

(From a Correspondent.)

Officials and Leave.

This is the time of the year that sees a thinning of the ranks of officialdom, as many members of the Government as possible being granted leave of absence in order to recuperate in more agreeable climates after a long and anxious period of service in the Sudan. The Governor-General alone—remarkable man that he is—seems to continue in harness without either needing or seeking temporary respite. The splendid health enjoyed and the energy displayed by Sir Reginald Wingate, now in his fifty-sixth year, during the past two years of anxiety in the Near East—Egypt and the Sudan—have astounded even those who thought that they knew him most intimately. Beyond retreating to the hill station of Erkowit during the hot and dusty months, Sir Reginald has allowed himself no relaxation of any kind for these two years. He is one of those very few men of whom it can be justly said that they are "indispensable." An Administration without the guiding hand, the calm judgment, and the sympathetic assistance of its kindly and capable Governor-General would be unthinkable.

His Excellency's Assistant Private Secretary, Mr. A. W. Keown Boyd, who has been on leave, returned to Erkowit in the early part of this month (July); the Private Secretary, Captain G. S. Symes, D.S.O., and the Military Secretary, Captain R. Rees-Mogg, have both had a short leave, but they are back in harness at Erkowit. The Sub-Department of Forests has only had one of its officers absent—Mr. A. A. Bisset, who rejoined his Department a few days ago. In the Civil Secretary's Office, Captain M. J. Wheatley, Assistant Civil Secretary, who has been away on short leave, has now got back to Khartoum. The Customs Department, which is becoming more and more busy as the season advances, has been fully staffed without exception; that of Education has remained unaffected except for the temporary absence of Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, the Director, who succeeded Mr. James Currie, C.M.G., and whose leave of absence expired on the 29th of this month.

Gordon College.

The Gordon College Higher School staff, on the other hand, has been deprived temporarily of the services of Mr. N. Field, tutor, and of Mr. T. P. W. Barty, lecturer, the first of whom returns next month and the second gets back to his post a few days later. Mr. S. C. Rhodes, manager of the instructional workshops in connection with the Gordon College, returned to his duties, after a short absence, on medical grounds, this month.

Mr. P. Drummond, the Inspector and Assistant-Conservator of Antiquities, stationed at Khartoum, has found his hands full with the duties of Chief Censor, and, as a consequence, there have been, up till now, no holidays for him. Mr. S. C. Dunn, the capable and energetic Government Geologist, has been away from his post for a short while, also on medical grounds, but he is due to return to Khartoum during the last days of July. The large staff continually at work in the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories in the capital, to whose devoted services the excellent condition of the peoples' health is so greatly due, have adhered manfully to their duties during the heat and dust of a Sudan summer, only two of their number having been absent for a brief period—namely, Mr. H. H. King, the entomologist, who rejoins on August 17, and Mr. G. A. Freak, the junior assistant chemist, who has already got back to his laboratory.

In the Department of Finance, the Secretary, Colonel E. E. Bernard, C.M.G., who will have completed eight years' service in September, is away in Cairo; while Mr. A. J. Foster, one of the inspectors, has been absent on leave until the middle of this month. The Legal Department, now that Summer Vacation is closed for ordinary business (from July 15 to October 14) has been able to grant leave to several of its more prominent officials. The Legal Secretary, Mr. E. Bonham Carter, C.M.G., will possibly be away from Khartoum until the middle of September. One of the judges, Mr. M. Fleming, is expected to return during the same month, while another, Mr. N. G. Davidson, is granted leave on medical grounds until the end of that month. Major S. K. Flint, District Judge stationed at Halfa, and Mr. R. K. Winter, District Judge at Wad Medani, are both for leave.

With the exception of Dr. E. S. Crispin, the Acting-Director of the Medical Department, who has been away on leave, due to medical grounds, and who returns to his duties in a few days' time, almost the whole of the staff has remained at work. Captain J. T. Simson, the medical officer employed upon the Sleeping Sickness Commission, has been on leave on medical grounds, and was due to return to work at the end of July. One member only of the permanent staff of the Department of Public Works, Mr. B. Burnett, Chief Engineer, has been away on account of personal health, and he returns to duty on August 1.

Travel Facilities.

Doubtless with the view of allowing the much-tried inhabitants of Khartoum at this period of the year, when *haboubs* blow and the mosquitoes rage, to get away to the seashore, the railway management has granted a sensible reduction in the ordinary fares between the capital and Port Sudan, the return rate now being one and a-quarter times the ordinary single fare. For the sum of £E6.275 one can now secure a first-class return ticket to Port Sudan, and for £E4.395, or £E2.195, a second or third-class return ticket. No reduction is permitted to Government officials or employees of the Railway Department, who already enjoy certain privileges in regard to allowances, including a reduction amounting to 20 per cent. on their bills for food and drinks on all of the Government catering services. Until July 1 this year this reduction amounted to as much as 25 per cent.; but the high prices which the Railway Department has now to pay for provisions of all kinds has rendered this alteration imperative. Even with this economy in operation, however, it is found exceedingly difficult to keep the catering from proving a heavy financial loss. The Government, perhaps, would have been better advised had it allowed the railway catering to remain in the hands of contractors entirely; although when this was the case there were continually being received from the public complaints which in many instances proved upon inquiry to be only too well founded. It is impossible to please all classes of travellers, and especially during the period through which the Sudan Railways, like those of Egypt, have been and still are passing.

KOSSOVO DAY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The celebration of Kossovo Day in England, when such cordiality and sympathy were evinced by Great Britain towards greatly suffering Serbia, has been the object of bitter comment in the Austro-Hungarian Press. In alluding to the subject, the Austrian *Drau* writes as follows:—

"In Great Britain, where Serbs meet with about as much respect as do Zulus, and where no Serb, during the reign of King Edward, dared appear at the British Court, Pashitch and his colleagues have met to celebrate Tzar Lazar and Milosh Obilitch."

The Budapest *Pester Lloyd* of July 7 writes as follows:—"After the double murder at Serajevo, *John Bull*, the most poisonous of London gutter-papers, published an article entitled 'Serbia Must be Wiped Out'; and now we read in all the British papers, including *John Bull*, a moving appeal to the British nation for Serbia." This article refers to the proclamation by the Kossovo Day Committee.

In quoting the end of this appeal, the *Pester Lloyd* is angrily amused at the Serbian State being no longer in the British papers called "Servia" but "Serbia," and the article closes as follows:—"The contemptible, hateful, and blood-stained Servia has risen to glorious celebrity as Serbia. Shame!"

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, July 16.

Preparing for the Elections.

Although the Chamber has not yet been dissolved, the preliminary steps in connection with the electoral campaign have already been taken. The decision of the Anti-Venizelist parties to present a united front at the elections is, of course, due to their desire to defeat M. Venizelos, whose return to power would spell their ruin. In face of this common danger old enmities are forgotten, and the political leaders who were at sixes and sevens while in the same Cabinet have now joined hands to fight the dangerous opponent. M. Gounaris has left M. Rallis a clear field in Attica, and has gone to Patras to organize the campaign in the Peloponnesus. M. Skouloudis will take no part in the elections, in spite of the pressure brought to bear upon him by his friends. He attributes his abstention to reasons of health, but, in point of fact, he realizes that, even in the event of success, he would have no chance of returning to power after recent events.

Meantime the Anti-Venizelist leagues of reservists continue to be formed, and to send telegrams to the King, informing him that their members are ready, at a single sign from his Majesty, to "award the chastisement it deserves to the party which has associated itself with foreigners," and to "break the heads of these ignominious enemies of the fatherland." The King replies to these telegrams by thanking the reservists for their loyal sentiments. And the same unseemly demonstrations against M. Venizelos that I have already described are still indulged in in the trains by reservists. To-day the *Kyrix* again castigates those officers who, having become the tools of the Staff, preach anti-military and anti-patriotic theories to the soldiers about to be disbanded, seeking to inspire them with a supreme aversion against any fresh call to serve their country.

Commenting upon the replies sent by the King to the reservists' telegrams, the *Kyrix* remarks that the Government ought to intervene in order to put a stop to such injudicious conduct, since the reservists' telegrams nearly always contain the threat that they are ready to crush all enemies of H.M.—internal and external—meaning evidently the Entente Powers. It must not be forgotten, says the *Kyrix*, that similar threats against them led to their recent intervention. The *Kyrix* also recently revealed the fact that during the nine months of the mobilization the soldiers were forbidden to read Venizelist journals in their barracks, and allowed only to read the Ministerial papers!

The indignation of the Liberal party against these manœuvres is voiced also by the *Patris*, which remarks that if the oligarchy, though to-day far from power, endeavours to continue to defraud the Constitution by means of leagues and associations, and to force the conscience of the electors by methods of terrorisation and violence, the Liberals will not tolerate it. Submissiveness to the law has its limits, "and violence will force us to violence."

The Liberal party finds itself forced also to form reservists' leagues of Venizelist sympathisers, named "National," and having as their programme the betterment, physical and moral, of the reservists, with a view to achieving the national ideals.

The electoral programme of the Liberals will be largely concerned with the constitutional question—that is to say, whether the King has the right to form Cabinets of persons whose political views are agreeable to him, and to dissolve the Chamber without taking the verdict of the people into account. Then, too, there will be the question of the orientation of Greece—on the side of its protectors, or on the side of the allies of its enemies.

The Election Outlook.

In spite of all the anti-Liberal activities, M. Venizelos declares to-day in the *Kyrix* that he is quite convinced that his party will be victorious at the polls. Indeed, everything tends to show that he is right. As the Russian Minister remarked in his recent statement to the *Patris*, the anti-Venizelists might quite well endanger the Liberal party if they were led by another statesman—for example, M. Zaimis—or by any new man, no matter who he might be. But the fact that they are led by M. Gounaris, who is regarded by the Entente Powers as Germanophile, and their enemy, cannot fail to have much weight with the electors, who will find it difficult to vote for a party whose leader will have no chance of coming to power. For his return to power would inevitably lead the Western Powers to regard Greece as a hostile country, and to treat it without any further friendly consideration; and that would be sufficient to render the life of the Government impossible. The Greek people have, in fact, suffered enough for M. Gounaris to make them by no means anxious to give him a second trial.

It is for this reason, recognizing their own weakness, that M. Gounaris and his colleagues wish to exploit the name of the King, as they have done all along, representing themselves as his candidates. The Venizelist Press very justly qualifies as political cowardice the attempt to exploit the feelings of the people for their King by thus mixing the Sovereign up in electoral rivalries.

But these tricks and shifts are not likely to succeed. The people already begin to see the difference under the new Government, and to realise that it is thanks to the advance of twenty millions made by the Entente that the military authorities will be able to indemnify the agricultural population for the animals requisitioned and for other losses sustained. They realize, too, that they are no longer threatened by the heavy taxation that the late Government was going to impose in order to meet the liabilities it had incurred. The imposing manifestation before the French and British Legations last Friday (July 14) showed the inclinations of the people, which are also indicated by the fact that M. Gounaris and his friends seek to make out that they also are Ententists!

The Fire at Tatoi.

The terrible fire which has destroyed the beautiful forest of Tatoi, which caused the deaths of three officers and of several soldiers, and which even imperilled for a short time the life of King Constantine himself—even this disaster has been exploited by the anti-Venizelists to the detriment of the Liberal party. The *Embros*, which is regarded as the organ of Baron Schenck, did not hesitate to launch the infamous and monstrous suggestion that the forest had been fired at several points by persons who desired to burn his Majesty, who was at the time at the Château of Tatoi with his family. This scurrilous insinuation has led to the raking up of certain episodes in the past history of the director of the offending journal. These need not be repeated here, but they suffice to explain how such unworthy charges can be made by the *Embros*.

General Moschopoulos, Commander of the Greek forces at Salonika, declared on Sunday that his relations with the Allies' General Staff are again excellent, the recent misunderstandings, which were never of any importance, having been happily cleared up.

An Athens telegram states that a bomb recently exploded at the Kustendil railway, in Sofia, destroying an important section of the line and entailing an interruption of traffic. It is believed that it was an effort to hamper the movements of the Bulgarian troops to Serbia.

Under date of July 28, the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports:—M. Plamenatz, ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs in Montenegro, has been deputed to superintend the departure of the remainder of the Montenegrin refugees here, numbering about forty old and infirm people. The balance of those left in Naples, numbering about 120, will travel direct to France.

Should the Turks decide, as military critics expect, to make their next great stand at Sivas, they will be fighting literally around the throne of Sekherim, says a writer in the *Daily Chronicle*. For it is here that the Armenians still preserve, in what was once the capital of Armenia Minor, the proud relic of their famous king. Sivas is of much greater historical interest than the lost Erzinjan. Diocletian and Justinian took a fatherly interest in its architecture, but it is to the Seljuk Sultans of Rum that Sivas owes its distinction as the home of the finest specimens of Moslem art—the medressehs or colleges of the thirteenth century. Although the city has now only 40,000 inhabitants, it had when Timur took it in 1400 over 100,000. Four thousand Armenians were buried alive by the conqueror after a general massacre.

B

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 13.

Starvation in the "New Territories."

It looks as though the miseries suffered by the population in the invaded territories will move even the stony hearts of the Bulgarian authorities, who up to now have remained untouched by the frightful sufferings of those whom Bulgaria pretends to have delivered from their oppressors, the "deliverance" consisting of forcing many to die of actual starvation, whilst the rest are put to untold suffering.

For some days past conferences have been convoked in all the departments of the occupied territories, at which the administrative and communal officials, prefects, under-prefects, mayors, etc., took part. The principal question discussed was that of providing for the population suffering so frightfully from famine, which is claiming hundreds of victims in every village.

A similar conference was held on June 25 at Monastir. The under-prefects described the desperate situation of the districts under their administration, declaring that unless prompt measures were taken the annexed regions would become uninhabited deserts. The prefect declared that the difficulties of communication rendered it nearly impossible for provisions to arrive from Old Bulgaria, especially as the railway is occupied with troop movements, and other sources of supply must therefore be sought. It was proposed to hurry on the gathering in of the harvest. The only result achieved was the advice that the peasantry should co-operate in their harvesting work!

Yet another such conference was held at Nish, under the presidency of M. Balaktchieff, prefect of the department. It lasted for three days, after which M. Balaktchieff left for Sofia in order to lay a report on the questions discussed before the Bulgarian Government.

Austro-German Rivalry.

The Austrian military governor of Serbia is occupied with the question of the introduction of the Magyar language as an obligatory subject in all the Serbian schools. This will be a new success for the Hungarians, who were indignant that the German language should be forced on the Serbian schools. By this means equilibrium will be established between the two influences.

On the other hand, the Hungarians have succeeded in securing the nomination as Director of Public Instruction in occupied Serbia of a former mayor of the Hungarian district of Bacshadrog, M. Janosh Faragosh.

Bad Bread for Civilians.

Loud complaints are again being raised on all sides on account of the disgraceful quality of the bread supplied to the civil population. The Committee of Public Supply has therefore approached the military authorities with a view to sufficient wheat being obtained to bring the bread up to the type decided on some time ago.

BULGARIA'S GERMAN GUESTS.

(From a Correspondent.)

It may not be without interest to give some particulars regarding the visit which members of the Reichstag recently paid to members of the Bulgarian Sobranje. The following notices are taken from Bulgarian, German, and Hungarian newspapers which publish lengthy accounts of the proceedings.

In the first place, it is interesting to observe the attitude which the members of the Bulgarian Opposition adopted with regard to the welcome extended to the visitors. It might have been thought that they would have dissociated themselves from that welcome; but such was not the case. If at first any hesitation was noticeable, this was simply due to the fact that on the occasion of the visit which the deputation from the Bulgarian Sobranje paid to the Reichstag and to the German nation, in the month of May, the Bulgarian Government selected only such members of the Sobranje as belonged to its own party. It was owing to this circumstance that the Bulgarian Opposition at first manifested a certain hesitation, as the *Mir*, Mr. Gueshoff's organ expressly states (June 25). Very soon the Opposition fell in with the Government policy and adopted the idea of welcoming the Reichstag members. The Central Committee of the National Party decided to "offer the warmest possible reception to the deputies of the Allied German nation" (*Utro*, June 20); and Dr. Heidenbrand, one of the leaders of the German mission, paid a personal visit to Mr. Gueshoff, leader of the party. As regards the Democratic Party, the *Preporetz* declared that "The Central Committee of the Democratic Party has chosen Messrs. Malinoff, Takeff, and Ljapceff" as its delegates, explaining that this was done because of "the respect which they feel for the German Parliament;" the Editor of the *Preporetz* was himself present at the banquets. The Radical-Democratic Party delegated Dr. Fadenhecht as its representative (*Utro*, June 23). The "broad" Socialists, whose leader is Sakazoff, likewise decided to "take advantage of the opportunity of meeting the German deputies" (*Utro*, June 20). The other parties of the Opposition took the same line. Only the small group of pacifist Socialists kept aloof, and that only for general reasons which obliged them to oppose "the Imperialistic policy which has been the cause of the present world-war" (*Rabotniceski Vestnik*, June 24).

The speeches and toasts delivered on that occasion are, of course, of more than minor interest. Dr. Momciloff, Vice-President of the Sobranje, welcomed the visitors with the following words: "Brothers of the heroes of Verdun and of those of Brest Litovsk and of Jutland, I bid you welcome!" (*Narodni Prava*, June 26). The President of the Chamber of Commerce (Mr. Madjaroff) described the Germans as "a nation which is the worthy leader of commerce and industry" (*Narodni Prava*, June 26). The German Deputies replied in a similar spirit.

In the following quotations we see how the Bulgarian Press saluted the Huns. The *Echo de Bulgarie* of June 24 wrote as follows:—"The Bulgarians are proud of the honour which the foremost personalities of the political world of the great Allied Empire have done to our national representation and to our country generally by coming here to offer us their sympathy." Again, on June 25, this paper says: "It is indeed a long time since so brilliant a reception and so warm a welcome have been witnessed as that accorded to the representatives of the German nation." The *Narodni Prava* of June 24, recording the day last year when the German army and the Bulgarian army joined hands on Serbian territory, exclaims: "The joy of Bulgaria was indescribable; it surpassed all that was wished or hoped for." And, again, on June 20, it says: "From the Lakes of Mazzura to Riga, from Warsaw to Pinsk, from Verdun to the Somme, from Tyrol to Vicenza, from Ochrida to Demir Hissar, and from Kut-el-Amarah to Trebizond, our enemy is broken down, and sees its end approaching. By Divine decree our enemy is receiving well-merited punishment for having endeavoured to kill innocent nations, and for having attempted, at Jutland, to starve innocent children." And, further, on June 28, the same paper says: "Our great German ally did not force us into the war; we took part in it of our own free will, and as a recompense she has sent us her sons to mingle their blood with that of our sons. . . . Where the German nation dies, there also will the Bulgarian people die." The *Dnevnik* of June 24 says: "On the battlefields of Vardar, of Morava and Kara-Su, we have laid the firm foundations of the edifice known as the Quadruple Alliance." On the following day it says: "We Bulgarians are fully aware of the importance of this visit, and it is with a thrill of emotion, but also with pride, that we proclaim our entire solidarity with the character and object of the struggle in which the Allied Central Powers are engaged." The *Utro* writes as follows: "We are pleased and delighted with the aid which your heroic, all-powerful nation has afforded us; be welcome to our Bulgaria, which stretches out its hands to embrace you!" (June 25). We may note in passing the terms "pleased and delighted" employed by the Bulgarian paper to express its sentiments, for they are quite characteristic. Any other nation would have said: "We are grateful for the aid, etc.," but the Bulgarian people does not thus express itself, because gratitude is far from its thoughts.

Now let us turn to some words and impressions of the Germans regarding their visit to Sofia and Bulgaria. The *Vossische Zeitung* of July 7 writes:—"The inhabitants of Sofia have shown such enthusiasm as was by no means expected from a nation known to be so reserved as the Bulgarians." The said paper goes on to say that what especially impressed the German visitors was to hear the students of the Military College of Sofia, while marching past sing the "Wacht am Rhein" and "Deutschland, Deutschland über alles." The *Frankfurter Zeitung* (July 10), expressing its satisfaction with the great progress made in Bulgaria by the German language and culture, says:—"The Bulgarians, and especially literary, artistic, and scientific circles, are quite convinced of the necessity of a political alliance with Germany." The *Kölnische Zeitung* (July 13) is simply charmed with the Bulgarians. "For the majority of Germans"—says this paper—"Bulgaria has been quite a revelation. We regarded this visit simply as a visit of politeness, but it has gone far beyond that." One of the German deputies, on his return from Bulgaria, writes in the same paper:—"It may, perhaps, look like an exaggeration when I say that never has an entire nation welcomed the representatives of another nation in such a manner as the Bulgarians welcomed us. But I venture to affirm this in all soberness. The welcome on the part of the Bulgarians was not addressed especially to us who were present; it was rather an apotheosis of the idea of an alliance between Germany and Bulgaria." One of the leaders of the Opposition said to him:—"What we Russophiles have vainly hoped for from Russia, Germany has given us." And the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, quoting the above, adds:—"This is perhaps the idea which best characterises the transformation of Bulgaria which we are witnessing."

Friedrich Naumann, the author of "Mittel Europa," which, according to the *Kölnische Zeitung* (July 7), "is the most popular book in Bulgaria," did not fail to visit Sofia in company with his compatriots. He was so enthusiastic over the Bulgarians that at their first meeting he exclaimed, in Bulgarian: "Long live Bulgaria!" (see the *Narodni Prava* of June 26); and so impatient was he to convey his impressions that he addressed the first correspondent he met and gave vent to his feelings: "The newspapers of the Entente"—said he to the correspondent of the *Az Est* (July 9) at Belgrade—"have several times stated that King Ferdinand and M. Radoslavoff have guided the State in a direction which does not correspond with the will of the nation. Nevertheless we have found among the people an extremely great cordiality, and an unconditional acceptance of the decisions of the Government. Nobody can say that the reception accorded us was of an official character, for the peasants themselves came to welcome us and offer us presents. . . . It is with joy and gratitude that we return home with the conviction that the undeniable fact is that an enlarged Bulgaria belongs to Central Europe."

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NEWS OF THE ARAB REVOLT.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 12.

A great military expert, in one of a series of remarkable articles, recently enumerated the political blunders of Germany in this war. He omitted, however, to mention the great blunder of the Jehad, which, like all the rest, was covered up by its initial military successes. It is, indeed, only among backward and ignorant Arabs, such as the followers of the Senussi and of Ali Dinar, that the preaching of the Jehad has met with some response; on the more enlightened Arabs of Syria and the shrewd and proud Arabs of the Peninsula it had the reverse effect. The proclamation of the Jehad, dictated by Germany, was an insult to the intelligence of the Moslems of the world. It was based on falsehood, and it failed. More than that, it determined the counterblast of a real Jehad on the part of the Arabs of the Peninsula. The problem of Islam is an exceedingly delicate one; yet the Young Turks could not have handled it in a more clumsy manner. Those endowed with the least perspicacity could not help foreseeing the inevitable bursting of this bubble. At the same time as they called upon the Moslems to rise against the infidels, they handed over the capital of Islam to the Germans—who had insulted Islam in their African colonies. More than that, at the same time, the Young Turks openly declared their intention of "Turkifying," which means destroying, the Arab race, to which the Prophet belonged, and of suppressing the Arabic language, the sacred language of Islam. Their negative success at the Dardanelles and their lucky stroke at Kut so carried them away that they did not scruple to put into effect their anti-Arab campaign, by the wholesale hanging of the Arab élite, and the expulsion of leading Arab families in Syria, including women and children.

The Arabs of the Peninsula, who from the start took the Jehad for what it was worth, bided their time, until the Turks' designs were unmasked in all their brutality; and, fortunately for them, the Shereef of Mecca took the initiative at the psychological moment. The Shereef's plan was conceived, and is being carried out, with much political wisdom, which explains the remarkable success that has attended the movement of revolt in Arabia. Knowing the traditional weakness of the Arab chiefs, he has taken care to emphasise the fact that, in taking the initiative in this great movement, he has no wish whatever to interfere with the authority of the leading chiefs in their respective provinces. Like the great son of Arabia that he is, he placed the interests of the Arab nation and of Islam far above his own.

According to the reports of trustworthy informants just returned from Mecca, all the Arab chiefs have lent their unstinted support to Shereef Hussein in declaring the independence of the Hejaz and Yemen. No sooner had the Idrissi received the Shereef's call than he declared to him his allegiance, placing the whole of the Province of Assyr at his disposal; for the Idrissi is a pious Ulema, who has never cherished ambitions of temporal power, but whose chief aim has ever been the maintenance of the *Sheriat* and of justice among his own people. In fact, he proposed that the Shereef should send someone to assume command on his behalf. But the Shereef very wisely replied that his wish is to see every Arab Emir maintained in his domain of authority. The Idrissi, thereupon, called up his men and laid siege to Kunfeida, whose garrison of about 2,700 men led by twenty German officers, soon surrendered; and the whole of Assyr is now purged of the Turk. Similarly, the Imam Yehya Hameed Ed-Din, of the famous Zaideh sect, volunteered his full support to the Shereef, and, while generously offering guns and rifles, announced that he had already ordered his men to invest Sana'a and to clear the Yemen of the Turks. The latter, who had been conducting a harassing campaign round Aden, had to return in haste to Sana'a. The garrison there numbers about 16,000 men; but, as part of this force consists of Arabs who would never fight against the Imam's men, the doom of Sana'a would appear to be sealed.

The most remarkable feature of the Shereef's movement is its almost bloodless character. He issued general orders to all the chieftains of the Hejaz enjoining upon them the avoidance, whenever possible, of violence, and the confining of their actions to besieging the enemy; and these orders have been scrupulously observed, so that at Jeddah the Shereef's men merely camped outside the walls, until the mayor, delegated by the Commandant and the Mutessarif, came out to parley with the Shereef and negotiate the terms of peace. The latter were very simple—viz., that the officers and men should quit the barracks, leaving behind their arms and ammunition intact, and that they should unconditionally surrender. Then the Shereef Zeid, the son of the Emir, took delivery of the keys of the town, of all the arms and ammunition, and of the Customs House, etc. The officers were allotted special quarters, and treated with due respect. Then the work of organizing the police and gendarmerie, and of the entire civil administration, was taken in hand. There was an outstanding amount of about £400 in the army coffers, which the Commandant pretended to have expended on six German officers, prior to their departure.

In Taif, the Vali, Ghaleb Pasha, and the Turkish garrison of about 700 men took refuge in the fort, which is now closely beseiged. A sortie was attempted, but was quickly repulsed, with a loss on the side of the Turks of two guns and 150 men killed.

As previously mentioned, Shereef Faisal is undertaking the siege of Medina, whose forts at the time of Enver's visit had received a large quantity of ammunition, and whose garrison, which was then reinforced, now numbers about 9,000 men, of whom half are Arabs. Serious dissensions have broken out among them, consequent on the arrival of copies of the Arabic paper, *Ash Sharq* ("The East"), published by Sheikh Shawish and Shakib Ar'lan, approving the policy of Jemal Pasha, who is mainly responsible for the hanging of so many Moslem notabilities. Again, as previously stated, the railway has been torn up on a stretch of about 150 kilometres up to Madayen Saleh, and the Arabs are utilising the rails and sleepers in their siege operations at Medina. All the Bedouin beyond Medina, and as far north as Damascus, including Emir Abdul Aziz Ibn Seoud, are supporting the Shereef.

As to the troops that took refuge in the forts of Mecca and refused to surrender, they number only forty. Some of their officers, misinterpreting the Shereef's pacific methods, rashly ordered their men to fire on the city, and one of the shells hit one of the curtains of Al Kaaba. This sacrilege so incensed the Arabs that they vowed the direst punishment on the men, who have since hidden themselves to escape vengeance.

Some of the Turkish officers are said to have offered their services to the Shereef. Of course, the Arab officers and men have volunteered to enlist in his army. The Shereef, however, persists in his pacific policy, and will maintain a defensive attitude till the last extremity, so as not to sully holy ground with Moslem blood.

SERBIAN MOSLEMS AND THE ARAB REVOLT.

We reproduce below the translation of an address published by the Serbian Moslem students from Bosnia and Herzegovina who are now in Switzerland. It appeared in the *Tribune de Genève* of July 8, and refers to the action taken by the Grand Shereef of Mecca against the Turks and in favour of the Islamic religion. It is as follows:—

"The Mussulman Bosnian and Herzegovinian students in Switzerland unanimously hail with satisfaction the action of the Grand Shereef of Mecca, the Head of Islam and Sovereign Master of the land of Mohammed.

"As faithful sons of Islam, we entirely approve the methods employed by the Grand Shereef of Mecca for the realization of our sacred duties, and we strongly reprehend the present régime in Turkey, which is a dishonour to our Holy Faith, inasmuch as it makes it subservient to the Austro-Germanic interests. . . .

"Turkey will never be able to justify herself for having proclaimed the *Jehad* to the advantage of the Austro-Germans, who are the secular enemies of Islam; and she will be held responsible for this to the Sherifiate. We Mohammedans of Bosnia and Herzegovina know well the methods peculiar to the State called Austria, and can tell better than others how Austria has used our religion.

"Therefore, the Mussulman youth of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Switzerland can do no less than hail with enthusiasm the action of the Arabs who have risen to defend our religion, and we rejoice at it. We cannot conceal the fact that our sympathy is ever upon the side of those who devote themselves to defending the principles and the freedom of religions and peoples."

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A SIDE LIGHT ON GALLIPOLI*.

For those who appreciate a chatty, lightly-written narrative of one of the most picturesque incidents of the great war, "With the Zionists at Gallipoli," by Lieut.-Col. J. H. Patterson, D.S.O., can be confidently recommended. While evidently a narrative of actual facts, it reads in places like a romance. The writer's never-failing sense of humour carries him through all the tragedy and disappointment with a buoyancy which is refreshing. The verdict of history will surely concern itself more with the magnificent heroism of our soldiers—which has never shone more conspicuously than here—rather than the miscalculations of our rulers. The writer of this book, however, evidently considers that the result of our Gallipoli adventure was by no means small. "We held up and almost destroyed a magnificent Turkish army, and by doing this we gave invaluable aid to our Russian ally"—just, too, when such help was most needed.

The central interest of this book is concerned with the writer's employment as organiser and commander of a "Zion Mule Corps" of sanctioned strength of 500 officers and men and 750 pack mules. The men and N.C. officers, and some of the lieutenants were chiefly recruited from Zionists driven out of the Jewish agricultural colonies in Palestine by the war. Included in the ranks were men of every conceivable trade and calling, students of law, medicine, and divinity, mechanics of all kinds, a rabbi, and a doctor. As they were all Hebrews from various lands, Hebrew seems to have been their common language, as it is among the Palestine colonists, but English words of command were used in drill. The writer fully realises the romance of finding himself, a Gentile, in command of such a force, and is enough of a mystic to enter into the somewhat visionary hopes of the Zionists. Indeed, so sympathetic is his attitude that one wishes he could occupy a somewhat similar position with regard to our Russian Jews at home, many of whom would gladly undertake any enterprise that would further their Zionist hopes, but object to ordinary military service.

At the opening phases of the campaign at Hellas, when transport was scarce, the Zion Mule Corps seems to have borne a most gallant and important share in the operations, in spite of enormous difficulty and much official discouragement. Once, indeed, the corps appears to have scored a victory of its own, as when, as the writer graphically describes, forty unloaded mules of the Zionists charged the Turkish trenches and, being mistaken for cavalry, led to the defeat of a massed attack by the Turks.

To those whose interest in the main features of the Gallipoli campaign is greater than in Zionism the book can also be commended, for there is much more of general military incident and criticism than the title of this work suggests. Indeed, this record has a value of its own as that of one who from the military aspect seems to have been something of a free lance, and who, while taking an active share in the incidents he describes, writes with the freedom and skill of a war correspondent who has observed warfare in many fields.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Story of a Red Cross Unit in Serbia. By James Berry, B.S., F.R.C.S.; F. May Dickinson Berry, M.D., B.S.; W. Lyon Blease, LL.M.; and other Members of the Unit. Illustrations and map. (J. and A. Churchill. 6s. net.)

Guide to Egypt and the Sudan: Including a description of the route through Uganda to Mombasa. Maps and Plans. (Macmillan, 7s. 6d. net.)

The Stricken Land: Serbia as We Saw It. By Alice and Claude Askew. Illustrated. (Eveleigh Nash, 10s. 6d. net.)

Christianity and War: Letters of a Serbian to his English Friend. By the Rev. Fr. Nicolas Velimirovic. (3d. net.) *Redeeming the Time.* (A sermon preached before the University of London, in Westminster Abbey, by his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.) (6d. net.) *Saint Sophia: Russia's Hope and Calling.* By Professor Prince Eugene Nicolayevich Trubetskoy. Translated by Madame Lucy Alexeiev. (1s. net.) All published by the Faith Press.

The Women of Serbia: A Lecture. By Fanny S. Copeland, with a Preface by Lady (Ralph) Paget. (The Faith Press, for the Kossovo Day Committee.)

* "With the Zionists in Gallipoli." By Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Patterson, D.S.O. (Hutchinson and Co. 6s. net.)

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A lady has written to *The Times* stating that in the middle of July, when the temperature at Salonika was 106 degrees in the shade, our soldiers there were without sun helmets. If there be no mistake about this, it is indeed a strange and deplorable state of affairs. But it is somewhat consoling to know that troops recently sent to that theatre of war certainly are provided with sun-helmets. This I can state with confidence; and I hope that it indicates that the matter referred to has already been put right.

***

Apropos of the many complaints that have appeared in the Press regarding the long time taken in delivering letters to our troops in Mesopotamia, I was talking, a few days ago, to the mother of a young Englishman who was taken prisoner at Kut, when she told me of the case of a friend of hers who also had a son serving out there. This young man had written home stating that several of his letters had taken from six to seven months to reach him, though others had got through in quite a reasonable time. And, as far as his family could make out, he had received all letters and parcels they had sent him with the exception of two lots which were known to have been lost through an accident of war.

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Summer weather has come our way at last, and the spell of heat, coming so suddenly and after such unseasonable cold, seems to have upset the nerves of a great many people. At any rate, I have observed signs of irritability in quite a number of my friends and acquaintances. It was, therefore, with real interest that I read a paragraph in one of the Egyptian papers received by the last mail, stating that a certain Egyptian "doctor" in Cairo, "boldy advertises on a board outside his house that he can cure bad temper." (He also undertakes to charm away evil spirits; but that is a mere detail!) If this heat spell lasts it might be worth the "doctor's" while to come to England and try his luck. He would, I think, have a wide field of usefulness, and if his "temper cure" were worth anything at all he ought to make a pretty little fortune in a very short time. There are signs that the warmth is affecting even the sages at Westminster.—No: I do not refer to Mr. Ginnell.

***

In these days one hardly associates King Constantine in one's mind with the thoughts of practical jokes; but in his younger days he was certainly not above such things, though he never enjoyed such a reputation for fun as his brother, Prince George. One day when he was only Crown Prince he was walking in Athens when he met the British Minister, whereupon he stopped and chatted for a few minutes in friendly fashion. He was just moving on again when the Minister, whose eccentricity of manner was exceeded only by his hospitality, remarked, casually, "You might come into dinner to-night." Allowances were always made for the Minister, who kept the best—perhaps the only—chef in Athens, and the Crown Prince, smiling, said that he would be delighted. He was rather taken aback, however, to have his acceptance followed by an equally casual "You might bring your wife—and your brother." This time H.R.H. replied drily that he would ask them whether they would care to come. Of course, they were not going to miss the dinner, and the evening passed very pleasantly. As they were taking their departure, the Crown Prince expressed the pleasure that they always felt in visiting the Legation, and asked to be invited again. A cordial invitation was at once given them, and they said that they would come to tea the following week.

***

Now, this was embarrassing, if not positively unkind. For, as the Princes knew very well, the Minister had his idiosyncrasies. Not to put too fine a point on it, he was inclined to be fussy on the subject of meals, and he especially loathed afternoon teas. Indeed, he objected to being disturbed at all in the afternoon, and the servants had standing orders that no callers were on any account to be admitted to the Legation at that time. However, on such an occasion fads must go to the winds. The unhappy diplomatist expressed the pleasure it would give him to receive their Royal Highnesses.

***

The appointed day came, and a select few assembled at the Legation and waited patiently for the arrival of the Royalties. The Royalties, however, failed to put in an appearance, and at last the unusual gathering broke up wondering. A few days later, when the Minister and the Crown Prince met, the latter said: "By the way, did you not ask us to take tea with you one Thursday? Was it last week or this?" The Minister was not pleased. "As a matter of fact, Sir," said he, "it was last Thursday." Before he could get further the Crown Prince remarked: "I thought so. As-

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a matter of fact, we came to the Legation, and were told that you were not at home." And it was so. The absent-minded Minister had forgotten to countermand the standing order, and the Royal jokers had taken advantage of the fact.

***

The interior of Asia Minor must now be fairly full of refugees. The Armenians—or what are left of them—are hardly likely to make their way thither, but the Russian advance will inevitably have meant a great displacement of the native population; and since it is not likely that the Turkish Government will have done anything for these poor refugees, their condition can hardly be much better than that of the Armenian and Syrian victims of the war. Not all of them have fled westwards, but those who have remained are also in sorry plight. Some time ago Mr. Philips Price and M. E. Zolanievicz (the special correspondent of the *Retch*) called attention to this matter and appealed to the benevolent societies of Russia and England to lighten the hard lot of the Moslem sufferers, stating that the Caucasian Moslem benevolent societies had not the means to deal with the numbers—estimated at 100,000 in Tiflis alone—needing such help. Many of the peasants, abandoned to fate, have returned to their homes only to find themselves faced by disease and starvation. For though the Russians do not follow the methods of the Germans in regard to wanton destruction of property, war *is* war; and in a region fought over as that on the Caucasus front has been fought over, the prospect of anything in the way of food or comforts being left to await their absentee owners' return must certainly be a very poor one. The Turkish and Laz peasantry have lost all or most of their possessions, I fear. In the words of the gentlemen mentioned above, "the fate of the Turkish population on the Caucasus front, and in Armenia, is just the same as it was in the last Russo-Turkish War. . . To enlarge upon their condition is superfluous, for it is exactly the same as that of the Armenians, about whom it has already been written. But few know about the refugee Moslems, about the crowds of innocent orphans and children suffering for the political errors of others." In the name of humanity, who will help these poor people, now and after the war? I hope they will not be forgotten entirely because they have nobody to plead on their behalf in a world which is almost deafened by appeals for other sufferers and victims of this war.

CORSAIR.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

JUDICIAL REFORMS IN EGYPT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I agree with Sir M. McIlwraith that a personal matter between two officials who are no longer in the service has little or no interest for the public. I will, therefore, make my reply to his letter of July 24 as short as possible.

If I had known that Sir M. McIlwraith's report was on sale in England I doubtless should have obtained a copy before writing. As it was, rather than wait six weeks, I accepted your correspondent's review as a fair résume of what the report contained, and I gather from Sir M. McIlwraith's letter that he has no particular fault to find with your correspondent's interpretation; perhaps, therefore, I need not have troubled the publisher for a copy.

In his letter Sir M. McIlwraith states that I undoubtedly took the initiative in several laws, but the more important ones (he does not say which!) mentioned by me were the work of the committee appointed to revise the case "with which he (myself) *had nothing whatever to do.*"

This is a very extraordinary statement to make, as, under instructions from Lord Cromer, I was specially invited to attend the meetings of the committee to support my own proposals, which had been the subject of much correspondence between Lord Cromer, the Ministry of Justice, and myself. In fact, it was at these meetings which I attended that I was up against the "strong opposition" referred to in my letter.

I am labouring under no delusion when I say that five out of the eight laws or provisions in the case mentioned by your correspondent as "important" *penal* reforms were my own proposals, for which I had to fight hard to get them on to the Statute Book.

Sir M. McIlwraith states further that he claimed no credit for anything, writing the review of his work "not assuredly in any boastful spirit," as your correspondent tells us. To whom did he give the credit? We all know what that means, and your correspondent could do no other than refer to the whole as an "achievement of which the Ministry of Justice may feel justly proud."

My original letter stands. I have nothing to withdraw or qualify, but I ask your Egyptian readers, amongst whom I hope I have still many friends, to forgive me for raking up ancient history which can be of no interest to anyone except myself and possibly the Department to which I gave the best years of my life,—I am, etc.,

C. E. COLES, Pasha.

Stonehouse, Bishop's Hull, Taunton, July 30, 1916.

THE STATE OF SYRIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Jemal Pasha has published lately an official report, wherein he seeks to justify the measures of repression that he has adopted against the leaders and adherents of the Arab cause. Only a Turkish official document could contain such gross contradictions, such cynical distortion of the truth. He accuses the persons hanged and condemned to death of political treason for having sought to detach their country from the body of the Empire and hand it over to foreigners. He admits that some have been condemned because those who had been convicted through documentary evidence had, in the course of their interrogation, borne testimony to their complicity. Even on this indirect evidence not more than 200 persons have been sentenced to death, and these (he says) wield no manner of influence and represent in no way the will of the people, who have always given proof of loyalty to the Turkish throne, and who, now that the country has been cleared of a few agitators and self-styled leaders, will enjoy peace and security.

If these persons wield no influence and are not representative of a real national movement, why was it thought necessary to do away with them in such fashion? Can 200 persons of no social or political consequence, and with no following, affect military security in any way? The mere imprisonment of such "agitators" would have sufficed to ensure immunity from trouble. Again, if these persons were of no consequence, and if the movement they headed was not a spontaneous national movement, why did the Turks resort to such terrorising methods, and push vengeance to the limit of ferocity and ignoble desecration, by digging up the mortal remains of the great Emir Abdul Kader, the Algerian, and scattering them to the four winds?

Deadened as their consciences are, the Turks must feel in their heart of hearts that their charge of treason is a false one. They know full well—and official documents are there to prove it—that the programme of the Decentralization Committee and Reform Committee contained nothing but legitimate demands, of which they at one time approved; and that it never aimed at detaching Syria from the Empire. Indeed, the leaders never ceased affirming their desire to see the Turkish Empire strong and great among the nations, and urging that it could only become so through liberal treatment, ensuring the loyal support of the component parts.

One cannot help wondering why Jemal Pasha ever tried to defend such an indefensible case; but the Young Turks' mentality is unique. Their perceptions are crude, and their actions bear a stamp of harshness and bluntness reminiscent of the old Tartar ways and characteristic of the Barbarians of the steppes. When, e.g., they tell lies, they do so in the most barefaced way. Telegraphic agencies have just apprised us that the leading Constantinople paper, *Sabah*, has been indulging in the following lies: That the French Government has moved to London; that the Turkish Army has crossed the Canal; and—most delightful of all—that the Germans have cleared the Mediterranean of Allied ships. And yet the Allies continue to treat the Young Turks as a sane Government! They still believe that, with such as these, comminatory notes will stop them in their mad career of atrocities. The French and Russian Governments have actually presented notes through the United States, threatening the Turkish Government with punishment if they continue their campaign of persecution and extermination; and, to cap it all, the United States Government has, so late in the day, protested against the breaking into the sealed premises, under its protection, wherein lay the French Consular archives, which contained the incriminating documents that led to the hanging of the many Syrian notables and the special persecution of the Lebanese. The United States Government has, moreover, threatened Turkey with the "straining of diplomatic relations" if it continued to refuse the admission of relief cargoes destined for the starving population. One can imagine the Young Turks chuckling over such naïve "diplomatic pressure." Nothing but brute force can bring such people to a stern realization of facts.

The Allies had it in their power to exercise such force and to prevent the extermination of the Syrians. If it was impossible for them to send an expeditionary force to Syria, nothing could have prevented them from having an aviation base at Ruad Island, whence aerial raids could have been made against military defences and stations in the Lebanon and beyond. If Jemal and his Court Martial had been blown up, his successor would have been only too careful not to repeat any of his cruel methods, and the military cordon drawn round the Lebanon would have been broken up for good.—I am, etc.,

AVIS.

Cairo, July 14, 1916.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Aug.	1916. July.		1334. Shawwal	5676. Ab.
4	22	Friday	4	5
5	23	Saturday.....	5	6
6	24	Sunday	6	7
7	25	Monday	7	8
8	26	Tuesday	8	9
9	27	Wednesday	9	10
10	28	Thursday	10	11

Yesterday was the birthday of the King of the Hellenes.

Monday is the birthday of H.M. the Queen of Sweden.

Prince Emanuel Bibesco, brother of the First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London, has taken a house at Marlow, Bucks, for the summer.

Prince Andrew of Greece accompanied Queen Alexandra and the Grand Duchess George of Russia on a visit to the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday.

Prince Andrew left Marlborough House on Wednesday.

The Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia, who will command the Serbian Army, landed at Salonika on Monday afternoon, accompanied by the Serbian War Minister. The Prince arrived strictly incognito in a torpedo-boat from Corfu. He was greeted on landing by General Sarrail and General Milne, and by General Boyovitch and the Headquarters Staff of the Serbian Army. Prince Alexander landed in a French picket-boat, and drove out from the docks and through the town in General Sarrail's car. He has since been actively engaged in connection with military matters.

Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne left Cavendish Place on Wednesday evening for Castle Macgarrett, County Mayo.

Lady Maxwell has made good progress, and is now able to go out for a short time daily.

Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside have arrived at Harrogate on a visit.

Mr. Louis Einstein, American Minister Plenipotentiary in Bulgaria, in charge of British interests, has left London for Richmond, Yorks.

According to latest arrangements M. Boshkovitch, the retiring Serbian Minister, will leave London this month for France. M. Yovan Yovanovitch, the newly appointed Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James, will arrive in London during the next fortnight.

According to reports received in Holland from Constantinople, the daughter of the Turkish Heir-Apparent will be married on August 10 to Captain Ismail Hakki Bey, son of Ahmed Tewfik Pasha, a former Turkish Ambassador in Berlin.

The marriage of Herbert Chavasse Squires, M.B. (Oxon), Medical Department, Sudan Government, with Hilda Margaret, youngest daughter of Sir Henry Norbury, K.C.B., and Lady Norbury, of St. Margaret's, Eltham, will take place quietly at Eltham Parish Church on Wednesday, September 6, at 2.15 p.m.

Our Khartoum Correspondent writes (July 16):—

Departures for north on the mail train of July 17 include Mr. Wasey Stemy, the Chief Judge, who is proceeding to England for change of air.

Mr. N. R. Udal, of the Education Department, who has been recently acting as Assistant Private Secretary to H.E. the Governor-General, is also going north.

Mr. T. A. Leach, who has been acting Governor of Khartoum, also proceeds to England now that Mr. R. E. More, the Governor, has returned.

A correspondent informs us that Captain C. E. Binns, R.N., is now Assistant Military Attaché at Berne, and that Captain A. Warden Baker has been appointed to a similar post at Rome.

Mr. Glynne Williams has become vice-chairman of the Serbian Relief Fund.

The King has granted authority to Dr. Ll. C. P. Phillips, Professor at the Government School of Medicine, Cairo, and Physician to the Sultan of Egypt, to wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred upon him by the Sultan.

The numerous friends of Mr. A. B. Taylor, formerly of Baghdad, will learn with pleasure that his elder daughter, Miss M. B. Taylor, an exhibitioner of Newnham College, Cambridge, took First-class Honours in Part II. of the Mathematical Tripos. Her younger sister, Miss Frances Taylor, has just gained a senior foundation scholarship at St. Paul's Girls' School, Brook Green.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Henry Blyth Hill, Manchester Regiment, whose name appeared amongst the wounded in the official list published on Wednesday, was formerly attached to the Egyptian Army. He saw service in the Nile Expedition of 1898, and holds the Order of the Mejidieh (4th Class) and the Order of the Osmanieh (3rd Class). He was for some time Governor of Berber, and later of the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province. He is the sixth baronet.

It is officially reported that Major A. Carton de Wiart, D.S.O., Dragoon Guards, attached Gloucestershire Regiment, has been wounded. At the time the present war broke out he was serving with the Somaliland Camel Constabulary, and he had previously seen service in the South African War, in which he was also wounded. For his services against the Dervishes he was made a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order. Major Carton de Wiart is a son of the late Maitre Carton de Wiart, the well known and popular Cairo lawyer, and a nephew of the Belgian Minister of Justice.

The Paris journal *Excelsior* quotes a neutral traveller as saying that King Ferdinand, on the appearance of Allied aircraft in Bulgaria recently, took refuge in a cell especially made for him below the palace cellars.

Mr. Charles Baehler has arrived at his summer residence, Chateau Neu Habsbourg, near Lucerne, from Cairo.

The late Mr. Gregory Zlatano, of 2, Lloyds House, Manchester, and of Athens, merchant, left property of the value of £47,515, the net personalty being £47,427.

M. Také Jonescu was received in special audience by King Ferdinand of Roumania on Monday.

Two members of the Turkish Imperial family, Prince Abbas Halim and Prince Osman Fuad, have arrived in Germany to study Prussian methods of administration.

Mr. P. Charnaud has been granted a commission as a temporary lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

Rev. H. B. Rivington left Khartoum on July 10 for England on leave.

Captain A. Criezis, Naval Attaché to the Greek Legation, has arrived in London from Paris.

Dr. Elsie Inglis, who had such thrilling adventures in Serbia with her unit recently, is getting ready to go back again to the scenes of her former adventures. Within a few weeks she is to leave London with a fully-equipped medical unit comprised of women, even to the ambulance drivers.

The *Egyptian Gazette* understands on good authority that the unanimous decision of the members of the Alexandria Municipal Commission to erect a statue of Lord Kitchener in the city as a memorial of his great work in Egypt, will not be quashed by the Government, and that there is no intention of abandoning the scheme.

The Naval and Military members of the Special Commissions on the operations in the Dardanelles and Mesopotamia were nominated by the Prime Minister in Committee on the Special Commissions Bill on Tuesday as follows:—Dardanelles Commission: Admiral of the Fleet Sir W. H. May, and Field-Marshal Lord Nicholson. Mesopotamia Commission: Admiral Sir Cyprian A. G. Bridge, and General the Hon. Sir Neville G. Lyttelton. The Prime Minister's proposal was agreed to after some little discussion.

The concert party sent out to Malta last February by Miss Lena Ashwell in conjunction with the Ladies' Auxiliary Committee of the Y.M.C.A., to cheer the sick and wounded in the many hospitals there, have returned after an absence of nearly five months. For fourteen weeks the concert party gave two concerts a day at Malta, working with the Y.M.C.A. and Red Cross organisations, visiting all the naval and military hospitals and convalescent camps, the garrisons of the various forts, and the transports that called at the island. For five weeks the party entertained the Navy, giving concerts every day on each ship in turn and special concerts to the crews of the submarines. The audiences sometimes comprised 2,000 men, many of whom were heroes of the Dardanelles campaign. The concerts were so deeply appreciated by all the men and have done so much good that Lord Methuen, Military Governor of Malta, the hospital authorities, and the Admirals commanding the Fleet are very anxious that a second visit may be paid. Miss Lena Ashwell will gratefully acknowledge all donations to cover the necessary expenses. They should be sent to her at 36, Grosvenor Street, W.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Sir Ralph Paget has been appointed his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Copenhagen. He was received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday, and kissed hands upon his appointment. He afterwards had the honour of being received by the Queen.

Sir Ralph Paget was formerly British Minister at Belgrade, where he was appointed in July, 1910. Prior to that he had been Minister-Resident at Munich and Stuttgart for a year. He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1888, and he has served in many places —Cairo, Zanzibar, Washington, Tokio, Constantinople, Guatemala, and Bangkok. Lady Paget's work on behalf of the Serbians is well known to all our readers.

According to a telegram received by the *Vossische Zeitung* from Bucharest, General Zottu, Chief of the Roumanian General Staff, is to be replaced by General Iliescu, a friend of the Premier, M. Bratiano.

The conferment of a Viscounty of the United Kingdom on Sir Edward Grey and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, with the title of Viscount Grey of Fallodon, is gazetted under date July 27.

The *London Gazette* announces :—

The King has been graciously pleased to appoint William Beauchamp Heard, Esq., to be his Majesty's Consul at Serres.

The King has been graciously pleased to appoint Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Wolseley Haig, C.M.G., to be his Majesty's Consul-General for the Governorships of Ispahan, Yezd, Gulpáigan, and Konsar, the Province of Irak, and the Districts of Chehkarmahal, Feridan, and Bakhtiari, to reside at Ispahan.

The King has been graciously pleased to appoint Evelyn Berkeley Howell, Esq., C.I.E., to be his Majesty's Consul at Muskat.

The *Gazette* also announces that the King has been pleased to approve of Mr. John Burke as Vice-Consul of Greece at Belfast; and Mr. F. Spashett as Vice-Consul of Greece at Lowestoft.

Bimbashi C. Graham, Equatorial Battalion, has been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam and has been appointed Officer Commanding, 11th Sudanese

Kaimakam J. R. Bassett Bey, Governor Upper Nile Province, has been promoted to the rank of Miralai.

Kaimakam H. Beaumont Bey, Senior Inspector Mongolla Province, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army, with effect from the 6th inst.

Kaimakam W. Byam Bey, of the Egyptian Army Medical Corps, has been promoted to the rank of Miralai and granted the 3rd Class of the Order of the Nile on the occasion of his reversion to the British Army.

Captain E. G Lawton, the East Surrey Regiment, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army with the rank of Bimbashi and has been posted to the 12th Sudanese.

Captain A. H. T. Chetwynd, Derbyshire Yeomanry, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer. He has been granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi and has been attached to the Equatorial Battalion for duty.

Bimbashi W. R. O'Farrell, Sudan Government, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

Captains H. B. H. White, D.S.O., the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), H. Ferguson, the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), Alex. Grant, East Yorkshire Regiment, and J. W. D. Cook, Army Service Corps, having reported their arrival in Egypt, have been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army with the rank of Bimbashi, as Special Service officers, and posted to the 1st Equatorial Battalion, 11th Sudanese and Department of Supplies, respectively.

OBITUARY.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN'S DEATH.

Lieutenant Frederick Grainger Hall, Cheshire Regiment, who is reported killed on July 9, aged twenty-five, was the elder son of the Rev. and Mrs. F. J. Hall, of Shirburn Vicarage, Oxon. He was educated at Northaw Place, Eton, and Trinity College, Cambridge; and was an Eton Rambler and a member of the Free Foresters C.C. After taking his degree, he joined Messrs. Carver in Egypt, and on the outbreak of war came at once to England and in September, 1914, obtained his commission. He went to the front in September last, and was for some time in command of the Machine-gun Section, but recently was given command of his company. He fell, hit by a sniper, while "gallantly leading his men in a successful attack on a German trench."

Under date of July 2, the *Morning Post's* Athens correspondent reports :—Miss Sophia Tricoupis, sister of the leading statesman of Greece in the 'Eighties, died yesterday. Twenty years ago she was one of the most important personages in Greek political society. As her brother's faithful helper, her house was a centre not only of political life, but of literary movement. A meeting point, in fact, for foreign diplomatic visitors to the Greek capital. Like her father, the historian of the Greek Revolution, and her brother, Miss Tricoupis was a warm friend of England.

Captain George Gardner, Royal Bucks Hussars, who, previously reported missing, is now believed to have been killed in Gallipoli in August last year, was the son of Sir Robert Gardner, of Ashley House, Dublin, and was born in December, 1883. He was educated at Malvern and joined the 21st Empress of India's Lancers in 1902 when they were stationed in Dublin, being promoted lieutenant in 1909 and captain in October, 1912. He was made adjutant of the Royal Bucks Hussars (Yeomanry) in March, 1914, and came from India to take up this appointment, and was with the Yeomanry for a year before going with them on active service to Egypt and Gallipoli. In Egypt he will be remembered as a particularly keen polo player.

We learn that Lieutenant Frank Vincombe, Royal West Kent Regiment, whose death was announced in our issue of June 21, was killed while out with a working party. His age was twenty-nine, and he was educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh, and King's College, London, and afterwards went to the National Gymnasium at Stockholm. He was granted a commission in the Devon Regiment in December, 1914, and went to the front and was transferred to the Royal West Kent Regiment in November, 1915.

The death is reported from Cairo of Colonel Gordon Frazer, Devonshire Regiment, after four days' illness.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

HUGH-JONES.—On July 31, at Elmthorpe, Cowley, Oxford, the wife of Llewelyn Arthur Hugh-Jones, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

HAMBLEN—ARCHIBALD.—On July 27, at Alexandria, at the British Consulate, and afterwards at St. Marf's Church, by the Rev. Fergus McNeile, C.M.S. Missionary at Cairo, Lieut. Leonard T. Hamblen, Adjutant of the Egyptian Labour Corps, to Ruth Mary, youngest daughter of W. F. A. Archibald, Master of the Supreme Court.

DEATHS.

AUSTIN.—On July 23, suddenly, at Alexandria, James Meredith Austin, manager of the British Engineering Company of Egypt.

SANDFORD.—On July 29, at Khartoum, after a short illness, Joseph Ruscombe Poole Sandford, Sudan Civil Service, third son of the late Archdeacon E. G. Sandford, of Exeter, and of Mrs. Sandford, Ivy Bank, Exmouth, aged thirty-five.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1916.

ROUMANIA'S DECISION.

Readers of THE NEAR EAST have been left in no uncertainty with regard to the attitude of Roumania towards the war. Both officially and unofficially she has been at heart with the Grand Alliance; but a variety of circumstances has prevented her hitherto from abandoning neutrality. There has been little or no attempt to disguise the situation. The fundamental facts are that for a period of years the late King Carol, acting, as he believed, in the interests of his country, had an understanding with the Central Powers, which virtually made Roumania a vassal of the Triple Alliance. It was generally recognised that Roumania was not in a position to stand alone, and King Carol's instinct naturally caused him to look to Germany in order to obtain the necessary guarantees for Roumanian integrity and independence. In the years during which this policy of insurance held good, however, the relations of the inhabitants of the kingdom to their kinsfolk across the Carpathians underwent a notable change. The sense of a common nationality was quickened, and the grievances of the Roumanians in Transylvania provided a powerful stimulus to the movement for their restoration to the Roumanian kingdom. When the war broke out King Carol was in favour of throwing in his lot with the Central Powers; he was not a traitor to the national ideal; but he saw no chance of being able to realise it as a result of the war, because he did not believe that Russia (Great Britain at that time had not declared herself) could be victorious against Germany and Austria. He felt that Roumania as a small Power had only one course open to her, to side with the victors and to trust to the future to bring about the dismemberment of Austria-Hungary and with it the incorporation of Transylvania in the Roumanian kingdom. At the Crown Council held at Sinaia on August 3, 1914, King Carol failed to carry his advisers with him. The majority could not bring themselves to support the country which had systematically oppressed their kinsfolk, but they recognised the uselessness of exposing themselves to defeat at the hands of the Central Powers. Neutrality was accordingly decided upon—a clear indication that the country as a whole had no sympathy with the Germanic States. From this attitude the Roumanian Government has not yet budged. Its sympathies and the national ideal have remained the same. If at any time it had seen its way to giving free rein to the former in order to realise the latter, it would have taken its stand with the Allied Powers. What it was not prepared to do, and what the Allies did not wish it to do, was to sacrifice itself for a principle without bringing any definite advantage to the common cause.

Little more than a year ago, when the Russians advanced to the Carpathians, it seemed as if the moment had come when Roumania could strike a blow in her own interests and seal the victory of the Allied Powers. It was, as we know to-day, a short-sighted view, and if it had been acted upon, it would probably have led to the discomfiture of the Roumanians, and would have proved of no practical assistance to the Allies. The war was not to be won so easily. At the time, no doubt, many people were tempted to blame the diplomacy of the Roumanian and of the Allied Governments alike for failing to arrive at an agreement which would have enabled the former to settle its account with the Austrians. There seemed to them the possibility that only the extra push which the Roumanian Army could have given was required to drive home the Russian success. This, however, was not the case. For once in a way the failure of diplomacy has proved an asset to all concerned. The Allies learned that the war was not yet won; the Roumanian Government had its eyes open in regard to the strain that would be placed upon the country's resources before the national ideal could be realized. Both parties settled down to face an entirely new situation, which was dominated by one factor—the need for munitions. For Roumania, as she could only hope to receive of the Allies' surplus, the outlook was necessarily a difficult one. She could no longer disguise her sympathies with the Entente Powers; but with Germany and Austria-Hungary becoming more and more aggressive, she had to avoid providing them with a *casus belli*. She had all the while to live, and her national existence depended in large measure, if not entirely, on her ability to export her chief products, cereals and oil. At the same time she had to look to the Allied Governments for a supply of munitions, if she could ever hope to strike a blow on her own behalf. It would be difficult to imagine a more complicated situation; and when all the facts are known it will, we believe, be found that the Roumanian Government has been materially helped in weathering it by its honesty of aim. Fortunately for it, the Central Powers, although under no illusion regarding Roumanian sympathies, have not been in a position to risk a gratuitous break with Roumania, and have preferred to employ every artifice of bribery, threats, and cajolery in an attempt to put off the evil day. They have succeeded in adding a considerable quantity of Roumanian exports to their stock of supplies; but it may be doubted whether their machinations have materially delayed Roumania's entry into the war.

In the absence of a complete understanding between the Allied Governments and Roumania there must always be some misgivings in the minds of the former lest the Roumanian Government should be tempted, from a very natural desire, to prolong its non-participation beyond the period which would make its military efforts correspond with the prizes it hoped to derive from the victory of the Allies. When the Germans had convinced themselves of the impossibility of winning over the Roumanians and of the increasing unlikelihood of Roumanian neutrality being maintained, they seized upon this point with a view to creating bad blood between Roumania and the Allies. It was known that the negotiations between the two parties were of a prolonged character, and the wish that they would break down provoked the frequent assertion that they had broken down. Although these negotiations are not yet definitely at an end, there is reason to believe that the final stages offer perfectly clear sailing, and at no distant date we may expect to see Roumania take her place by the side of the Allies. Her participation is probably by now considered by the Central Powers as inevitable as a renewal of the Allied advance in the West and the East. Their one concern must be to decide whether the blow will fall upon them, intensifying the Russian thrust, or whether it will in the main be directed against their dupes south of the Danube. We make no attempt to probe into military secrets. If the Bulgarians should be attacked, there can be little doubt that an Allied wedge driven between the Central Powers on the one hand and Bulgaria and Turkey on the other will be felt as severely by the former as a Roumanian invasion of Transylvania. In Germany, indeed, the cutting off of the two vassal States from the Central European "block" is likely to have a more disheartening effect than any accumulation of the Austrian tradition of defeat. Moreover, as Germany plays for Bulgaria and Turkey the rôle that the earth did for Antæus, we may expect a comparatively speedy collapse on the part of these two States when once their lines of communication are permanently cut. It matters little, therefore, in which direction the Roumanian Army decides to move; both in Transylvania, where it would co-operate with the Russians, and south of the Danube, where its movements could be co-ordinated with a Franco-British-Serbian advance, it has it in its power to help in bringing about decisive results. The Allies await Roumania's decision with sympathy and confidence.

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ON A GREEK LINER.

By ELBRIDGE COLBY.

We were going to Greece, and there was not a timid passenger on board who did not firmly believe that we were carrying contraband of war, in spite of the captain's assurances to the contrary. We were a relief expedition bound for Serbia, and to our minds there were two dangers: one was disease, the other was a hostile navy. So doth imagination make fools of us all.

Fancy, then, our excitement when, about 10 o'clock one night in the Mediterranean, two small dark shapes were discerned to starboard and to port. They came nearer. Submarines? They lay very close to the water. Interest was intense. Suddenly, as they drew abreast of our bridge three words came sharp out of the night:

"What's your name?"

"T——," replied the captain.

"Where bound?"

"Piræus!"

"Where from?"

"Malta!" And here the Greek commander showed his exceeding good sense, naming a British port so close, at which we had received "orders," but had not "called."

When this conversation—pleasant repartee!—was concluded, both destroyers switched on their white masthead lights and red and green side lights. Both boats were going in the opposite direction from us. Immediately the signal lamps on one of the small ships began to "talk," and we replied in flashes of dotted and dashed light. The signalling was ended, and instantly we were surveyed in the full glare of a searchlight. From stem to stern the inquisitive white beam looked us over. The torpedo boat had turned round and was running close alongside, as we could see by the port and starboard red and green. Switch! Off went the searchlight, and we watched the green lamp gradually swing around as the destroyer moved away.

What shall I say of the excited people who leaned over the rail? What of those who afterwards remained on deck all night? What of the dear ladies who fumblingly "tried on" their life preservers? Of these we had better say little. The destroyer moved away, and the rest is silence.

But the next day there was no silence. Many nervous conversationalists interviewed the captain, and brought more trouble on our heads. It was tea-time. We were in the dining saloon having tea and buttered bread and marmalade, after the pleasant English fashion, when we were roused by five short quick blasts of the whistle, then the same signal again, repeated. At first I thought we were meeting another ship and were merely blowing a salute, so I put my head out of a porthole. Not seeing anything, I went to the starboard side and looked out there. Then it entered my head that we were having a drill—and such a drill!

Up to the bridge deck we scurried, so as to be able to look down on the boat deck and keep an eye on operations. The dirty, greasy Greek sailors swarmed over the ropes and began to pull the canvas boat-covers loose. Soon all were free. The gentle captain swore some orders at his men—in Greek, so as not to annoy the ladies. Whereupon the dirty "hands" clambered over the boats from the port side and concentrated their attack on starboard lifeboat number three. Much pushing, much stumbling, much mumbling, much interference with one another; half the men got hold of one end of the boat and half of the other end. When some should have pushed and others pulled, both groups pushed, or each did the wrong thing. The captain swore, and all went every which way once more. The rope got tangled, a block was jammed, a cover blew in the way. But, finally, somehow, out of all this confusion, one lone lifeboat emerged and hung tentatively above the water. Thirteen minutes! The captain swore again. The whistle blew two short blasts, and everyone went back and continued the interrupted tea.

The next day we had a drill, and the next. Finally the superbly haphazard Greek way of doing things managed to get eight boats over the side in four minutes; but that was not much of an achievement, for they had been left uncovered and swinging in their places. All the crew had to do was to loosen the tackle and push the davits around.

This, if you please, is a Greek liner, and I am extremely thankful that we had nothing more exciting than drills.

How we did love the good ship "T——" and the Greeks, who are reputed such good sailors!

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Commissions of Inquiry.

The *Nation* (July 29), in an article headed "The Conditions of Victory," indulges in some very plain speaking regarding the conduct of the Gallipoli campaign. "Nothing," it says, "is to be gained by preventing the fullest possible investigation of these mistakes; indeed, the more firmly they are exposed, the better the prospect that there will be no repetition." And it goes on to say:—

This applies even more to the Mesopotamian expedition. The mystery of the advance towards Baghdad thickens rather than clears with the fragmentary news we gather of its inception and development. The lack of hospital accommodation, of transport, of suitable food, of military foresight, is still inexplicable. Townshend fell back from Ctesiphon for water. Is it not strange that, with such an episode before him, another General should give exactly the same excuse for interrupting his advance to the relief of Kut? In any business undertaking the repetition of identical mistakes is much too expensive a luxury. And we do not yet know the true reason why our force turned away from Kut at the end of the first week in March. The facts that some of the adverse conditions still obtain in Mesopotamia, and that soldiers are even now thoughtlessly exposed to sunstroke in India, make full investigation a matter of the greatest urgency. We lost one victory and failed to avert a great defeat by faults that were preventible. We are deeply concerned that the same or similar conditions shall never recur. We must give no quarter to this domestic enemy which can neutralise every element of our strength.

"The Subtle Dividing Line."

Discussing the appointment of the Mesopotamia Commission in its leading article last week, the *Indiaman* refers to the Mesopotamia campaign as "the most disastrous military operations that have ever been undertaken from India." It is of opinion that—

No fault will be found with the Government regarding the authority it has conferred upon the Commissioners, assuming, that is to say, that the absence of specific mention of the points will not preclude the Commissioners from inquiring into those questions which are concerned with the constitution of the force originally despatched under the command of Sir Arthur Barrett, the appointment of Sir John Nixon to supersede that officer, and the actual circumstances in which the control of the campaign was transferred from Simla to Whitehall.

The writer emphasises the fact that in its early stages the campaign in Mesopotamia was extraordinarily successful:—

Indeed, it has been admitted on all hands that for some time the campaign in Mesopotamia was conducted as brilliantly and as successfully as any in which British arms have ever been engaged, and we believe it will be found that the subtle dividing line between unbroken prosperity and the beginning of adversity will be the point at which the Commissioners will find their first really serious and difficult work.

And he is curious to learn whether General Sir Arthur Barrett believed it possible to fight and win his way to Baghdad; whether he was "invited to express an opinion regarding that particular phase of the campaign"; and whether his supersession by Sir John Nixon can be in any way attributed to his expression of such opinion. The article concludes:—

It is unfortunate, perhaps, that it has been found necessary to undertake the investigations during the war. If we are to win it is imperative that every scrap of our energy should be directed against the enemy. It is possible, moreover, that witnesses who appear now will fail to do themselves, or the truth, the same justice which might be done when the physical and mental stress of the war has ended. If the Government had not pursued an insane policy of reticence when the complaints regarding Mesopotamia were first made, if they had acknowledged then what they have had to acknowledge since, that there had been a lamentable lapse from efficiency, it is more than probable that the bitter outcries and scathing criticisms we have heard in Parliament would never have been uttered. In any case, the present inquiry could have been deferred without incurring any risk and, perhaps, with some advantage. As it is, it must proceed.

Roumania and France.

In *Correspondance d'Orient* (July 10), M. Léo Claretie writes in lively style on the likeness between the Roumanians and the French. He finds it very sur-

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to
KING GEORGE. KING OF SPAIN
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prising that Roumania has not ranged herself beside the Entente Powers to fight her worst enemies, the Turks and the Bulgarians, since there is no country in Eastern Europe more strongly Francophil. The following extracts are from his article, which is entitled "France et Roumanie":—

Quand on arrive chez les Roumains, de quelque côté qu'on entre chez eux, on a l'impression de venir de l'étranger et de rentrer en France. . . . En Bulgarie, en Hongrie, le Parisien est perdu, dépaysé. . . . Mais à peine arrivé à Bucarest, il a l'impression d'avoir remis les pieds sur les Grands Boulevards, et de retrouver derrière les Carpathes une image de Paris. Il entend parler français; aux devantures des librairies sont les livres de Paris les plus récemment parus. . . . Les modes sont celles de chez nous, et les plus récentes. . . . Dans les salons la dernière "première" des théâtres parisiens est discuté comme elle le serait chez nous, deux jours après son apparition. Nos actualité sont connues aussitôt et commentées, et dès qu-un Parisien arrive, on lui demande les dernières nouvelles des événements de la vie à Paris. Les Roumains connaissent notre littérature, et la plus contemporaine, mieux que bien des Français; il en est des plus cultivés qui ne savent pas le roumain.

M. Claretie, however, regrets that however much the Roumanians admire France, they still go to Germany for many things that they require. The German has flooded the country with his wares and his commercial travellers, while France has neglected the field. What he writes might be studied with advantage by English, as well as by French, readers. It is to be hoped that after the war the German will be less in evidence in the Balkans than he has been of late.

A Year Ago.

The writer of an article entitled "The War in the East and the Fall of Erzingan," which appeared in last Saturday's *New Statesman*, concludes by expressing the opinion that "the fall of Erzingan may prove the turning-point in the Asiatic war. The Russians have no obstacle left in front of them comparable to those which they have overcome. If their next moves are accompanied by a British move in Mesopotamia, better worked out than those which ended in the fall of Kut, they may well make such a contribution as we have suggested above to the final result." Earlier in his article he contrasts the situation a year ago, when "the larger half of our attention went to the Near East," and to-day, "when the 'Western' school is in the ascendant. He thinks that:—

The contrast results mainly from our having abandoned the direct attack on Constantinople. No objective in the Near East is comparable to the capture of the keys of the Black Sea. No other can in any similar degree be thought of as an alternative to the Western objectives. No other has so immediate an influence on the Russo-Austro-German front, which has hitherto been, and may in the end be, the scene of the chief offensive victories in the war. Indeed, in 1915 the Dardanelles Expedition, for all its misconceiving and mishandling, did more to help Russia out of disaster than anything undertaken in France. What arrested the victorious march of the German armies towards Kieff and Petrograd was not the Champagne-Loos-Souchez offensive. It was the necessity of saving Constantinople, a necessity which was the motive of the Serbian campaign.

And in the following paragraph he asks, and gives his own answer to, two important questions.

Turkey, or at least the Turkish control of the Straits, has always been among the main factors in the war. The original conception of the Dardanelles campaign was sound on one side; for at least the end which it sought was well worth paying a high price for. The popular arguments against it, based chiefly on the fact that Gallipoli is further from Berlin and London than the French front is, were crude and myopic. But in examining any strategical objective one has to ask not only "Is it worth attaining?" but "Is there any sufficient possibility of our attaining it with the forces available at the time?" The British Government were right in saying 'Yes" to the first question. Were they right in saying "Yes" to the second? The public had then no means of knowing; we had to take Ministers' word for it. Subsequent events, however, have clearly shown that under Mr. Churchill's sanguine impulsion the Government answered this second question wrongly; and that in that sense and for that reason the Dardanelles campaign was a colossal blunder. And when an enterprise of such magnitude has failed once, it is not likely to be tried again. A renewed attempt to strike at Turkey's heart before we have conquered her extremities is one of the least probable developments in the war.

Retribution.

In a leading article, "Pressing the Enemy," *The Times* refers to the capture of Erzinjan by the Russians and the importance of our Allies' complete control of the great military road which runs from Trebizond to Erzeroum and to Erzinjan. It adds:—

The moral side of their triumph is that they have conquered the heart of Armenia, and have exacted a partial retribution for the unprecedented horrors of last year's massacres. The more practical side is that the road into Anatolia now lies open before them, and they have still time this season to advance into the valleys of the Kizil Irmak and the Kilkit Irmak. The Turks will doubtless take up a fresh line of defence east of Sivas, but their successive reverses in Asia Minor cannot long be hidden from the bazaars of Stambul. Reports allege that the discomfited Austrians are turning to their defeated Turkish allies with appeals for aid in Galicia. If these stories are true, then both Austria and Hungary have indeed drained the cup of humiliation to the dregs by seeking succour at the hands of their hereditary foes.

"Where Germany is Weak."

The *Daily Mail* of August 1 published an article with the above title from the pen of Mr. Austin Harrison, who considers that

If the Germans were to walk out of France to-morrow and Belgium the day after, yet keep Serbia and maintain their Turco-Bulgarian military and economic partnership, in great part the Pan-German scheme would be realised, and Germany, an she could end the war on such terms, would incontestably have gained the chief part of her objective.

And this idea it is, which Germans designate as Austria's "ethnic landslide," without which all Pan-Germans agree there could be no chance of success. This is what the Germans are fighting for, what they hope to maintain, and as it is the Germanic central objective, so, militarily, it is the weak spot in their armour.

He concludes his article with the following paragraphs:—

A decisive blow struck upwards from Salonika, breaking through the Bulgarian resistance and liberating Serbia, and Pan-Germanism will receive a mortal wound, from which in this war there can be no recovery. The Young Turks joined Germany because of their belief in German arms, and Bulgaria joined Germany also for the same reason. But if the Bulgarians are defeated and driven into their own country, Turkey will find herself cut off, stranded, reeling into helplessness, and the hour of Austria's fate will have sounded.

That is why the offensive from Salonika is of such enormous importance. It is there that the German heel of Achilles lies. It is there, if we strike well and victoriously, above all if we strike now, when the Austro-German armies are fully engaged, that a decision may be reached of overwhelming military and political significance, which would not only frustrate all Germany's ambitions, but inevitably hasten the end of the war, if only by process of disintegration.

The Move at Salonika.

The *Daily Graphic* (July 29) welcomes the reappearance of the Serbian Army in the field, and the resumption of activities at Salonika, in a leader note. It is fitting, says the writer, that "it is the gallant Serbian Army which is leading the initial offensive against the soldiers of the pinchbeck Tsar Ferdinand."

The bare announcement of the event contains a moral. More than nine months have elapsed since an Allied force landed at Salonika on the invitation of the Government of Greece. How that force was thwarted by the Greek King's refusal to support his Premier need not be recalled in detail at this moment. That factor contributed largely to the inability of the Allies to give immediate relief to Serbia. Germany has gloated over the fact; the Allies have been derided by blatant Teutons for their failure to protect their friends. The Allies kept their counsel; no taunts were able to stir them to premature action. All the time, however, the Allied camp at Salonika has waxed ever larger and stronger, and in that safe haven the brave sons of Serbia have been rested, re-formed, and re-equipped for the appointed hour. With the Central Powers held in an iron grip on their far-flung eastern and western lines, and at a crisis of their fate when they are unable to give treacherous Bulgaria any help, if they wished, it appears that at last an Allied offensive from Salonika is under way. The van of that offensive belonged of right to Serbians. Deserted by Greece and betrayed by Bulgaria, their innate fighting spirit must be keyed to a resolute mood. Knowing they have the support of their French and British comrades, they may be depended upon to take toll of the Bulgarians to the utmost. Victory speed them!

Russia's Wonderful Effort.

The *Daily Chronicle*, in a leading article (July 27) extolling the Russian victory in Asia Minor, reminds its readers that they must not expect the impossible even of our wonderful Ally. It says:—

It must not be supposed that, because the Turkish resistance has ended in defeat and rout, therefore it has not been a bitter and desperate resistance, which it required very good generalship and hard fighting to overcome. We know the Turks better than that. And the scene of the Russian offensive in Armenia is a country with greater natural obstacles than any other in which the present war is waged—much greater even than Trentino, for the mountains are higher, and the routes are mostly bridle-paths. We need to realize these things in order to appreciate fairly the extraordinary achievement of our Russian Allies. Their latest move has been undertaken at a time when they were heavily engaged on their European front. . . . It is at this time that Russia has found men and munitions to resume her Asiatic offensive and sweep the Turks out of the Armenian mountains—a signal testimony to the great

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scale and variety of her resources. We should beware, however, of indulging unreasonable hopes as to what she will do next. Some time must be taken in consolidating her new ground; and the Turks will gain some advantage as they get nearer to the railhead.

Bulgarian "Prudence."

M. Georgoff, Professor at the University of Sofia, published recently, under the title of "Bulgaria's Part in the World War," an article in the German review, *Europäische Staats und Wirtschaft Zeitung*, in which he explains Bulgaria's policy from the conclusion of the Balkan Entente up to her entry into the European war. The following extracts are translated from the *Echo de Bulgarie* (June 16), which reproduces the professor's views:—

Bulgaria alone of all the Balkan countries had no interests opposed to the Triple Alliance. . . . The best Bulgarian politicians, headed by King Ferdinand himself, were convinced that the Bulgar national interests compelled Bulgaria to place herself thenceforth by the side of the Central Powers. For thus only could Bulgaria prevent the excessive aggrandisement of Serbia. And when the European war broke out it was clear to these politicians which side Bulgaria would later have to take. . . . This was the cool and considered calculation upon the true interests of the country. . . .

This imprudent Bulgarian professor is in no wise ashamed of confessing explicitly how Bulgaria sought to deceive Entente diplomacy. As he says:—

But Bulgaria needed to be prudent. There was a moment at which, if the Entente States knew that Bulgaria was lost to their cause, they might loose against her the other Balkan States, as in 1913.

Then, after explaining Bulgaria's *coup*, he has the audacity to mock at the diplomacy of the Entente. "And Bulgaria," says he, "threw off the reserve that had so much puzzled these short-sighted diplomatists, and took her stand at the side of the Central Powers."

"A Cad from Salonika."

The *Daily Express* (July 2) has many hard things to say of the Turk, especially of the "Young Turk," in a leading article entitled "The Huns of the East." Thus we read of the Turk:—

He is still the blind destroyer. He has contributed nothing to the life of the spirit. Moslem civilisation, a real and a fine creation, owes him nothing. He can burn and massacre, but he cannot build or create. The Turk has no place in modern Europe, or, indeed, in the modern world.

As to the Young Turk, "Nero was a puling child" compared with him:—

The Young Turk is, indeed, a thousand times more detestable than the old Turk. He attracted the sympathies of Western Europe by his glib profession of democratic principles. He demonstrated his modernity by deriding his religion and blatantly disregarding its precepts. The Young Turk is, indeed, a cad from Salonika. Abdul Hamid was overthrown, a comic-opera Parliament was set up in Constantinople, and the simple souls who believe that national salvation necessarily lurks in a ballot-box sang pæans of delight. The Young Turk, however, soon showed himself as subtle an intriguer as the ex-Sultan, every bit as corrupt, and not half so clever. Germany discovered his price and bought him very cheap, and he was only too eager to sacrifice every genuine national consideration at his paymaster's command.

Very few people will be found in this country to quarrel with the latter passage, at least.

Articles to Note.

"With Kitchener in the Gordon Relief Expedition," by Colonel Willoughby Verner, in the *Nineteenth Century* (August).

"The Sultan of Turkey and the Khalifate"; "Greece," by Dr. E. J. Dillon; and "Raffi: The Armenian National Writer," by Zabelle C. Boyajian, in the *Contemporary Review* (August).

"In the Balkan Countries," by Professor E. H. Parker, in *Chambers's Journal* (August).

"Aleppo," by W. J. C., in *Blackwood's Magazine* (August).

"The Armenian Question," in *The Times* (Russian Section), July 29.

"The Sultan and the Caliphate" (Letters to the Editor), in the *Nation* (July 29).

"The Holy Cities of Islam and their Relation to the World War," by Harold J. Shepstone, in the *Quiver* (July).

"Mumin Du'a" (from the Turkish). By H. M. Léon, M.A., LL.D., and "Antar—The Arab Poet," by Ehsan El-Bakry, Phil.B., in the *Philomath* (July).

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

British Prisoners in Turkey— July 27.

Mr. H. Forster informed Sir E. Cornwall that, so far as was known, the total number of British prisoners now in the hands of the Turks was approximately 600 officers and 8,370 other ranks. These figures included native Indians and Egyptians, in addition to British officers and soldiers and soldiers from the Dominions.

Lord R. Cecil, replying to Sir E. Cornwall, stated that the Foreign Office had just received a Note from the United States Ambassador, enclosing a despatch from the United States Embassy at Constantinople, in which it was stated that official lists of the Kut prisoners had not yet been furnished by the Ottoman Government; that the United States Consul at Baghdad telegraphed on June 26 that one thousand prisoners were still at that city too ill or weak to proceed; and that a British staff-sergeant had reported from Angora the arrival of sixty-two prisoners at that place. Outfits of clothing, toilet supplies, and money would be sent to the prisoners as soon as possible.

—And Persia.

Colonel Yate asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what was the present condition of the British Consul at Shiraz and the other British subjects held prisoners by German emissaries in Persia; whether there was any prospect of their immediate release; and, if not, whether his Majesty's Government would now take effective retaliatory measures against the German officials on the British concession in China?

Lord R. Cecil: According to our latest information, all these British subjects, except two, are in good health, and the treatment being accorded to the prisoners had recently improved. In regard to the last part of the question, I would observe that, whatever may have been the initial responsibility of the German agents in the matter, these prisoners are at present in the hands of rebel Persian tribesmen, and that the arrest of Germans in China would leave these tribesmen totally unaffected. Everything possible is being done to secure the release of these unfortunate British subjects, but the difficulties are very great.

Colonel Yate: Considering that the seizure of British subjects originated with German emissaries, will his Majesty's Government take no retaliatory steps at all?

Lord R. Cecil: If we can catch the original Germans there would be very good reasons for retaliatory steps, but I am not quite sure that it is really sound policy to punish one German for what another German has done.

The Dardanelles Commission.

The House having gone into Committee on the Special Commissions (Dardanelles and Mesopotamia) Bill,

Mr. Asquith moved the insertion of the names of the Dardanelles Commission—viz., the Earl of Cromer, the Right Hon. Andrew Fisher, Sir Thomas Mackenzie, Sir F. Cawley, M.P., Mr. J. A. Clyde, M.P., and Captain S. L. Gwynn, M.P. After a protest on the part of an Irish member against the number of Peers who were appointed to such bodies, the motion was agreed to.

Sir H. Dalziel moved that Mr. Walter Roch, M.P. for Pembroke, should be added to the Commissioners.

Mr. Asquith feared that the addition of one name would lead to the addition of others, and he preferred to keep the Commission limited in number. If, however, the House did not accept that view he would not insist on it. After further discussion, he intimated that the Government would leave the matter entirely in the hands of the House, and on a division the addition of Mr. Roch was agreed to.

Admiral Sir H. Meux recalled the fact that thirty years ago a proposal to attempt to force the Dardanelles was made by the late Lord Salisbury, and on that occasion fortunately we were saved the losses which must have been incurred, by the absolute refusal of the then First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Frederick Richards. What this Commission was to inquire into was the conduct of the Admiral and the General in command. In order that they might be tried by men who knew something about modern naval and military matters, he moved that the Commission should include at least one naval and one military officer chosen from the retired lists.

Commander Bellairs suggested as an alternative that the Commission might be assisted by naval and military advisers. Mr. Asquith was disposed to accept this suggestion, and hoped that Sir Hedworth Meux would be satisfied with that arrangement.

Sir H. Meux, however, was not satisfied with the suggestion, seeing that an assessor could only speak when he was asked. Thereupon Mr. Asquith assented to the amendment, and it was agreed to.

Mr. Churchill moved that the Commission should inquire into "The circumstances in which and the authority on which the naval and military expeditions to the Dardanelles and Gallipoli were undertaken." He explained that these words were preliminary to a complete reconstruction of the reference so as to make it cover all the points involved.

Mr. Asquith feared that the specification of particular questions would lead to the exclusion of others not specified. He was willing, however, that the Commission should be instructed to inquire into the origin and inception of the expedition as well as its conduct.

The offer made by the Prime Minister was agreed to, Mr. Churchill's amendment being withdrawn in its favour. It was further agreed, at the instance of Mr. Churchill, that the inquiry

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should extend to drafts, reinforcements, and ammunition, and should cover the Fleet as well as the troops.

The Mesopotamia Commission.

Mr. ASQUITH formally moved that the Mesopotamia Commissioners should be Lord George Hamilton, the Earl of Donoughmore, Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P., Sir A. Williamson, M.P., and Mr. J. Hodge, M.P.—The proposal was agreed to.

Sir A. MOND moved to add to the Commission the name of Major Wedgwood, M.P., who had seen service in the Dardanelles.

Mr. ASQUITH accepting the amendment, it was agreed to.

An amendment in the name of Sir H. MEUX, that one naval and one military officer chosen from the retired lists should be appointed on the Commission, it was adopted on the motion of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. Other amendments were inserted to bring the terms of reference into line with those agreed to for the Dardanelles Commission.

Persian Railways. July 31.

Colonel YATE asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the necessity for the speedy completion of the Mohammerah-Khorremabad railway in Southern Persia, he would expedite the repayment of the sum of £19,382 12s. 2d. mentioned in the directors' annual report as due to the Persian Railways Syndicate, Limited, by the Persian Government, in order that construction might be commenced and the railway completed as far as Ahwaz or Dizful, or some other point as far north as possible, with as little delay as possible.

Lord R. CECIL: His Majesty's Minister at Teheran has been instructed to support this claim against the Persian Government. The hon. and gallant member will, no doubt, recognise that present conditions in Persia impose certain limitations upon financial and other progress.

Colonel YATE: Will steps be taken to push on this very necessary railway?

Lord R. CECIL: I did not understand that this question was in reference to pushing on the railway, but to a claim against the Persian Government. That we will support.

Colonel YATE: That is the first preliminary to pushing it on.

Mesopotamia and the Dardanelles. August 1.

On the report of the Special Commissions (Dardanelles and Mesopotamia) Bill,

Mr. ASQUITH moved to delete from clause I., subsection 1, the statement that there should be as members of the Dardanelles Commission "at least one naval and one military officer chosen from the retired lists" in order to insert the names of Admiral of the Fleet Sir William Henry May and Field-Marshal Lord Nicholson.

Admiral Sir H. MEUX said that the name of Sir William May would be received with unbounded approval by the Navy, but with regard to Sir Cyprian Bridge, who was to be proposed for the Mesopotamia Commission, he did not think that a man should be entrusted with this duty at the age of seventy-seven. Apart from his age, Sir Cyprian Bridge had completely lost the confidence of the Navy by signing the unfortunate Declaration of London, and he was afraid that the nation would not regard his selection with satisfaction.

Mr. ASQUITH said it was a most invidious task to impugn or to defend the selection of a particular officer to serve on Commissions. No one could dispute that Sir Cyprian Bridge was a naval officer of the highest distinction. His naval record spoke for itself. The whole gravamen of Sir Hedworth Meux's objection was the age of Sir Cyprian Bridge. No more fallacious test of a man's fitness could be applied, because many distinguished men were in full possession of their mental and physical faculties at a very great age. The House ought not to reject a nomination, made after full consideration, solely on the ground that the nominee was seventy-seven years old.

Sir E. CARSON asked whether Sir C. Bridge would go to Mesopotamia

Mr. ASQUITH replied that, under the terms of the Bill, if it were necessary to hold local inquiries, the whole Commission might go; but under an amendment they had power to delegate such work to two or three of the Commissioners.

Mr. ASHLEY suggested that it was desirable to have on the Commission experts with knowledge of modern warfare.

Mr. CHURCHILL pointed out that the House had decided that the selection should be made from officers on the retired list. It would be unfair to an officer on active service to ask him to sit in judgment upon the highest authorities in the State and at the Admiralty and the War Office.

Sir J. REES said he did not know much about Admirals, but he did know something about Mesopotamia, and he was quite sure that a man of the age of Sir Cyprian Bridge would never be able to stand the climate if he had to go there in connection with the conduct of the inquiry.

The amendment was agreed to.

On an amendment providing that Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge and General Sir Neville Lyttelton should be the naval and military members of the Mesopotamia Commission,

Colonel YATE asked whether Sir Neville Lyttelton had had any Indian experience?

Mr. ASQUITH said Sir Neville Lyttelton, who had been Chief of the General Staff here, and had a very distinguished career in South Africa, earlier in life commanded a battalion in India for some time.

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN moved a further amendment giving the Commissioners power to authorise any person to be represented by counsel or otherwise, "if they consider that any injustice would ensue if that person were not so represented."

Sir E. CARSON asked whether counsel who were members of the House would be able to appear. He thought that would be improper.

Sir H. DALZIEL urged that the rule preventing members of Parliament from appearing as counsel before House of Commons Committees should also apply to this case.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN stated that, though nothing he could say would have authority, he agreed with Sir E. Carson that members of the House of Commons ought not to appear as counsel before Commissions of that House.

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN moved for the insertion of a provision with the object of enabling two or more of the Commissioners to take evidence abroad. This was agreed to. Other amendments moved by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN and Mr. HAZLETON were adopted, having the effect of securing that information should be given and documents should be produced at the request of the Commissioners to which the Official Secrets Act might apply. The SOLICITOR-GENERAL moved to substitute for subsections 2 and 3 of Clause 4 (Indemnity to Witnesses) a provision that any answer given by a person examined by the Commissioners "shall not be evidence against that person in any criminal proceeding (including a proceeding by Court-martial) at any time thereafter instituted against him, and any document so produced shall not be evidence against him in any such proceeding unless the production of that document could be enforced in those proceedings or evidence of that document could be otherwise obtained in any such proceedings." After some discussion the amendment was agreed to.

The Bill passed through Report Stage, and was reported to the House.

On the motion for third reading Commander BELLAIRS objected to the whole principle of inquiries during the war. These Commissions might have a bad effect upon the unity of the Services. Cliques and schools might be created. There were many advantages to be gained by postponing the inquiries until after the war.

Mr. S. ROBERTS thought the hon. member would stand almost alone in his view. Great mistakes had been made, and the country would not be satisfied until those mistakes had been remedied, and those responsible for them brought to book.

Sir E. CARSON hoped the Commission into the Mesopotamia operations would begin at the present state of affairs, and not at the inception of the expedition. Let them get at the existing conditions, and see how they could be remedied in the interests of our men and humanity.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, replying to the various points raised, said he had the assurance of the Chairman of the Mesopotamia Commission that it was his desire that the proceedings should be as expeditious as possible, and that he would be able to report as soon as possible not merely as to the treatment of the sick and wounded in the past, but as to our position in that respect at the present moment.

The Bill was read a third time.

Our Losses at Gallipoli.

Mr. FORSTER, in a printed reply to a question put by Mr. Malcolm, says:—As I stated on July 26, in answer to an oral question, the numbers of prisoners captured in the Dardanelles and now in the hands of the Turks are believed to be 19 officers and 359 other ranks. The net number missing, after allowance has been made for men since reported killed, etc., is about 290 officers and 9,700 other ranks. These figures include soldiers from the Dominions, native Indians, and men of the Royal Naval Division, but not officers and men of the Royal Navy. The Army Council, after the lists of prisoners had been referred to the United States Embassy at Constantinople for further check, were satisfied that there was no ground for hoping that there were prisoners who had not been reported, and it was consequently decided that the missing officers and men not accounted for must be officially accepted as dead. Effect is being given to this decision after due consideration of the circumstances of each individual case.

Prisoners in Bulgaria. August 2.

Lord ROBERT CECIL informed Sir E. Cornwall that the consent of the United States Government to the publication of the report of the United States Consul-General in charge at Sofia regarding the treatment of British prisoners of war in Bulgaria had not yet been received. The names of seven officers and 447 other ranks had so far been reported to the War Office as prisoners of war in Bulgaria.

THE DARDANELLES INQUIRY.

As we go to press, we learn that in the House of Lords on Thursday the Bill appointing Commissions of Inquiry into the operations in the Dardanelles and in Mesopotamia was read a second time. Lord Crewe said the appointment of an additional member to the Dardanelles Commission might be made later. Lord Cromer referred to the criticisms made in the House of Commons regarding his appointment as Chairman of the Dardanelles Commission, criticisms in which he was inclined to concur. He accepted the appointment from a sense of duty, but he would resign should the strain prove too great. He assured their lordships that there would be no whitewashing and advocated the appointment of a judicial member on the Commission.

Mr. Heinemann will publish shortly "Gallipoli," by Mr. John Masefield, who took part in the Dardanelles campaign. The book gives a detailed account of the battle for Koja Chemen Tepe, and of some of the landings, and a sketch of the whole operations. It is illustrated with photographs.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

I am glad to observe that the Egyptian Government propose to make compulsory the rooting-up and destruction of old cotton plants after the final picking of the crop. Cultivators who persist in neglecting this very necessary operation will be fined one pound (Egyptian) and also be liable to a week in prison. The authorities may be trusted not to make their new power an instrument of oppression, and we ought next season to derive great advantages which might have been gained long since if commonsense methods of cultivation had been insisted upon earlier. "The law also enacts" (says Reuter) "similar treatment in respect of the hemp and bamia plants. In this way it is hoped considerably to minimise damage by worms to the cotton plants. It has been proved by the investigations of the Ministry of Agriculture that the leaving of the plants in the ground after the crop has been raised has contributed, in a great degree, to the occurrence of the annual worm attack."

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Things are being rushed along at Busreh with a vengeance. A correspondent tells me that already an insolvent has applied to the district court for protection, and his case has proceeded so far that his discharge will shortly be granted. Another indication of progress is an advertisement in the local newspaper for "a qualified and thoroughly competent man with teaching experience to give lessons in bookkeeping and accountancy as dictated for the junior and senior course of the London Chamber of Commerce." Progress, my masters.

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Nobody will be surprised at the breakdown of the negotiations between Turkey and Roumania for the exchange of certain articles which both countries wanted pretty badly. Anything like a definite discussion of this matter would be ill-advised at the moment; but I may say this that Roumania is not likely to make a bad investment. She has had ample opportunities for judging what are the chances of business, and who are likely to prove to be unprofitable customers, and, what is more, she knows very well how to avoid booking bad debts. Roumania has her own little problems to tackle, and is wise enough to know that bad business is not going to help in the finding of a solution. Meanwhile, I am glad to learn that the fear of depleted crops has not altogether materialised. The harvest will not be of the bumper order, but it will be good, nevertheless, so I am given to understand. The country has not been badly hit by the war, and there would seem to be no good reason why an era of real prosperity should not be inaugurated.

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I regret that I was unable to accept an invitation to be present at the excellent exhibition of Serbian handicrafts which was held at Bradford in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund on July 26. I am told, however, not only that it was very successful, but that it did good in the direction of enlightening a large number of English people regarding the possibilities of cottage industries in the distressed country when the enemy has been bundled out of it neck and crop. A short account of the function appears elsewhere in this issue.

The lament of a French writer in the *Correspondance d'Orient* that his commercial compatriots in Roumania have hitherto permitted the German trader to become, and remain, supreme will strike a sympathetic chord in British hearts, for our own people have done the same thing in other corners of the world with equally disastrous results. It is amazing that the German trader has been able to win such easy victories on the peaceful battlefields of commerce; but he has done so, and he has now to be fought. Too much emphasis cannot be laid on that fact. It must be kept in the foreground all the time if we are to win back what we have lost. I know that in Egypt we have simply thrown away trade for the Hun to pick up, and he has picked it up without losing any time. Fritz is not proud, he is not lazy, he is not obstinate or conservative; he is conciliatory and obliging, and as he is also as unscrupulous as a brigand, it follows that he has managed to secure more than we have thrown away.

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In a word, he has ousted us in every market in which there was money to be made. We have been out-generalled and out-gunned, to borrow a simile from our military friends, and we have suffered these disasters because we have refused to use the fine weapons we possessed. Let us make no mistake about that. We blame the British Government for its defective system and lack of system, and I will not attempt to defend that mighty institution against the charge of ineptitude; but the British manufacturer and merchant are suffering also the penalty of their own indifference and obtuseness, and, unless they are prepared to reform their methods, "after the war" will find them as badly off as ever they were. The traveller who has British-made goods to sell, and who knows his business, has the finest asset it is possible to have. If any evidence of that fact is wanted, it is supplied by the Hun himself. Ask any British Oversea Customs official, and he will tell many weird stories of attempts made to smuggle goods with false trade descriptions—the false description being in the great majority of cases concerned with the country of manufacture. We need not be afraid of the goods; what we must pillory mercilessly is the fact that the German article is not what it seems—that inside it is inferior in all respects, and that outside its apparent superiority is veneer. That is the whole point. The Hun is the greatest veneer merchant in the world. His goods are as great a sham as his "kultur."

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The view attributed to the late Lord Kitchener—namely, that for twenty years after the war the Germans should be excluded from the comity of nations—is interesting, and its interest has since been enhanced by the ferocious way in which they did poor Charles Fryatt—whom I knew, by the way—to death. I am no apostle of boycott, as I have said in these columns before; but to my mind it is unthinkable that these pariahs should be admitted to the same social and commercial amenities as our Dominion cousins and our Allies unless and until they have made the fullest reparation. If that is to be so, indeed, what is to be the reward of those who have suffered gladly for the sake of righteousness? Are we to grant the same trading and commercial facilities to the pirates who sank the Lusitania and the Portugal, and other vessels that were destroyed wantonly and without warning, with the loss of many hundreds of innocent and non-combatant people? Should the ravagers of Belgium and Serbia and France be allowed to come into our markets on the same terms as the people whom they outraged, and in whose behalf we are now fighting? Briefly, are we to smash the monster, and then pour oil and wine into his wounds? Commercial men in every country in the Empire must decide upon their attitude towards this question. It is going to be a very formidable business presently.

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If the British Government intend to take any action in this matter they will not experience any great initial difficulty. Every enemy-alien firm in the Empire is known; the majority of them have been closed, more are in liquidation, and still more are marked down for similar treatment. I do not think it needs to be pointed out that all these concerns must remain closed until the prohibitory enactments have been repealed. I commend these simple facts to the British Chambers of Commerce who will be able, more than any other bodies, to inform the various Governments of the real trend of commercial opinion. The British people have been guileless in their trading methods in the past; in some respects they have been worse than that, and they must take a new line in the future. The line would appear to be chalked out for them, and they must "toe it."

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With the Turks out of Armenia for the time being, it ought to be possible to do something for the unfortunate Armenian people—or rather for such of them as have survived the cruel campaign of extermination which has been waged for many years by the Turks and Kurds. There are roads to be made and railways to be built, but these considerable projects must wait for better and more peaceful times. Much could be done, nevertheless, in the direction of finding the peasants raw materials for their smaller industries. The Americans have been very good friends to this ancient Christian people in the past, and I dare say that they have not tired of their good work; but I would suggest that the attention of the many wealthy Armenians in India should be invited specially to the problems that will soon arise. I know, of course, that the Armenians in India have come mainly from the Julfa side, and are Persian rather than Turkish; but the fact that their lines have fallen in pleasant places should move their sympathies on behalf of their stricken friends. It is possible that already they are doing something in the matter; but I am a fairly close student of the Indian newspapers, and, so far, I have seen no mention of a mission of help. Some steps should be taken to induce them to assist their co-religionists to start work; that would be the best form charity could take, for not only would the suspended industries be set going again, but the work would help to divert the minds of the people from the sorrows of the past to the newly-born hope of the future. And if a people ever needed hope, and a reason for it, the Armenians are they.

COMMENTATOR.

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After Two Years of War.

War was declared upon Germany by Great Britain two years ago to-day. At that time the only Near Eastern State to be involved in the struggle was Serbia. It was expected that Greece, her Ally by treaty, would give effect to the agreement that existed between them; but, unfortunately, the King was unable to make up his mind to throw in the lot of his people with the cause of righteousness, and Greece was left in a false position, a position which has remained ambiguous up to this day. Bulgaria did as most people who knew the character of her king believed she would do. She made friends with the mammon of unrighteousness. Russia was suffering adversity in the East, and in the West the cause of the Allies was making no progress. Serbia was already under the heel, and, acting in the closest union with the Central Powers, King Ferdinand struck a blow for the side which he thought was winning. He assisted in the final temporary overthrow of his stricken neighbour and, to look ahead for a moment, in a very few months from now the Bulgars will be in the melting-pot, and in very good company, with their Allies the Turks. Turkey had previously shown the cloven hoof. Enver Pasha and his satellites had for long been under German influence. Some day, perhaps, we shall know the price he demanded, and what he got, for his treachery. There were few obstacles in his way, and these he had little difficulty in removing. German money cleared the road in some cases, secret assassination did the rest, and before the end of 1914 Turkey had come into the fray.

Then—and Now.

The situation has changed in the meantime. Russia is advancing along the greater part of her long line from the Baltic to the Balkans. For two months she has been delivering a series of blows which have left our enemies staggering, unable to recover from the effects of one before the other is delivered. In the West, Great Britain and France have at last chosen the time in which to strike Germany, with the result that there is at this moment a movement in progress which we all hope and believe is the beginning of victory. Serbia is still in enemy occupation, but her gallant troops, which, in the early days of the conflict, humbled the Austrians in the dust, after rest and reorganisation are ready once more to take the field and a place of honour when the final fight for the liberation of their country is undertaken. Indeed, they have already given the Bulgars a taste of their quality.

Commerce in War-time.

It will be impossible during the war to state the extent to which any particular country has lost or gained commercially. It is unlikely that any State will escape actual loss because the effect of war is always to paralyse, and the Near East has been under the shadow for many years. "The snows melted" in September, 1912, and the thaw has not yet stopped. We know that Bulgaria and Turkey are in a condition of hopeless insolvency, and that they are carrying on now merely as the creatures of their Allies. Their trade and commerce have disappeared, their revenue, apart from such exactions as they are able to grind out of their own people, is negligible, and all the indications point to the fact that Germany and Austria will soon be in the position of "borrowers" themselves, rather than lenders. Indeed, they have already assumed the rôle, for we know that the unfortunate Turks have recently had to send a considerable force to co-operate with the Austrians in the latter's desperate attempt to stem the advance of the victorious Russians. It may be too early to speak definitely, but those who know the Near East do not hesitate to say that the doom of the Balkan allies of the Central Powers has been sealed so far as their trade and commerce are concerned.

Before the war Bulgaria's main trade followed three routes. The mainland railway and the Danube distributed her exports to her Continental customers, and a certain proportion of her foreign trade found an outlet in the Black Sea and through the Dardanelles. That is to say, such foreign trade as there was, and it was not much. It has fluctuated with a fine disregard of average, and when the account has to be made up there will be a very heavy balance on the wrong side. Bulgaria has not yet been engaged in the war for a year; but already her resources are practically exhausted. The Budget, which has just been presented, disclosed an alarming deficit of, approximately, 100,000,000 francs; which had risen from about 22,000,000 francs in 1914. What it will be by the time the country has felt the fullest strain of the war can only be conjectured, but this much is certain, that when the war has ended her position will be grave. She has made an implacable enemy of Russia, likewise of Serbia—and Serbia coming into her own will be a force to be reckoned with. Roumania, whatever part she plays, or does not play, in the struggle now, will have her own policy to pursue—and it is not likely to assist Bulgaria. Greece has already shown that she understands the value of a regard for Number One, while Turkey will count for less than ever she has done.

Fair Weather in Egypt.

The commercial barometer is set fair in Egypt. So recently as July 7, our correspondent in Cairo was able to tell us a wonderful story of progress. The results of the year ended on March 31 last exceeded all expectations. The year closed with a record surplus of more than £E3,000,000, which was 20 per cent. above the estimates, the revenue having returned to the figures for 1913, which was the last normal year before war broke out, and our correspondent was able to show that the result was attributable to the general improvement in the condition of the people, consequent on the excellent cotton position and on the continued presence of a large number of troops in the country. In a word, the war was a factor in the prosperity of the country and the people. In a further letter, which appears in to-day's issue of THE NEAR EAST, there is a later record of prosperity.

Perhaps the greatest guarantee that the normal financial life of the country had been resumed is the fact that the authorities have permitted the reopening of the Bourse at Alexandria. It must not be assumed, of course, that while the Bourse was closed no business was transacted. Indeed, it is improbable that any business was allowed to pass by; it was transacted "privately" outside the House. True, for the first six months of the war very few transactions were put through—that was inevitable in all the circumstances. But after that period had elapsed the recovery set in. People who had been affected by the panicky feeling that swept through Europe from one end to the other were not long in realising that, so far as Egypt was concerned, fear and excitement were uncalled for, and this was the only step that was necessary to the re-establishment of the normal. That has been attained long since, and it would be well within the mark to say that to-day there is greater confidence, and more money, in Egypt than there has been since the great crisis of 1907. Much depends upon crop conditions, of course, but it would seem that Egypt has before her a time of almost unparalleled prosperity. The confidence of the peasantry stands high, and there ought to be great activity in the sale of land. Agriculture stands out a fine picture, and the Egyptian Government are to be congratulated upon the strong and far-sighted policy which they have followed.

Recovery of Greece.

It would seem, too, that Greece is recovering stability. It would be futile to pretend that her attitude has not occasioned great disappointment among those who called her by the name of friend, and that a certain lapse from discretion in Athens did not at one time threaten serious consequences. At present, however, better counsels seem to prevail and a great deal has been done towards restoring the equilibrium. It is noteworthy that in London Greek securities enjoy a great deal of confidence, and our advices speak of the not unprosperous condition of industry and commerce in the country. Taxation is heavy because there are great war charges yet to be liquidated; but as was pointed out in this journal not long ago it only required the proper establishment of Greek *bonâ fides* to secure financial assistance from the Entente Powers. That assistance has now been extended. Greek shipping too, has prospered as, readers of THE NEAR EAST will recall, was stated in these columns last week.

In the Near East, therefore, the position of neutrals, and of our own friends, is secure. There have been losses, the general equilibrium has been threatened, and there has been a consequent feeling of insecurity; but disaster has been averted in all cases, while in Egypt, as we have pointed out, the prosperity of the country is greater than it has been for nearly a decade. That must be regarded as a tribute to the efficiency of the Egyptian Administration on the one hand, and to the unimpaired strength of British Empire commerce on the other.

Duped Turkey.

Turkey has been duped and is bankrupt, discredited and friendless, in the very sure hands of an inexorable fate. "So she has been before," it may be objected. She has been, but with a difference. Great Britain has stood by her almost to the point of straining her own honour. It is scarcely necessary to go into that matter now, since the Ottomans themselves withdrew voluntarily from our protection. But we all know the story of the fooling of Great Britain and are not proud of it.

The fall and decline of Turkey has been a long and grotesque process. The conclusion of the first Balkan war, in November, 1913, saw the Turks deprived of a great portion of their European territory. A big slice of Turkey was divided between Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece and Montenegro, and Albania was created an independent state. Greece and Italy became possessed of the Ægean Islands, and while the future of these has, nominally, not been provided for, there is very little chance of their coming again under the sway of the Crescent. Since the present war broke out there have been other important developments. Great Britain has definitely annexed Cyprus, and Egypt has been declared a British Protectorate. Russia, after more than one adventure, has expelled the Turks from Armenia, the scene of their most terrible crimes, and, at the moment, it would appear unwise to place a limit upon the Russians' possibilities in Asia Minor. Further East the Arabs, led by the Grand Sheriff of Mecca, have again revolted against Turkish misrule and oppression, and, while it is not possible at the moment to say exactly the measure of the disaster which Turkey has sustained in this quarter, we do know that affairs have so far progressed that the British authorities in Egypt have sanctioned the resumption of trade with certain ports in the Red Sea which, a few weeks ago, were within the Ottoman Empire.

The Asiatic Provinces.

Then there is the Persian Gulf. The campaign in Mesopotamia will always be a sad and bitter chapter in British history, but in our sorrow and indignation we must not fail to be practical. At the top of the Persian Gulf we are in complete possession of a great tract of fruitful country from which Turkey drew large revenues. In and around Busreh the British occupation is complete. The public services are all in working order—posts, telegraphs, police, roads, railways, have all been organised. All trade passes through British customs houses, and that trade is rapidly expanding so far as restrictions imposed by the war permit. Thus we are able to form an idea of the Turkish position at this period of the war, and it would require amazing optimism, even in a Turk, to believe that even a partial recovery is possible, under the régime which has broken down so completely.

There is a future for Turkey, of course, but it is a future which has no place for Enver Pasha, or any of the corrupt and dishonourable persons who go with him to make up the combination which now appears to hold country and people in trust for the Huns. It will be a Turkey without oppression too, and, for that matter, without the power further to make a fool of itself.

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SIX MONTHS' TRADE IN EGYPT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 22.

The Customs statistics for June published last night show a continuation of the improvement in general trade conditions in Egypt. During June imports amounted to £E2,673,820 and exports to £E1,498,230, as against £E1,530,153 and £E1,210,403 respectively in the same month last year. For the six months ending June 30 the total imports were £E14,411,493, or £E6,338,079 better than the figures for the same period of 1915, whilst exports came to £E16,321,729, or £E3,021,572 more than for the previous corresponding period.

During the half-year the principal imports were preserved meat and fish £E263,795, skins and tinned goods £E141,546, cereals £761,210, beer £E327,175, liqueurs £E246,681, petroleum £E402,290, mineral oils £E114,330, stationery £E292,896, construction wood £E216,552, furniture £E196,801, coal £E2,197,134, stone and glassware £E236,873, pharmaceutical wares £201,502, chemical manures £E199,573, cotton tissues £2,629,253, cotton threads £E354,375, sacks £E285,658, other textiles £E1,299,981, iron and steel goods £E446,575, machinery £E170,554.

The chief exports were eggs £E410,063, cotton seed and cake £E1,134,949, cereals £E1,272,762, onions £E299,408, refined sugar £E525,976, alcohol £E128,943, cotton £E11,777,848, wool £E174,754, gold and silver bar £E107,668, and cigarettes £E127,479.

All-Round Improvement.

Compared with 1915 there is a distinct improvement in practically every category, the only exception being, under imports, cereals and sugar—a result of the better agricultural conditions in the country—as well as preserved meat; and under exports, onions—owing to the shorter crop—skins and tanned goods, benzine, cotton seed and cake, and gold and silver bar.

The best means of gauging the real position is to compare the figures for the first six months of this year with those for the corresponding period of 1914, when trade conditions were normal. Imports at the end of June, 1914, amounted to £E13,968,445, and exports to £E15,352,530, so that this year's figures are respectively £E443,053 and £E969,199 better than during the first half-year previous to the outbreak of war. In other words, Egypt's external trade has recovered all the leeway it had lost.

It may be of interest if I show what the principal changes have been in the various categories. Thus under imports, salted fish increased by £E106,261 (£E55,139)—the figures in brackets are those for 1914, with which the comparison is made—groceries, including tea and coffee, by £E285,181 (£E469,163), wines, beer and liqueurs by £E520,597 (£E188,921), petroleum by £E114,117 (£E288,173), coal by £E1,124,257 (£E1,072,877)—it is noteworthy that, whereas in the first six months of 1914, 921,343 tons were imported, only 369,683 came in up to June 30 this year—textiles by £E1,031,839 (£E3,537,328), natural indigo by £E51,314 (£E13,036), furniture by £E77,560 (£E119,241), and stationery by £E72,062 (£E220,834); whilst skins fell off by £E106,704 (£E248,250), cereals by £E1,142,055 (£E1,903,265), construction wood by £E272,163 (£E488,715), chemical manures by £E108,532 (£E308,105), common soap by £E66,088 (£E132,270), worked iron and steel by £E401,735 (£E848,310), and machinery by £E578,315 (£E748,869).

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale of Hanson's, London, England

Exports Analysed.

Under exports the following changes are noticeable:—Eggs increased by £222,507 (£E187,556), sugar by £E499,785 (£E26,191), cereals by £E1,101,504 (£E171,258), alcohol by £E128,943 (nil in 1914), wool by £E88,627 (£E86,127); on the other hand, onions fell off by £E47,922 (£E347,330), cotton seed by £E348,651 (£E1,276,664), and cotton by £E587,649 (£E12,365,497). The quantity of cotton and cotton seed exported was 868,837 cantars and 580,226 ardebs less than in the first six months of 1914, when the quantities were 3,570,555 cantars and 1,428,148 ardebs respectively. It is evident that, although the improvement in the cotton market somewhat counterbalanced the restriction in the 1915 cotton area, the situation was saved by the excellent returns obtained from the country's other products, which brought about a corresponding reduction in the imports of cereals. It is interesting to note that the increase in imports directly attributable to the presence of troops in the country amounted approximately to £E1,250,000, and whereas the balance in trade this year was £E1,910,231 in favour of exports, at the end of June, 1914, it was £E1,384,085.

Turning now to the share taken by the various countries in the trade of Egypt, we find that Great Britain and her dependencies have taken full advantage of the exclusion of the Central Empires. The British Empire has increased its sales to Egypt from £E5,280,873 to £E8,635,722, and its purchases from £E6,063,677 to £E7,881,918; in other words its proportional share of the total trade of the country has risen from 39 per cent. to 54 per cent. Great Britain supplied 66 per cent. of the textiles and 75 per cent. of the metal work as against 54 and 46 per cent. respectively in 1914. Of the other countries America has trebled its sales, mostly petroleum due to the shutting down of the Dardanelles and the stoppage of supplies from Roumania, Italy has increased hers from £E888,010 to £E1,228,987, Greece hers by 50 per cent. to £E488,377, Spain hers from £E47,882 to £E216,284, Japan hers by 200 per cent. to £E133,697, and Holland hers from £E75,243 to £E123,910. On the other hand, France has dropped 40 per cent. to £E731,073, Russia by 70 per cent. to £E116,948, and Roumania from £E516,584 to practically nil. Under exports America, Spain, Japan, Italy, France, Switzerland, and Greece all improved, but Russia fell off by 33 per cent. In view of the recent statements in the Home Press that there is danger of a shortage of raw material in Lancashire, it is instructive to note that, whereas Great Britain took about 250,000 cantars less cotton during the first six months of this year, America increased her purchase by a little under that quantity. All the wool, eggs, cotton seed and cake went to Great Britain, who took 75 per cent. of the onions and 40 per cent. of the cotton, whilst Italy and France have been Egypt's largest customers in regard to sugar, and took 30 per cent. of the cereal crop.

Egypt-Sudan Trade.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan also shows distinct signs of improvement. During the six months imports into Egypt increased from £E230,963 to £E517,185, and exports thence into the Sudan from £E391,302 to £E559,780. Imports of camels into Egypt increased by £E35,727, maize by £E28,172, sesame by £E69,011, ground-nuts by £E8,340, gum by £E6,252, charcoal by £E12,612, and cotton by £E71,337. Under exports from Egypt, the most important items were tanned skins and leather, which increased by £E13,848, sugar by £E44,149, cotton tissues by £E20,317, coffee by £E16,297, and machinery and worked metal by £E12,731. The only item which showed any noticeable falling off was common soap, which decreased by £E5,640; this is a natural consequence of the diminution in the imports from abroad of this article into Egypt.

Amongst those who are to be removed from the Register of Joint Stock Companies at the expiration of three months from the giving of notice, failing cause being shown, is the North Africa Trading Co., Ltd., the British and Foreign Import Co., Ltd., and the British East African Trading Co., Ltd.

TRADE OPENINGS.

The Army Finance Department, Cairo, invite tenders for the supply of fourteen tons of candles to be delivered c.i.f., Alexandria or Port Said. Date, September 5, 1916.

The Board of Trade has received applications from firms in the United Kingdom for the names of manufacturers of brushes and brooms for Egypt.

The British Vice-Consul at Tangier reports that from 20 to 25 per cent. of the building cement and 30 per cent. of the common tumblers came from Germany, as did also cheap imitation jewellery. Tea glasses, he continues, are used in Morocco. The glass beads so extensively worn by Moorish women were of Austrian manufacture. It is important to note that Germany and Austria shipped these goods on f.o.b. quotations on from three to six months' credit. Credit trading has been an important factor in German success in Morocco.

TRADERS' BLACK LIST.

Mr. W. B. Delany, Standard Building, Cairo, has been appointed receiver of the business of H. Muhr, 5, Sharia Maghrabi, Cairo, with instructions to liquidate the same.

Mr. C. R. Beasley, of Cairo, has received a similar appointment and instructions in regard to the business of the Upper Egypt Irrigation Company.

Mr. F. H. Russell, of Cairo, is liquidating the businesses of the Continental Caoutchouc and Guttapercha Company, and of Messrs. Rudolf Kirchmayer and Co.

The affairs of M. Alexandre Wintefstein, of Alexandria, are being liquidated by Mr A. J. Lowe, Alexandria.

By proclamation the General Officer Commanding in Egypt has ordered that the names of the following persons shall be added to the list of persons and firms with whom trading is prohibited:—Assael, Peppo, Allatini Han, Salonika; Gottlich, Martjn, Candia; Jenny and Vock (Fridolin Jenny, Emil Vock), Rua Franque, Salonika; Lianos, Soulakas, and Goumas, Piræus; Lochner, Hermann, Patras; Hajji Muhammad Hussain Kazeruni, Ispahan; Shebarek, Georges, Teheran.

The following have been removed from the list of prohibited firms:—Amin-ut-Tujjar (alias Agha Isfahansi), Ispahan; Christodoroff, Zares, Resht; Keprielli, Meshed; Missirian, Kerman; Tabibian, M., Resht.

SERBIAN EXHIBITION IN ENGLAND.

On July 26, in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund, was held in Bradford, Yorkshire, a prominent centre of the British woollen textile industry, an exhibition of Serbian handicrafts. We take the following interesting and sympathetic account of the exhibition from the *Yorkshire Observer*:—

"The fabrics and articles shown have been manufactured by Serbian refugees in Corsica. There are some 5,000 refugees on the island—practically all who got away when their country was invaded. Workshops have been set up under the auspices of the Serbian Relief Fund, and in these the refugees carry on their national industries and keep alive their pride and interest in national art. In the workshops Serbian carpenters have made looms (Corsica supplying wood of all kinds), in which their fellow-countrywomen are now weaving carpets, linen, and fine cotton material. The carpets are of the kind made at Pirot. The fells of Corsican sheep are used, the Serbians carrying out all the processes of cleaning, carding, spinning, dyeing, and finally weaving. In some of the looms mats and carpet lengths of a kind much used in Serbia are made from old materials and remnants of almost any kind, which are cut into strips and sewn together. These are made into balls, the end is wound on to a kind of coarse shuttle and woven on to a warp of fine string. Many of the refugees actually took carpets and mats of this kind with them to Corsica. They are said to wear indefinitely.

"The samples of needlework, embroidery, and the like to be seen at the exhibition are a revelation to most folk. There are dainty fabrics made on native looms and embroidered with a taste and skill that evoke general admiration: rugs which, for their fine colours and designs, excite the envy.

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PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.

LONDON, August 3.

There has been more activity this week, with a general advance of all prices, especially of good sound fruit. Of the latter, however, the remaining available stock is very small. Provincial is quoted 42s. to 48s., against 26s. to 27s. the same period last year; Amalias, 52s. to 55s., against 27s. to 28s. last year; Patras, 53s. to 59s., against 30s. to 32s. last year; Gulf, 56s. to 58s., against 31s. to 32s. last year; Vostizza, 56s. to 60s., against 36s. to 40s. last year; smalls, 48s. to 60s., against 28s. to 35s. last year, and Islands, 53s. to 59s., against 29s. to 31s. last year. Quotations for new fruit are not yet obtainable, which may be taken as an indication of the undefined position of the market in Greece, and it is believed that high prices will be quoted.

Sultanas.

There is only a moderate demand, with prices more or less steady. The preference for Afghanistan fruit continues, and business is mostly done in that class of fruit.

Dates.

The market has been quiet, but prices are firm for Persians at 26s. to 32s. Prices for new crop are quoted, but no transactions have yet taken place.

Seeds.

Linseed has been firmer this past week. London-Calcutta, spot and afloat, is quoted at 73s. 9d.; July-August, 74s. 9d.; August-September, 75s. Bombay ordinary, August-September, is offered 76s. 6d., and small grain ditto, 75s. 6d. Rapeseed, new, is offering; buying, however, is not active, and prices are somewhat irregular. Cottonseed is inactive; London-Egyptian loading is quoted £13 15s., and September £13 per ton. Mustard-seed moves off slowly on more reasonable terms.

Oils.

Linseed oil has been quiet. Spot pipes landed are quoted at £36 5s.; barrels, ditto, £37 5s. Rape oil is firm. English refined barrels, £48 to £50. Cotton-oil is quiet. Crude spot, in pipes, £39 10s.; refined, pale pipes, £44, and barrels, £52 to £54, as to make.

Oilcakes.

Linseed cakes are extremely firm in spite of only a limited demand. Best London made are quoted £12 17s. 6d. to £13, and fine seedy Calcutta at £13 to £13 5s. per ton ex steamer to come along. Cotton-cakes.—There are no offers from shippers of Egyptian, and spot parcels, which are not very ample, command full prices at £9 17s. 6d. to £10, ex quay, with English makes at about the same figures.

EGYPT'S COTTON CROP.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, July 21.

It is announced that the area under cotton this year is 1,655,512 feddans, as against 1,186,004 feddans in 1915 and 1,755,270 feddans in 1914. It should be pointed out that this figure has been obtained (as is done every year) by the Ministry of Finance through its sarrafs, and that, although it is merely an estimate, it is one on which every reliance can be placed, seeing that experts have for years agreed that the margin of error in the sarraf's figures, taken as a whole, is almost negligible.

There are a good many who will be disappointed at this figure, as, for some reason, an area approaching 2,000,000 feddans was thought to be under cotton this year. The important point, however, is not so much the acreage as the yield, and we shall have to wait another six weeks until we get the official estimate of the size of the crop itself. So far the worm does not appear to have made very extensive ravages, and the prospects are quite good.

Prominent Industries of India

The Announcements below are published to acquaint our readers with the opportunity India affords the keen purchaser.

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
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CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
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THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

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Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co.,Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
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Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c.. &c.
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GERMANS IN ROUMANIA.

A French writer in the *Correspondance d'Orient* has a frank and trenchant note upon the exploitation of Roumania by the German trader, and deals critically with the neglect of the Frenchman of the possibilities of the country:—

"Things have changed in Roumania, especially since the petroleum fields have been exploited. They will change still more when the copper and oil mines in the Carpathians are worked," he says. "Roumania only had agriculturists. Now she has mechanics, factories, governors, limited companies, and so on.

"What part have we (France) taken in this evolution? Scarcely any. The financiers of the petroleum enterprises are almost exclusively Americans and Germans. We did not interest ourselves in Roumania. When I went there for the first time, fifteen years ago, there were hardly any French. However, the Boches profited by the advantage of their proximity. They monopolised the Roumanian market. How many times have I heard it said in Bucharest:—

"'We prefer the French articles—they are better finished and more suited to the instincts of our race. But you do not bring them to us. We have to go for them to Paris. Meanwhile, we are flooded with German goods, and we are obliged to take them because they are brought to us.'

"Indeed, I have seen Roumania furrowed, infested by the mocking Boches. They would go in trains on the most unimportant lines, the most remote. I have met them everywhere, at Rustchuk, Craiova, Jassy, Galatz, Braila, and Constanza. At Bucharest, there existed at the German Legation a commercial information service which dealt with the smallest details. They would telegraph to Berlin:—'There is a good place for a hairdresser's establishment in the Rue Rahovei.' A month later a Boche hairdresser installs himself there. And we—we do nothing.

"Some friends asked me for a Parisian printer, to whom would be already guaranteed the printing of a well-known big newspaper, which published 100,000 copies a day. Our Chamber of Typographers has found none. Whilst the Boches were everywhere down there, our Ambassador and Consuls had scarcely anything to do, and rarely saw any of their compatriots."

THE BAVARIAN DANUBE.

An American view of the traffic on the Bavarian Danube in 1915 is interesting, not only because as a neutral the U.S. Consul at Nuremberg has been able to secure more or less reliable figures, but because we are able to gather how the war affected Balkan trade with Central Europe in a year in which, excepting Serbia, the States were not involved in the struggle.

The figures given are taken from the published statistics of the Bavarian State Statistical Office, and they indicate the traffic on that portion of the Danube River which flows through the kingdom of Bavaria. The total traffic, both up and down stream, excluding that of the tributaries, was 259,583 metric tons, against 342,422 tons in 1914 and 433,636 tons in 1912. Accordingly the traffic in 1915 on the Bavarian portion of the Danube was about 25 per cent. less than in the preceding year. The decreases affected shipping in both directions. It was due to the lessened importation of grain and fodder from Austria-Hungary and the Balkan States and to the diminished exportation thereto, in consequence of the war, of iron and iron products from West Germany.

Grain and fodder imports from Austria-Hungary and the Balkan States are regularly unloaded at the port of the frontier city of Passau for railway shipment. The river commerce of this city was therefore particularly affected by the decreased traffic in 1915. The arrivals amounted to 32,203 tons as against 83,725 tons in 1914 and 124,873 tons in 1912. The departures were 28,572 tons, compared with 18,134 tons in 1914 and 14,371 tons in 1912. The marked decrease in the incoming traffic concerned exclusively maize, barley, wheat, oil cakes, and rice. The increase in the outgoing traffic was due to the shipment of 15,491 metric tons of wheat flour.

VINES OF CYPRUS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NICOSIA, July 3.

The decision of the Government to cease importing sulphur for sale to villagers as a remedy against mildew (oïdium Tuckeri) has caused considerable uneasiness. A number of cultivators from different hill villages in the Limassol district have made strong representations to the Commissioner, Major Bolton, begging that Government will reconsider the decision, and will, even for the present season, import a supply from Italy, and from stores probably available in Egypt.

For many years the island Government has undertaken practically a monopoly, and has imported large quantities of sulphur, selling it to the peasants at little over cost price. It has issued full directions to villagers respecting the methods necessary for successful sulphuring. These have been followed by the more intelligent of the peasant cultivators; but far too little has been done in the vine areas as a whole. In Cyprus nothing can indeed be effected under present conditions, in the way of fighting pests, whether animal or vegetable, except by means of compulsory legislation.

Timber-felling.

The felling and working of timber in the State forests are being pushed forward, especially at the two localities in the Papho forests, in which the best steam saws are at work. Large numbers of villagers are employed. The increase and improvement of forest roads and paths are necessary accompaniments. The importation of timber from sources hitherto available being now cut off, the demands made on the island supplies for building and other purposes are unfortunately larger.

Cyprus timber is greatly preferred to that imported, being of superior quality. The only danger is lest the drain should be too large. The Forest Department may, however, be trusted to exercise a wise and provident discretion, having in view the extreme importance of the forests, of the annual growth, and of the steps taken towards reafforestation. It will be remembered that a gift of 2,000 tons of fuel was recently made to the troops in Egypt.

A new proclamation of the High Commissioner defines precisely the articles of which the exportation is prohibited. The fact that barley is included gives general satisfaction.

THE SUPPLY OF HEMP.

An interesting and useful résumé regarding the sources of hemp supply at present available has been prepared by Professor L. H. Dewey, fibre expert to the United States Department of Agriculture. Professor Dewey points out that the true hemp plant, Cannabis sativa, is cultivated commercially for fibre production in Turkey, Serbia, Roumania, Russia, Austria-Hungary, Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, Sweden and Chili, besides various States in America; and in the Far East. The principal countries producing hemp for export in recent years are Russia, Italy and Austria-Hungary. The supplies from these countries are now practically cut off, and the prices currently quoted for hemp fibre are abnormally high. It seems impossible to secure supplies from Serbia, Roumania, or from the Damascus region of Turkey.

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TUCKEY'S

Years 10 Old

Pure Malt Whisky

per 54/- doz.

Case Free and Carriage Paid.

Soft, Mellow, Old Pot Still Scotch Whisky. Sample Bottle, post free, 5/-. Write to-day.

THE LANCET says: "It is well adapted for dietetic purposes, owing to its Purity and Quality."

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Ministerial Press of Roumania states that the damage inflicted on the crops by the recent excessive heat and hailstones was less serious than was at first supposed. The Central Commission for Exportation has consequently decided to allow the export of maize to continue.

According to *Les Nouvelles de Grece* the harvests in Greece are expected to be satisfactory, although the south wind which has prevailed lately has caused some damage. It is reported from Canea that the production of cereals is estimated to be 20 per cent. less than that of last year, and of vegetables 50 per cent. less. The production of oil, it is anticipated, will be about the same as last year, while the fruit crop will be four times as large.

On July 26 M. Georges Leygues, the President of the French Foreign Affairs Committee, made a statement regarding the situation in Roumania, where the position of the working and peasant population is becoming more and more painful owing to Germany's purchases of Roumania's cereals. He also gave a brief report of the events of the last fortnight in Salonika and Greece, and showed by what means German and Bulgarian agents are endeavouring to mislead public opinion. Greece, he declared, was in great danger, and it was the firmness of the Allies that guaranteed her independence and her future.

The Vienna paper *Neue Freie Presse* says the Austro-German "Balkan Aerial Express" scheme is nearing realisation. The line will be run from Berlin through Vienna and Ofenpest to Constantinople, but it is uncertain whether Zeppelins or aeroplanes will be used. The scheme is mainly under the auspices of the Austrian Lloyd, the Hungarian Banking and Trade Company, and the German Surveying Company. A meeting of representatives of interested parties will be held at Ofenpest this month to discuss the nature of the capital to be raised, the types of aircraft, and landing places, and the extent of the participation of the postal authorities of the three countries.

The Department of Public Health has sent a circular to all pharmacists in Egypt, prohibiting them from executing any prescription which contains a drug not included in the official pharmacopœia, or which is confused or written in abbreviated formulas, agreed upon between two parties only. Another circular has been sent prohibiting pharmacists from advertising in their shops any treatment for certain diseases or of carrying out treatment. The Department of Public Health has now prepared a supplement to the Egyptian Government's pharmacopœia of 1912, containing all additions and amendments introduced in the British Pharmacopœia of 1912.

THE WIRELESS YEAR BOOK.

The fourth "Yearbook of Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony" is an improvement on its very excellent predecessors, notwithstanding that the war adds progressively to the editor's difficulties. "Wireless telegraphy and telephony still continue on their progressive course, and seem quite unlikely to be cured of the habit," the editor tells us in an interesting preface.

There are many new features in this substantial volume. There is, for example, the report of the Committee on Standardisation, which is published by permission of the Institute of Radio Engineers. The definitions of terms included under this section will be found of the greatest utility not only to those who specialise in wireless, but to the large and increasing number of general readers who must every now and again be at a loss to understand the full connotation of terms which from time to time occur in miscellaneous articles and literature.

The "Reference" sections have been brought up to date as far as circumstances permitted. The lists of ship and land stations have been largely added to, and the matter revised and rearranged, so as to attain the maximum possible of accuracy and usefulness.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Scientific Travelling.

Reference was made in THE NEAR EAST the other day to the need there was for developing the work of commercial travellers on scientific lines. We learn that a well-known firm of British engineers has recently adopted a scheme which is worth taking up by every concern that has aspirations in the direction of extended trade, and to no territory does this apply more than to Egypt, for the present, and to other Near Eastern countries when conditions have become more normal than they are now. The firm in question is Messrs. R. Martens and Sons, and they have sent a partner to Russia. He is accompanied by a staff of ten engineers, all specialists in their particular lines. The object of the tour is to visit the principal manufacturing towns and markets in order to ascertain what will be the nature and extent of the inquiries which will be received from Russia on the conclusion of peace. This is intelligent handling of a big trading proposition, and we commend it to the favourable consideration of firms who already are anticipating the end of the war. That may, or may not, be soon; but the more thorough the preparation the more thorough the success must be.

Railways in Asia Minor.

During the proceedings of the Armenian Congress, which was held in Petrograd in May, a report of which has just reached this country, an interesting reference was made to the projected network of railways in North Anatolia. A concession for the construction of these was given to a French syndicate some time ago, and the interesting suggestion was made that if Russia does not care to take over the work of construction as a State project, the concession might be revived in favour of the French concern. It was pointed out, also, that the construction of railways and other roads in the province is of great importance if the Armenian people are to be given a chance of rehabilitating themselves commercially and industrially. Many thousands of Armenian workers will be available for the purposes of labour, and soon there ought to be opportunities for enterprising contractors who have had some experience in that part of the world.

The "Pommern."

The Germans, habitually given to minimising their losses, when they were obliged to admit the loss of the Pommern in the battle of Jutland, described the ship as an old cruiser of 13,000 tons, built in 1895. That cruiser, however, was sunk more than a year ago in the Baltic by the Russians, and the fact is now established that the Pommern lost in the Jutland fight was the battleship Salamis, which was built at the Vulcan Works, in Germany, to the order of the Greek Government. This ship was nearing completion when the war broke out, and Germany appropriated her, and gave her the name of the old Pommern. It was thus possible for the German Admiralty still to deny the loss of the old ship; and when the new one also went down they thought to minimise their loss by the statement that it was the old ship. The new Pommern was a larger and more powerful warship. According to the contract with the Greek Government, the vessel's displacement was 19,500 tons, and she was to carry eight 14-in. guns in four centre-line turrets, together with twelve 6-in. and twelve 3-in. Three sets of turbine machinery, totalling 40,000 horse-power, were designed to give a speed of twenty-three knots, while protection was afforded by a belt having a maximum thickness of ten inches. It is very probable that alterations have taken place since the ship was appropriated by the German Government; but in any case this warship was very powerful, and the Germans have good reasons to conceal her loss.

A Reversible Riding Plough.

Now that agricultural labour is everywhere scarce, the bringing out of a machine or implement by which a certain amount of work can be done in the field, or elsewhere on the farm, with economy and a minimum of manual labour and skill, is a matter of considerable interest. Such interest was shown the other day in a field where the special features of a new plough were displayed. It was a reversible riding one-way plough, with which, according to the exhibitor, the young or old of either sex can do equally good work on hillside or level land. With two horses it will turn furrows to the right or left as the operator desires, for it possesses two bodies mounted on separate steel beams, the movements of each being controlled by a separate lever. When in use one plough body is raised while the other turns the furrow. On reaching the headlands the plough is raised by pressing down a foot trip or a hand latch on the lever, which transfers the labour incidental to raising the plough to the team, and leaves the driver both hands with which to manage the horses whilst turning. When ready for the next bout, and the other plough is lowered, the whippletrees slide automatically into place at the end of the long clevis, so that the implement follows the line of draft. As the beam, landside, wheels, and pole are in line, side draft is entirely eliminated, and a pole adjuster enables all side strain upon the team to be avoided. The implement is strongly made and suitable for all climates. An ordinary farm labourer was working it without any difficulty.

New Chaff-cutter Feeder.

The slats used in chaff-cutter feeding webs almost invariably consist of wood, and often have to be replaced through breakages or, in tropical or semi-tropical countries, through damage from high climatic temperature; but a new chaff-cutter feeder which has recently been brought out seems to avoid such troubles. It is a steel feed web, the slats of which are practically unbreakable, being made of rolled steel. These have turned-up edges, which grip the feed much more efficiently than plain wooden slats possibly could do. This feeder, fixed on a chaff-cutter, is worked by eccentrics, which force the material to be cut into the rollers of the machine, its action closely imitating the motion of a man when feeding "hand over hand." Its price, about £5 or £5 10s., is also very reasonable, for this apparatus when attached, as it can be to almost any modern chaff-cutter, reduces labour to a minimum. There is no doubt that if this feeder is properly introduced in the Near East it will find a good market.

Preparing for To-morrow.

Manufacturers will do well to realise that, although the prospects of the Near East are comparatively desolate at the moment, we are on the eve of a change. Agriculture looms large in Serbia and Roumania in normal times, and it must be obvious that after the war dilapidations in the former's industry, if we may borrow the word, will have to be repaired, and that the quickest and best methods of repair will be utilised. That is where the manufacturer will come in, and our British friends will find powerful rivals in the Americans. "Get ready for the market now" will be a good rule to follow.

Possibilities of Egypt.

We believe, too, that Egypt is worth great and unremitting attention. All the indications point to a great revival in the Land of the Nile; land was never better as an investment than just now, for the peasantry have been thoroughly awakened to the advantages of ownership, and we may look for some activity in the direction of buying. The land companies, at any rate, are more than optimistic, and manufacturers of agricultural machinery and plant, which must be simple in construction and design, ought to lose no time in setting their travellers to work. A word of warning, however—do not send out a man to attempt to sell an improved plough who knows more about paper and pink pills than about land

Rebuilding Serbia.

In view of the need there will be for extensive and rapid rebuilding operations in Serbia when peace comes, an article in the current number of *Cassier's Engineering Monthly* will be of interest. The writer, Mr. Charles Dangen, remarks that the erection of permanent works will be a slow and costly matter if the usual methods are followed—he is writing of Belgium and Northern France in particular. After the war there is almost certain to be a shortage of skilled workmen, and the making of the foundations for new works will become a difficult matter. Mr. Dangen shows us a way out of the difficulty. "Land available for building purposes," he writes, "is often composed of made-up elements, clay, and the like, frequently in conjunction with underground water, and consolidation is necessary before a load can be placed upon it. Any method, therefore, which permits of the obtaining of solid foundations at a low cost is of the utmost interest. One of the most simple consists in perforating the soil by means of special apparatus, in such a way as not to necessitate the removal of any material, borings being formed by mechanical earth compression, these being afterwards filled with various substances powerfully rammed in. In this way concrete or other piles are formed which constitute supporting points for the weight of the superstructure, the earth in the immediate neighbourhood of the piles being also strengthened. The apparatus used is simple, but strong, and the necessary labour easily obtained. It consists of powerful tackle by the aid of which the perforators or compressors weighing from 4,500 lbs. to 5,500 lbs. are raised, afterwards being allowed to fall freely. The soil to be dealt with is directly attacked by the perforators and compressors, without the aid of any intermediate machinery, the whole total of force being transformed into useful work at the most economical rate."

Proved in the Near East.

The system for which Mr. Dangen stands has already been tried extensively in Central Europe and in the Near East. "Large numbers of buildings have been erected upon mechanically compressed soil both in France and abroad," he writes, "the method giving especially good results when the buildings are situate near the riverside, or close to the sea. Amongst others may be cited the new offices for the Palais de Justice, Paris, for which special foundations were necessary owing to the infiltration of water from the Seine; the Delattre Ironworks at Ferriere la Grande (Nord)); the Cairo Railway Station; the Senate House, Bucharest, and the Czernowitz Goods Station. Ironworks containing heavy machinery are frequently established in close proximity to rivers and canals, and in order to avoid a settlement such as occurred at Cette Works, the soil for the foundations should invariably be compressed. This was done at Leffrinkoucke (Nord) and Trith-Saint-Leger, where new works of great strength have been constructed for the Société des Forges et Acieries de Firminy and the Forges et Acieres du Nord. Other buildings erected close to the water edge include the Casino at Marie-Christine, Havre; the Custom House, Salonika; and the extensive wharves at Saint Louis, Senegal. Mechanical soil compression received a further interesting application in the carrying of the Canal du Nord across the peat marsh of the Valley of the Somme. The treacherous nature of the underlying strata created a difficulty all the greater in virtue of their varying thickness. The canal, which is still unfinished, has been used as a trench by the Germans, who had carefully studied its disposition previous to the outbreak of war."

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SHIPPING NOTES.

The sinking of the Greek steamer Mina after collision with the Italian steamer Attualita, near Gibraltar, involves the market in a substantial marine loss, for the cargo of maize from the Plate to Europe was insured in London for about £40,000. It is understood that the insurance was originally opened for about double that amount, but was closed at the smaller figure. The hull of the Mina, which was of 2,357 tons, built in 1908, and owned at Andros, was insured for £27,000. The Attualita is of 4,791 tons, built in 1900, and owned at Savona.

PRIZE COURTS.

A more complete list is now available of the proceedings pending in Prize Courts in the Mediterranean. The *London Gazette* of July 21 notified that proceedings are pending in the Prize Court of Malta in respect of the following vessels:—Cleopatra, Evangelistria (ship and cargo), Ayios Nicolaos, Maleas (part cargo ex).

The issue of the *Gazette* of July 25 notified that proceedings had been instituted in the Prize Court at Gibraltar in respect of certain cargoes ex the following vessels:—Eleni Stathatos, Georgios, Nea Ellas, Ophir, Re d'Italia, and Isiropinas. The date of appearance in the case of the Ophir was July 30, and in each of the other cases July 29.

The issue of the *Gazette* of July 21 notified that, as a result of proceedings before the Supreme Court of Gibraltar, the vessel Telde was condemned on July 14.

OUJDA RAILWAY EXTENSION.

The British Agent and Consul-General at Tangier (Mr. H. E. White, C.M.G.) reports that, according to the local Press, the Resident-General in Morocco, on the occasion of a recent visit to Oujda, made a speech, in which he stated that, in the development of the French Zone of Morocco, Algerian interests would be carefully guarded. It appears that, with a view to improving the position of Oran as an *entrepôt* for Moroccan trade, the construction of a normal gauge (1.055 metres) railway from Oujda to Taza and Fez has been included in the works to be paid for out of the loan recently obtained in France. The normal gauge line was completed to Oujda early this year, and from that point there is a military line to Taza, on which there has been regular traffic for some time past.

This military line is to be carried on to Fez, Mr. White continues, and it is expected that the whole line, converted to the normal gauge, will be completed within a few years. The ground has been surveyed, plans are being drawn up, and every effort will be made to hasten the work. On the other hand, remarks H.M. Agent, the Director-General of the Public Works Department of the French Zone has declared that the engagements entered into in regard to the Tangier-Fez line must be fulfilled (see p. 246 of the *Board of Trade Journal* of April 27 last).

The opening of a normal gauge line from Oran to Fez, adds Mr. White, will doubtless greatly facilitate French trade with Morocco, as the time and cost of transport of goods from Marseilles to Fez will be considerably reduced, whilst goods coming through Algeria will enter Morocco on more favourable terms as regards customs duties than those landed at the Moorish ports.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, etc.

The Bank of Athens announces that the coupons for the 5 per cent. debentures of Nestor Gianaclis, Ltd., due on August 1, will be paid on and after that date at the London office, 222, Fenchurch Street.

Ionian Bank.—The Court of directors have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of tax, for half year to July 13, payable September 5.

Anglo-Persian Oil.

In the House of Commons last Friday Sir Edwin Cornwall asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the details of the £1,001,000 paid by the British Government to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company would be submitted to the Comptroller and Auditor-General for examination and report.

Mr. McKenna: The accounts of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company are not audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General, but by their own auditors. The Treasury has power under clause 7 of the agreement to appoint such person or persons as they may approve for the purpose of transacting the accounts and affairs of the company.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, last week 410 tons (previous week 450 tons); Hurgada, 362 tons, against 437 tons.

Baku Russian Petroleum Company (1909).—Week ended July 22, 84,100 poods.

Bibi Eibat Oil.—Week ended July 23, 60,600 poods, or 977 tons.

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British Maikop Oil.—Last week, 2,333 poods (about thirty-eight tons) crude oil.

North Caucasian.—Week ended July 12-25, 586,541 poods (9,460 tons).

Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields.—Week ended July 22, 772 tons; week ended July 29, 722 tons.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended July 22, 56,900 poods.

Results.

Suez Canal.—The receipts of the Suez Canal on July 31 and August 1 were 360,000 frs., as compared with 620,000 frs. on the same dates in 1915.

BULGARIAN LOAN COUPONS.

"Holders of Bulgarian Loan coupons are naturally becoming very restless owing to the prolonged retention of their funds by the British Government. When Bulgaria entered into the war our Government properly took possession of funds in this country belonging to the enemy, but this included a sum standing to 'Government of Bulgaria Four and a-Half per Cent. loan, coupon, and drawn-bond account.' This sum," writes the City Editor of *The Times*, "had been remitted by the Bulgarian Government to Messrs. J. H. Schröder and Co. to pay the coupon which fell due shortly before the declaration of war, and was specifically allocated to the payment of those coupons and drawn bonds bearing the English stamp. The Treasury seized the money under the plea that, as it was not deposited by an agreement under seal, it might have got back to the Bulgarian Government; the Treasury—in its proverbial ignorance of business methods—is apparently unaware that when money is handed to a banker for a specific purpose it is not usual to have a formal agreement on each occasion that a payment is made into the account. In any case, there can be no reason why the British Government should persist in depriving the rightful owners—the English bondholders—of their money for an indefinite period. We understand that even the Public Trustee has not been able to obtain payment out of the money of Bulgarian Loan coupons in his charge."

ROUMANIAN SHARE MARKET.

Although emanating from the correspondent of an enemy newspaper, the *Pester Lloyd*, the following account of dealings in oil shares on the Bucharest Bourse may be of some interest to some of our readers. It should be stated that the period dealt with is mid-June:—

Though dealings for future delivery in the reopened Bucharest Stock Exchange are not permitted, a satisfactory volume of business is to be noted, for there has been no lack of negotiable securities. Holders of petroleum shares, for the most part, have specially to congratulate themselves. These shares, moreover, give large returns in thumping dividends; and the shareholders of the Astra Romana have received, besides a distribution of 15 per cent., one new share free of cost for every eight held. At the beginning of the war and for a long time afterwards, the outlook for the petroleum industry was the reverse of rosy. In normal times the export of petroleum was very large; the sea, the Danube, and the railways competed against each other to market these inexhaustible riches of Roumania. This was all changed at the outbreak of war by one stroke, as it were, and that for two reasons. First, the calling up of much active talent (much of it from foreign countries) to military service. Second, the complete stoppage of exports, and the consequent lack of vacant storage capacity in the refineries. Better conditions have long since prevailed, though, as the Dardanelles are still closed, exports have not reached their former total. If, nevertheless, such large profits are obtained, it is on the export trade, for the home prices of petroleum and its products, before the recent advent of high prices, at no time permitted of specially large returns. In spite of the somewhat reduced production work, the oil companies as a body show very large stocks, which must be balanced against high prices, so that a loss from this cause, whatever happens, may be counted upon with certainty.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Price July 28.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	82	82
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	62½	62½
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93⅛	71½	71⅜
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	80⅜	81
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	70½	70½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	67	67
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80¼	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	57	57
Do. 5 %, 1894	56	56	56
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	50½	50
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43½	43½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	53	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50	50½
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	68	68
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	77	76½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82¼	55	55
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £50p.	92	77½	77½
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	xd	xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1856	103	85	85
Do. 4 %, 1891	94¼	77½	77½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1903	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	52	52
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65⅛	37½	37½
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	4½	4 9/16
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7	7
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	69	69
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	71	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11½	11¾
Bank of Abyssinia	¾	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	1½	1¾
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	6 7/16	6 7/16
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6½	6½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	75/-	75/-
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5⅜	5⅜
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	12⅜	12 7/16
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	93/9	93/9
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5⅜	5⅜
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	88½	88½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅜	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	10	10
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	11½	11½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	59⅜	59⅜
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	55	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10 1/16	10 1/16
Pireus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	55xd	55xd
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	14/6	15/-
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	89½	89½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¾	—	¾
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2½	2⅝
Do. Do. Def.	¾	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	6⅜	6⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	3½	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	8/10½	9/4½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	87½	87½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	7/16	¼
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	⅜	⅜
" " Founders	¾	¼	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	96	96
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	7	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	77	77
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	9/-	9/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	⅜	½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	15/3	1⅝
United Egyptian Lands	1/3	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11⅝	11⅝
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	24/9	24/9
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99⅜	95	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅞	18/3	18/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	98	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	23/-	27/-
Do. do. Pref.	3½	3 1/16	3 1/16
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	89	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	1⅜	1⅜

OIL.

	Price on July 19.	Aug. 2.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/6	7/3
Anglo-Persian	21/9	20/9x
European Oilfields	4/-	3/9
Roumanian	14/3	14/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	July 26.	Aug. 2.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4468	4565
Credit Foncier Egyptien	—	—
Turkish Unified 4%	60.30	62
Egyptian Unified 4%	—	90
Serbian, 1895	59.75	59

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Cote du 21 Juillet, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt	12 7/16	to —
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs. 92	,, 93
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£ 11⅜	,, 12
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. 5⅜	,, 5⅝
priv.	L.E. 3⅜	,, —
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs. 125	,, —
Bons de Panama	Frs. 92	,, 93
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs. 62	,, 62½
Privilégiée	Frs. 96	,, —
Cheikh Fadl	Frs. 75	,, —
Urbaines et Rurales	£ 2½	,, —
Comptoir Financier et Commercial d'Egypte	£ ⅛	,, —
Building Lands of Egypt	£ 1 1/16	,, 1 1/16
Union Fonciere d'Egypte	L.E. ⅜	,, ½
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4⅛	,, —
Bonded Warehouse	L.E. 4 1/16	,, —
Unifiée	L.E. 82½	,, —
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 5	,, —
Fondateur	£ 23	,, —
Pressage et dépôts	£ 28½	,, —
Nungovich Hotels	£ 2½	,, —
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£ 4⅜	,, —
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£ 3⅜	,, —
Ord.		19/6 ex coup.
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£ 3⅜	,, —
Egyptian Delta Light Railway	£ 5⅜	,, —
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£ 104	,, —
Jouissance	£ 155	,, —
Egyptian Markets	23/9	,, —
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs. 210	,, —
Div.	Frs. 140	,, —
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs. 125	,, —
Egyptian Salt and Soda	18/-	,, 18/3
Crédit Foncier d'Egypte	Frs. 587	,, —
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs. 304	,, —
,, 1903 ,,	Frs. 245	,, —
,, 1911 ,,	Frs. 256	,, —
Delta Land	⅞	,, —
Port Said Salt	33/6	,, 34/-
Cotton Ginners	⅜	,, —
New Egyptian	8/6	,, —
United Lands	P.T. 4	,, —
Levant S.S. Co.	23/9	,, —
Fondateur	90/-	,, —

Marché ferme.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation on June 30, 1916.

Prêts Existants:

	1915. £E.		1916. £E.
Prêts à court terme	7,505	..	6,242
Catégorie "B"	5,457,908	..	4,959,091
Total	5,465,413	..	4,965,333
Echéances:			
Dues	35,821	..	26,376
A échoir	963,143	..	795,010
Total	998,964	..	821,386
Perceptions:			
	1915. £E.		1916. £E.
Arriérés au 31 janvier	1,394,546	..	1,209,186
Restant	1,247,398	..	1,089,520
Perçu	147,148	..	119,666
Echéances:			
Perçu	12,995	..	15,740
Total perçu sur annuités échues	160,143	..	135,406

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended July 29.		1916. Week ended July 27.
Cattle markets	334	..	404
General markets	337	..	369
Cattle markets closed	36	..	24
Receipts (£)	671	..	773
Total from commencement of year (£)	31,080	..	32,044

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended July 10, 1916.

	1915. £E.		1916. £E.
July 1–July 10	4,460	..	4,312
April 1–July 10	38,124	..	46,949

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 275.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The third year of the war has opened favourably for the Allied Powers. In the West the Franco-British offensive is being slowly but steadily maintained. The enemy's line has not yet been broken, but he is being gradually thrust back from positions which he must have regarded as impregnable. Not the least satisfactory feature of the Allies' advance is that in nearly every case they are able to hold the new positions they win, in spite of the fiercest counter-attacks. This feature points not only to an unlimited supply of munitions, but also to carefully planned and successful co-ordination. In Eastern Europe our Allies go from strength to strength. The position in a small section of the Western front is being reproduced by the Russians on a greatly magnified scale. Thrusts, now in this direction, now in that, are measured not by hundreds of yards, but by miles. At the centre of the line, from the Pripet Marshes to the Carpathians, along which General Brusiloff is harrying the enemy, General Bothmer, defending Tarnopol, still holds his ground. North and south of him, however, the Russians press on, threatening his lines of communication, and it seems almost impossible that he should be able to maintain his present position for many days longer. Finally the Italians have suddenly delivered an attack on the Isonzo line which has placed them, after a few days' fighting, in possession of ground, including Gorizia, which had previously resisted their attacks over a period of fifteen months.

The opening day of the third year of the war was chosen by the Turks for their second attack on Egypt's defences east of the Suez Canal. It failed even more conspicuously than the earlier efforts eighteen months previously, for it found the British troops in a position to follow up their advantage, and the repulse was quickly turned to a rout. The presence of this Turkish force, which had escaped detection for the greater part of its march across the Sinai Desert, had been reported the previous week, and it was left to Australian mounted troops to keep in touch with the enemy and to bring him on to the main line of the Egyptian defence without allowing him to form a correct estimate of the strength of the latter. The strategy succeeded to a degree that must have surpassed the expectations of the British military command. For a whole day the Turks maintained a frontal attack on our entrenchments, enabling both machine gun and rifle fire to take heavy toll of their ranks. Their left wing had in the meantime been allowed to advance until it became involved in sand dunes, from which it could only extricate itself with difficulty, when the counter-attack was launched.

Although the attack was handsomely repulsed, with heavy losses to the Turks, the fact that a rearguard action was in progress three days later only six miles east of Katia, while enemy aeroplanes had dropped bombs on Port Said and Suez, shows that the enemy appreciates his ability to keep a British force immobilized in Egypt. Thanks to the desert, which has less terrors for the Turco-German higher command, if not for the Turkish rank and file, than it has for European armies, the enemy has been able to establish himself within Egyptian territory, and more or less within striking distance of the Canal. His presence at El Arish is likely to prove in the future more of a nuisance than an actual danger; but it constitutes an anomaly, and with the advent of cooler weather it should be possible to ensure that, if the Turks are content to remain in the Peninsula, their capacity for mischief will be considerably curtailed.

Among the features of the first week of the third year of the war may also be mentioned a certain liveliness in the Macedonian theatre. The task falling to the Serbians of driving the Bulgarians out of the positions they had occupied on the Karajova Mountains in Greek territory is still in progress. It is a sufficiently arduous one owing to the nature of the ground over which the troops are operating. Meanwhile there has been a skirmish between British and Bulgarian patrols south of Lake Doiran—a very small affair, it is true, but it will have served to relieve the *ennui* of "nothing doing" for so many months, and it is typical of the way in which two armies confronting one another are apt to indulge in preliminary sparring before getting at grips with one another.

German interest in the Near East is for the moment entirely absorbed by Roumania. The Press continues to discuss the situation in that country and the attitude of the Government with undisguised anxiety. In the face of the emphatic assurances of correspondents on the spot that the Roumanian people are at heart with the Allies and in favour of immediate intervention in the war, German writers are driven to pin their hopes

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on the shrewdness and independence of spirit of the Bratiano Cabinet. By the end of July the *Frankfurter Zeitung* was forced to admit that the position in Roumania bore an unmistakable likeness to the situation in Italy just before the declaration of war against Austria-Hungary. Of course, the main factor was the feverish activity of the Entente Powers and their secret agents; but it was still an open question, it was thought, whether the similarity between the two sets of conditions extended to the characters of the leading statesmen, and whether M. Bratiano would prove a second Salandra. Keen disappointment is felt in Germany that King Ferdinand should prove to be so little of a Hohenzollern as to be willing to play the part of a constitutional monarch in the country of his adoption. It is left, however, to the *Deutsche Tageszeitung* to state that "if Roumania, whether with or without the King's consent, goes over to the Entente camp, Roumania's Hohenzollern King shall in any circumstances lose his throne." There can be little uncertainty in German official circles with regard to impending developments in the Near East, when such a threat is permitted in a heavily censored Press.

The unanimity with which the whole German Press affects to repose faith in M. Bratiano reflects official inspiration. The *Berliner Tageblatt* gives prominence to a telegram from Italy which records Roumania's intention to join the Entente Powers, and adds that the Roumanian army will be set in motion during September, "as soon as certain definite events have taken place." Commenting upon this report, the Berlin paper points out that the existence of an agreement between Russia and Roumania is accepted in well-informed circles. But there is the question, it continues, whether M. Bratiano will feel himself particularly bound by such agreements in the event of the general military position not offering him sufficient security for Roumania's participation in the war. "In such a case it is quite certain that M. Bratiano will find reasons for breaking all pledges, and the means for doing so. Very possibly he will wait for September and 'definite events.' The higher military command of the Central Powers, we may hope, will take care that these 'definite events' do not take place." As a matter of psychological interest, it may be mentioned that while the German Press finds it difficult to avoid the subject of Roumania, the British daily Press contains hardly any references to it.

In our issue of July 28 we drew attention to a proclamation issued by Field-Marshal von Weber, Military Governor-General of Montenegro, in which it was announced that if General Veshovitch, the Montenegrin ex-Minister of War, who had fled from the country, and his two brothers did not voluntarily report themselves to the Austro-Hungarian authorities within five days, his father and his third brother, who had been seized as hostages, would suffer death on the gallows. According to the *Bosnische Post*, a paper printed in German at Serajevo, of July 4, a further notification has now been issued by Field-Marshal von Weber to the effect that, as General Veshovitch had not reported himself to the authorities, his brother, Vladislav Veshovitch, had that day been handed over to the executioner. "The father of General Veshovitch," continues the proclamation, "who had been held as a hostage, deserved the same fate, but the Imperial Military Command is more merciful towards an old man of seventy-five years of age than his own son, and has granted him a reprieve by an exceptional act of mercy." As the official character of this document establishes the fact that this outrage was perpetrated by the command of Field-Marshal von Weber, it is to be hoped that the Allied Governments have taken cognisance of the crime, with a view to making the Austrian Governor-General of Montenegro pay in due course the penalty for his offence against humanity, as interpreted in civilised nations. A question in the House of Commons would ensure that the incident is not overlooked.

An agreement between the British, Russian, and Persian Governments dealing with the financial and military affairs of Persia has recently been concluded at Teheran. The situation created by the war, more especially the deliberate attempt made by Germany to challenge the position of Russia and Great Britain in Persia, rendered necessary a fresh understanding between the three Governments concerned. Persia's finances were in a hopeless condition, but it was evident that the two interested Powers could not come to her help until some security could be offered for the restoration and subsequent maintenance of law and order in the country. An agreement on this latter point had already been reached and put into execution by Russia and Great Britain. It has now presumably been regularised by the formal acceptance of its provisions by the Persian Government. Russia will, as heretofore, supervise the military organisation in the North, while in the South British officers will build up a new gendarmerie on the nucleus of the old one, which came so signally to grief in the hands of Swedish officers. General Sir Percy Sykes is now at work on the training of this gendarmerie. In the meantime he is supported by British contingents, who are engaged in restoring order between the Gulf and the eastern frontier.

A somewhat disquieting statement was made in the House of Commons by Lord Robert Cecil in reply to a question regarding the British prisoners taken at Kut. He announced that repeated attempts on the part of the United States representatives in Turkey to get into touch with the prisoners had failed. The Porte had refused to allow American Consuls to visit the prisoners or to make any effort to supply their needs, although money for the purpose had been telegraphed by the British Government to the Ottoman Red Crescent at Aleppo. The reasons given by the Porte were that the men were being moved and that they were being treated according to the established rules. Lord Robert Cecil declared that the failure of the Porte to reply to a further communication, asking for the names of the camps to which the prisoners were being sent, and for permission for a member of the United States Embassy to visit them on their arrival, was most unsatisfactory, and inspired considerable misgiving. Since this statement was made, however, letters from prisoners taken at Kut have been received stating that they are at Angora and elsewhere and are quite well and comfortable. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Porte's attitude to the British and American representations was merely an exhibition of bad manners, and did not imply anxiety to cover up ill-treatment of the prisoners. Angora has been a prisoners' camp for a considerable period now, and the conditions there are probably known to the American Embassy in Constantinople. If the prisoners taken at Kut are to be incarcerated at that place, they may not be badly off: but it is to be feared that their journey to this town from Baghdad will have exposed them to great hardships.

The failure of the Russians to hold their own in the neighbourhood of Mush and Bitlis is unfortunate. Both these towns are now reported to be in Turkish hands, the Russian *communiqué* admitting a withdrawal in this region "under enemy pressure towards the north." At the same time the Turks would seem to be making headway towards Hamadan. Neither of these spheres is of particular importance, because the enemy's successes, so long as they do not include the capture of large bodies of Russian troops, cannot lead him to any definite goal. The experience of this war has brought into prominence the extreme mobility of the Russian line, and its tendency to yield ground in preference to exposing itself to capture, when reinforcements are not in sight. The swaying of the battle-front in these districts is at least an indication that Turkish resistance is still far from being exhausted, and the knowledge should be put to good purpose in regard to the Mesopotamian campaign.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 27.

Anglo-Egypt and the Egyptian Dispatches.

No little surprise is being expressed out here at the very meagre list of "civil" recommendations made by General Sir John Maxwell and published in the recent Egyptian dispatches. From the names mentioned the man in the street would conclude that but little assistance had been received by the military régime from the civil element—that, in fact, whatever assistance had been rendered had been limited to the work done by the few officials whose names figure in the list. The contrary is, however, very much the case, and one could go so far as to say that in many instances the military régime would have been hard put to it to cope with the peculiar features which the Egyptian situation presented had it not been for the presence and collaboration of the British personnel in all the administrations. Many of the Anglo-Egyptian officials have been prohibited from joining the colours and from seeking glory and distinction on the field of battle by reason of their indispensability in their civil capacity, and most of them have borne, and are still bearing, on their shoulders the burden of army work which is additional to their ordinary duties. In these circumstances it does seem ungrateful and ungracious that no mention of the assistance rendered should have been made by the military authorities, and that, in compiling the list in question, distinctions should have been made which, without detracting from the merits of those mentioned therein, are nothing short of invidious. I am, of course, aware that everyone who has done war work could not be mentioned; but there are notable instances, such as the Public Security Department, under Mr. George Morice, and the Customs, under Mr. King-Lewis, both of which have rendered signal services to the military régime, and the various Commissions which, under the presidency of distinguished public servants and civilians, have dealt with matters concerning more or less directly the military authorities where it should surely have been possible to include the heads in the small list published. There are, moreover, various individuals who deserved mention for the prominent part they played in the affairs of the country during the eighteen months in question. To those, who knew the late G.O.C.'s character it seems incredible that he should have purposely made such important omissions in compiling the list of civilians from whom he had received assistance, and it would look as if the Home authorities, for reasons best known to themselves, had "edited" the lists. The only alternative theory is that there is something wrong with the system whereby the work of Anglo-Egyptian officials is brought to the attention of the British Government.

The Coptic Community.

I recently referred in this correspondence to the grievances of the Coptic community in regard to the administration of its internal affairs, especially the Wakfs. Now we find that the Coptic Patriarch, who has been the chief opponent of reform, has given an interview to one of the Coptic papers, wherein he admits that the Wakfs are in a lamentable condition, and expresses his willingness that they should be placed under the control of the Government. This constitutes a complete *volte-face* on the part of the Patriarch, and his declaration will be welcomed by all the members of the community, who have been striving for some time to bring about the much-required reforms. It is to be noted that the Patriarch gave as an instance of the unsatisfactory condition of the Wakfs the fact that the revenues are to-day insufficient to meet his expenditure; but, although this may be a contributory reason, there must be something else at the back of this change of attitude, and it would be exceedingly interesting to know what exactly has prompted it. I, in common with many others, shall not be satisfied that this *volte-face* is sincere until I find that the rest of the opposition within the community—I mean the clergy and the old conservative laity—expresses its opinion in the same sense as its ecclesiastical head, and takes action accordingly. Past experience has taught us but too well not to put overmuch faith in the protestations of submission to the cry of reform made by the Patriarch, and so we require something more than this mere statement to a journalist to convince us that better days are dawning for the Coptic community.

An Egyptian Industrial Exhibition.

Early in August an Egyptian Industrial Exhibition is to be held in Alexandria. It has been organised by the Commission of Industry and Commerce, which has been sitting for some months under the presidency of H.E. Ismail Sidky Pasha, and all the details are being supervised by Mr. Sidney H. Wells. The object of this exhibition is to give some idea of the present position of Egyptian industry and of the possibilities that lie before the country, if only its industrial resources and energies are properly looked after, and to awaken public interest in a question which is already receiving the serious attention of the Government.

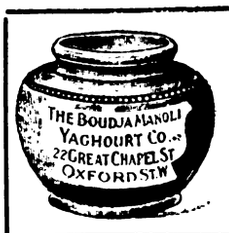
The Syrian Problem.

The leading article, entitled "The Syrian Problem," which appeared in The Near East of the 7th inst., has given intense satisfaction to the Syrian community in Egypt. Leading members thereof have told me that the views expressed exactly represent their feelings and those of their compatriots in Syria, and that they consider it to be one of the best articles that have appeared of late on the question in the Entente Press. The Syrian papers have reproduced the article, *Al Mokattam* giving it pride of place in its pages, and preceding it with an appreciation of The Near East.

The Egyptian Mixed Courts.

One of the most interesting sections of the Judicial Adviser's annual report is always the note on the Mixed Tribunals presented by the Procureur-General, and M. A. Eeman has this year not fallen short of the reputation which he has gained in this respect. He opens by pointing out that the increase in the work brought before these Courts during the year under review has really been considerable. No less than 36,877 new cases, or an increase of nearly 25 per cent., were set down for trial, and 30,153, or 30 per cent. more than in the preceding year, were disposed of. Considering that during part of the legal year there was a decrease in the number of judges available, the Procureur-General is of the opinion that the Mixed Bench deserves heartily to be congratulated on the manner in which it has acquitted itself of its task. As far as he knows, "there does not exist in any country possessing similar judicial organisation and procedure a magisterial corps having to shoulder such a heavy task." But the present situation must not be allowed to continue much longer. Although 13,282 judgments on appearance and 9,341 by default have been given, as against 9,371, and 7,599 the previous year, *i.e.*, an increase of about 35 per cent., the arrears are still abnormally high, those before the Court of Appeal alone representing more than a normal year's work.

M. Eeman is of the opinion that measures should be at once taken to remedy the serious congested state of business; at any rate, in the Appeal and Cairo First Instance Courts. In other words, he presses for an increase in the staff of judges. He admits that the present is not an opportune moment for obtaining additional judges; but asks whether a means of making the size of the Mixed Tribunal bench more proportional to the amount of work which it has to handle could not be found in a continuation of the policy of selecting judges from candidates in the country, which has recently been followed, and of which he cordially approves.



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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, July 22.

Purchase of Mules.

Considerable numbers of mules have been bought in the different districts, and not less than 3,000 will probably be required. The prices range from £8 to £20. Many thousands of Cypriots from towns and villages, from 18 years of age, are being engaged and entering into agreements which define their duties. Cyprus mules maintain the reputation which they have so long possessed. As far back as the Abyssian Expedition, for which some thousands were purchased, their value and hardiness have been recognised, and they were then found to be the best of those employed by the force. The island has been frequently drawn upon since that date for supplies. The interpreters engaged for Salonika are leaving to take up their duties.

Fire at Famagusta.

A serious fire broke out on the night of July 13 in a large timber store near the entrance to the town. The church bells were rung, and the efforts of the police, the citizens of Famagusta, and others from Nicosia were most praiseworthy. Owing to the lack of water and appliances, the store and its contents, which included other merchandise besides timber, were for the most part destroyed. Fortunately the fire was prevented from spreading to neighbouring buildings, which include a Government timber store. Happily fires are of very rare occurrence in Cyprus; for there is a lamentable lack of fire engines and appliances, not to speak of difficulties in obtaining water. The purchase of fire engines and the drilling of inhabitants in towns is one of the needs which call for attention.

The Greek Archbishop.

The Greek Archbishop, Kyrillos, whose health has long been failing, is suffering from an illness which causes considerable anxiety to his friends and community. He is spending the summer in one of the villages in the heights of the Limassol forests, St. Dhimitri. A Greek doctor has been summoned to attend him.

A special number of the *Cyprus Gazette* publishes the telegram sent by Sir John Clauson expressing the sorrow felt throughout Cyprus on account of the death of Lord Kitchener, and the reply of Mr. Bonar Law to the High Commissioner.

THE NILE RISE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, July 21.

The thermometer has only passed the three-figure limit twice in the week, and there was some rain. The conditions are much improved now that the rainy season has definitely begun.

The Nile is rising rapidly, and soon the authorities of Khartoum will begin to watch the river banks for fear of flooding. The Blue Nile is over a metre higher than it was this time last year, and, as the same applies at Roseires, the rise is likely to continue strongly.

A KITCHENER SOUVENIR.

Many of our readers, both at home and abroad, will doubtless be glad to possess a facsimile reproduction of Lord Kitchener's famous letter of appeal (written in May last year), which was instrumental in raising an army of five million men by voluntary enlistment. They will shortly be able to purchase such a facsimile, and at the same time to benefit the British Red Cross Society and the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund. Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons, who are publishing the interesting souvenir, have favoured us with advance copies, and we need hardly say that the work is as admirably done as everything that this famous firm turns out. The letter is enclosed in an artistic cover, designed by Mr. Frank Brangwyn, A.R.A., and is accompanied by eloquent tributes to the great soldier from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sir George Arthur. As the publishers and everyone associated with the souvenir give their services free, there should accrue from its sale a handsome sum to both funds. The prices for copies range from 1s. to 2s. 6d. and 10s. 6d. each, according to the size and quality of paper and print, and besides these issues there will be a signed and stamped proof edition of the photogravure issued at £1 1s., and an artist's proof edition, with *remarque*, limited to 500, signed by Mr. Brangwyn, the cost of which will be £2 2s.

The Serbian Parliament is to meet on August 24 at Corfu.

Mohammerah has been declared free from plague and cholera.

Lord Bryce calls attention to the need which still exists for providing relief for the Armenians, especially to enable those who have been able to return to rebuild their ruined homes. The Nestorian Christians of North-West Persia are also in need of help. The address of the Armenian Relief Committee is 96, Victoria Street, S.W.

BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 20.

Reduction of Allowances.

The more that want and destitution make themselves felt in Bulgaria the further are the allowances granted to the families of the men who have been mobilized reduced. During the period immediately following the mobilization the Government, wishing to carry the people with it in its pro-German policy, spent millions of francs a month on these allowances, which were distributed lavishly among the peasantry. Nor was there a family of any importance in Old Bulgaria that did not receive consideration—of a substantial kind. The amounts thus distributed averaged six million francs a month. Now things are changed indeed, and the allowances exist only in name. Thus, during the month of June, less than forty thousand francs had to go round amongst nearly 16,000 families—a little over two francs a month for each family!

The Food Supply.

According to trustworthy persons coming from Bulgaria, the situation there is desperate. Bread is hardly to be had, and the country is on the verge of starvation. The "kile" of wheat, which in ordinary times costs between 50 and 100 levas, is now fetching from 400 to 500 levas, and even at these prices it is difficult to obtain, for the Germans have carried off everything they could. At Bitolia, for instance, a loaf of black bread—white is no longer procurable—weighing a kilogram, has to suffice several days for a family; and even in Sofia it is difficult to obtain bread in the best restaurants. Sugar is almost entirely lacking, and salt is becoming scarce.

Most of the prefects have visited Sofia in order to urge the impossibility of sending any of the new harvest's grain to Germany. It is, they report, not nearly so plentiful as was anticipated, and will only just suffice for the country's needs.

The Committee of Public Supply at Sofia has lately instituted a new type of bread, made of a mixture of wheat, flour, and maize meal; but there are still complaints on the score of quality. Thus, the *Mir* wants to know who superintends the mixing of the wheat and the maize, and who is responsible for the quality of the bread. Some time ago the same journal declared that the bread supplied in Sofia was of such quality that it could not be eaten, and asked why the citizens of the capital city should be obliged to eat "bread that animals would refuse," when the Government declared that there still remained in the country sufficient stocks of wheat of the best quality.

Cholera Ravages.

Cholera has now appeared in the country, first in the invaded territories and now in Old Bulgaria. The scourge is ravaging the population, whose enfeebled condition renders them easy victims. Infant mortality is also extraordinarily high; the sanitary service appears to have broken down, and there is a great dearth of doctors, while the communal hygienic committees are useless.

A State of Panic.

A Roumanian lately returned from Bulgaria declares that the Bulgarians now realize that they have joined the wrong side, and that they are filled with gloomy forebodings about the future. Not a single voice, however, is raised to declare the truth. For the members of the Opposition know quite well that the Government has ready a *dossier* of accusations—true or false matters not—against each one of them, to be used in case of need.

Travellers in Bulgaria are now put to every possible inconvenience by the police and the military authorities. So strong is the spy fever that every Bulgarian must possess a "good conduct" certificate from the municipal authorities of his place of residence, or from the prefect of police, and this document must be produced and *visé* whenever he moves about. The knowledge that the country is on the verge of defeat and dishonour seems, in fact, to have caused a perfect panic, signs of which are visible everywhere.

Of Archæological Interest.

A party of historians, archæologists, and ethnologists will shortly visit the newly acquired districts in order to make a study of the ancient monuments and churches. After what has already occurred, one cannot but feel anxious as to the fate of any works of art, etc., which may be found in these regions; for it is well known that the Bulgarians have followed closely the examples of their masters in regard to articles of art or value in invaded territory.

Frescoes representing the Bulgarian Tsar Samuel and his sons have been discovered in the Monastery of St. Naoum, near Ochrida, by some Bulgarian archæologists. But was the famous Tsar really Bulgarian or Serbian? It is difficult to decide; for in his time the district of Ochrida passed successively to the Serbs and Byzantines.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, July 24.

Life in Constantinople.

Although Greece is the nearest neutral State to Turkey, one is in complete ignorance here of what is really going on in that country. All communication between the two countries is broken off, and only occasionally, through some stray traveller, does one get a little information of the situation in Constantinople, as it appears to them. And such information is not always to be relied on.

Judging from the latest advices, the Turkish capital is at the present time more like its old self than it has ever been since the outbreak of war. Perfect order and tranquillity seem to prevail, and, though business is stagnant, there is the usual movement in the social life of the city, and no indication that the country is at war or its existence at stake.

The Cost of Living.

The increased arrivals of wheat and flour—wherever they have come from—have considerably alleviated the bread difficulty, and although only the limited allowance per diem at the fixed price of 65 paras is obtainable, yet your baker will give you almost as much as you require at a higher price! Meat has also come down in price, and can be obtained at about 12 piastres the oke; and poultry, vegetables, fruit, and fish are cheap, if not cheaper than normal times. All imported articles are, of course, expensive. Sugar, for instance, is 60 piastres the oke, and a pair of boots cannot be had under three or four pounds. Coal stocks appear sufficient for the city's requirements; the tramways, trains, and steamers are still able to keep up their services, and the electric lighting of the city has much extended during the past year, owing, no doubt, to the scarcity of petroleum.

The most noticeable feature in the outward appearance of things is the deserted and lifeless condition of the harbour and Bosphorus, deprived as they are of their commercial and shipping activity. Possibly that is the only striking evidence that something unusual has taken place.

Holiday Makers.

The Prince's Islands, it is said, are the favourite summer resort this year; and Pera society, no longer in fear of submarines, has flocked there.

With these conditions prevailing in the capital, it is not surprising that the Turks, ignorant as they are of the true state of affairs in general, are confident of the future, and believe in the fairy tales of Turkey's aggrandisement and of the eventual defeat of her enemies.

Gold and silver are scarce in Constantinople, and Government paper is mostly in use. Holders of this paper, anxious to get rid of it, invest in property, with the result that much higher prices are being asked for landed property as well as for good securities. The banks, it is said, charge a higher rate of exchange for remittances abroad if payment is made in paper currency.

At Smyrna.

The aerial attack on Smyrna some time ago appears to have been followed by some disturbances, and the Allied subjects were interned for a short time somewhere in the town. Rahmi Bey is still nominally the Vali, but he is said to be carefully watched by the Huns.

There is no further news of the Englishmen who were recently arrested in Constantinople.

News of British Residents.

An Englishman, formerly resident in Constantinople, kindly gives us leave to publish the following extracts from a letter received only last Saturday, though forwarded from Constantinople on May 26:—

In the city the following English people are all O.K. (I see them pretty often):—Mr. and Mrs. Sykes, Mrs. Douch and family, Mr. and Mrs. Guest, and Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay and family. Dr. Maclean and daughter and practically all of the English colony who were here six months ago are still here and O.K. The following men are interned at or near Konia, and we hear from them, indirectly, very often:—H. Hoare Farley (a chemist), Leete (Western Insurance Co.), Ashover, and a couple of others. All O.K. A report came of the escape of two British naval officers from the interior, and that the Konia prisoners are not now allowed as much freedom.

The staff of the British hospital are living in town, and are all O.K. Mrs. and Miss Crawford I saw also; they are all right.

Von der Goltz Pasha was shot by a Turk while he was writing at a table. Two shots were fired.

The Breslau is in the Golden Horn. She is all right now. The Goeben is at Stenia, more or less all right. They are now calling in soldiers who are supposed to be sixteen years old, but they look younger. Only very seldom are civilian passengers allowed on the Balkan train, and the Spanish Minister's wife has been waiting for over a fortnight to leave.

There have been several aeroplane raids. In one of them a fortnight ago at "Saffra," beyond San Stefano, a Turkish machine went up to fight a British aviator. The result was that the two men in the Turkish machine were killed, the Turk observer being killed outright, and the German was wounded and died a couple of days later.

NEWS OF SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 18.

News from Syria, now coming in with greater frequency and regularity, continues to depict the situation in that unhappy country in the blackest colours. In addition to famine and the reign of terror, cholera is said to be making ravages in Aleppo and other towns, except Beyrout, which is protected by its pure water supply. If some of the wealthiest people in Aleppo have succumbed to the epidemic, the condition of the helpless poor may be easily imagined. If the authorities were at all mindful of the welfare of the inhabitants they could have easily brought over from Germany the necessary quantity of medicines, which are said to be completely lacking.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Lebanon forces—a Lebanese himself—is said to have raised a volunteer force of about 10,000 strong. It need hardly be said that the system of enrolment was voluntary only in name. Of course, all these so-called volunteers are sent out of the Province.

Deserters in the vilayet are now hanged, instead of being tried and shot, and their bodies are left exposed, in order to inspire the public with terror. Further than that, N.C.O.'s and men of the gendarmerie are given power to fire on all persons in the villages attempting desertion and not obeying the order to stop.

The U.S. Government seems to have awakened at last to its responsibilities in regard to Syria, and the firm attitude that it has assumed promises to produce some relaxation of the criminal measures adopted by the Turkish Government against the helpless civil population. It is said that the Turks have just agreed to the distribution by the American Red Cross of relief to the suffering Syrians. It is also said that a suggestion has been made by the American Government to send warships to Syria for the transport of the destitute; but very faint hopes are entertained of its realisation.

July 19.

The latest clandestine arrivals from Syria are five men, who report that famine in the Lebanon has reached its acutest stage. One of these men declared that two of his children died of hunger, and that he preferred to fly, at the risk of being drowned, rather than live to see the remainder of his children and his wife die away before his eyes, and his country go through these terrible sufferings. This extreme aggravation of the situation, coupled no doubt with the vigorous protests of the United States, must at last have moved the Turkish Government, which, as was lately reported, ordered the distribution of 95,000 kilos of wheat in the Mountain.

These new informants further report that the Turkish Government is now enrolling the Lebanese, taking ten recruits from each small village, and larger numbers from larger villages in proportion. A noteworthy fact is the present paucity of Turkish troops in Beyrout and Junieh, the chief port of Northern Lebanon; which confirms the report, made some time ago, of the withdrawal of a good portion of the forces in Syria to the Hejaz, to quell the revolt of the Shereef of Mecca. If this be true, we shall not be surprised to hear soon of risings among the Bedouin and Druses of the Hauran.

The eyes of Syrians abroad are now anxiously fixed on General Sarrail's army, and the devout hope is entertained that it will successfully cut off Germany from Turkey: and, once the Bulgarian army defeated, detach a portion of the Armée d'Orient for an expeditionary force to Syria, before the rigours of winter set in. Otherwise the complete ruin of the Lebanon may be achieved.

B

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

According to letters received recently from Persia, Herren Pugin and Kardoff, the ex-Chargé d'Affaires, remain at large, and doubtless still exercising their baleful influence upon such Persians as they can contrive to befool. Early last month they were reported to be in the neighbourhood of Khomain, a small place to the south of Sultanabad. What they were up to there was not quite clear; but it is safe to say that it was some dirty work. The sands are running out, however, and we may live in hopes of seeing both these "gentlemen" (German variety) laid by the heels very shortly—unless, of course, their dupes turn against them and take justice into their own hands. Which seems to be not unlikely.

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The report about Turkey having sent troops to the assistance of her hard-pressed Austrian ally is received with much scepticism in many quarters. One writer points out that "of the 48 divisions constituting the Ottoman army 30 divisions are engaged by the Russians in the Caucasus and hardly suffice for the task set them. Eight other divisions are in Syria and Arabia, where the revolt of the Shereef of Mecca is more than serious enough to prevent the withdrawal of a single battalion. The ten remaining divisions are indispensable to protect the front at Baghdad and are spread from Smyrna to Thrace to guard the coast of Asia Minor and the Black Sea." And others suggest that the "Turkish" troops in question are really the Austrian and German detachments originally sent to Turkey, who are "still wearing their Turkish badges." But against these suggestions we may set the report forwarded by the very well-informed Budapest correspondent of the *Morning Post*, who reports, on July 29, that it is even stated there that a number of these Turkish troops "have already arrived at the south-eastern base in Maramaros-Sziget." He goes on to say that, according to "politicians who are supposed to know everything . . . the number of Turkish troops on the way to Hungary does not exceed two divisions of 12,000 each, consisting only of infantry," lacking artillery and even the usual Red Crescent detachments. Such "help" would be a mere drop in the ocean; and it is not surprising to learn that the Viennese and Budapest papers "are giving all kinds of explanations."

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As a matter of fact, it would not be very difficult to provide "explanations" of Turks going—or being sent—to the defence of Hungary. Are not Magyars and Osmanlis both of Ugrian stock? And have not Hungarian rebels on several occasions been kindly received by Ottoman sultans? Now the Osmanli, having had a fair chance of estimating the value of German "assistance" and "disinterestedness" himself, and suspecting that the Teuton is preparing to desert the Hungarian, prepares to stand by his stricken kinsman. Chivalry, though unknown in Prussia, is not yet quite dead in Constantinople and Asia Minor. The move seems to me to be pregnant with great possibilities. Will Hungary, as a result of the war, escape from German tutelage and enter a Confederation of the Danube?

***

In any case, the employment of the Turks in this manner is a practical confession of weakness on the part of Berlin; and the Turks themselves will be able to judge how the land lies when the aid of two divisions is accepted with such effusive thanks. It may be a clever move designed to get some of them out of Turkey, as hostages for Ottoman obedience, but——! The system, borrowed from Napoleon, works well in case of victory, but goes half way towards making a defeat a disaster.

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Some weeks ago *The New Armenia* published some jokes about the Armenian mouse rescuing the Russian bear and the British lion from the net in which the German eagle had caught them, about Armenian victories being described as "Russian victories," and about Great Britain winning *her* victories by "utilising printer's ink in the British Press." Its latest issue to hand, that of July 15, seems to indicate that it is now bent on winning victories of its own by utilising printer's ink; though it has not yet quite decided whether the foe to be vanquished is Great Britain or Russia. For in the issue referred to the place of honour is given to a truly remarkable effort entitled "Autonomy for Armenia," the authorship of which is attributed to "An American Diplomat."

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If the writer of the article referred to is really in the United States Diplomatic Service it is to be hoped, for the sake of his country, that he will never be placed in any position of responsibility; for he appears to be utterly lacking in tact, a quality which is usually supposed to be essential to success in that service. He writes about "the cold course of diplomacy," but his article is as lacking in both coolness and diplomacy as the worst effort of any blatant mob orator. Armenia, he declares, has borne "political slavery far more galling than that of our Thirteen Original Colonies, or yet of Ireland." Nobody would dispute the fact for a moment; but is the comparison a happy one for a tactful "diplomat" to draw? And is he judicious in allowing himself to be "*forced* to remember that at least one Russian, Lobanoff, said, like the Turks, 'We want Armenia without the Armenians'"? Again, he writes of England having it "in her power to do much for the Armenians, and thereby expiate her former sins"; but he fails to explain what more England can do than she is doing at present. Will he enlighten us? As a "diplomat," he doubtless thinks out plans for the execution of any project he proposes. Will he not give the Allies the benefit of his plans in this connection? If not, I would respectfully suggest that he might profitably study geography rather than write at large on a subject in which he does not seem to be quite at home.

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Better still, it seems to me, would it be if this strange "American Diplomat" were to take an active part in trying to help the Armenians. He points out that "justice and humanity demand that the Armenians be granted autonomy under the liberal ægis of Republican France and America." Feeling so strongly on that subject, why does he not *do* something? Is he, perchance, one of those people who are "too proud to fight"? Or does he simply prefer to stay at home and indulge in the old-fashioned sport of "twisting the lion's tail"? Surely not! For, on the authority of *The New Armenia* itself, the Armenian mouse is now the very useful and good friend of the poor old lion. With all respect, I submit that such stuff as the "American Diplomat" writes can be turned out much better by German "diplomatists" and Press agents, and I am surprised that the distinguished ladies and gentlemen under whose "honorary editorship" *The New Armenia* appears did not exercise a wise discretion and ruthlessly use their blue pencils. Cheap jibes at the Allies will hardly forward the Armenian cause.

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In many quarters there is now much criticism of the failure to construct a railway from Busreh to the British front in Mesopotamia. That such a railway would have proved an inestimable blessing there can be no doubt; and as it was generally understood that there was in Busreh itself a considerable quantity of material lying in readiness for the construction of the so-called "Baghdad Railway," it was natural enough for the uninitiated at least to wonder why no attempt at constructing a line of some kind was made. I must confess that I, for one, could not understand the failure to make such an attempt. The country, I knew, was swampy and intersected by innumerable canals and water channels, but still I imagined that a railway good enough for emergency use, so to say, could have been constructed fairly quickly. Recently, however, I was told by a friend far better acquainted with local conditions than I am, and also qualified to speak on the ground of engineering knowledge, that the undertaking was very far from being so simple as I and many other people imagined. Indeed he went so far as to say that in the present circumstances it would be impossible to construct a line in time to be of any use. The "labour" would, he thought, be impossible to obtain; the work of construction would, of course, have to be guarded constantly and strongly against attack by the enemy; and the problems presented by the swamps and waterways would require much time and careful planning to solve. Doubtless all these difficulties *could* be surmounted if only sufficient money were provided. But even in these days of colossal expenditure it seems to be very doubtful whether the money would be forthcoming. The line will doubtless be constructed in time, but in the meanwhile the thing to do seems to be to press on with the work of improving the river transport and providing craft capable of coping with the peculiarities of the Tigris in both the "full" and the "dry" seasons.

CORSAIR.

A letter has been received at Sherborne by the parents of Air Mechanic S. J. Wells, of the Royal Flying Corps, one of the surrendered Kut garrison, stating that he was at Angora, and quite well and comfortable. The letter is interesting in relation to Lord Robert Cecil's statement in the House of Commons on Monday, which will be found elsewhere.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A MESSAGE FROM THE WEST.*

Years ago, when men who had known each other in the Antipodes casually met in the City streets of London, most likely in the vicinity of an East Indian merchant prince's office, the saying, "How small the world is!" became fashionable, and has been handed down to us. Our mothers still use it frequently; men but rarely. For, to us, there seems to be nothing wonderful in meeting in London to-morrow people whom, two weeks ago, we dined with in Alexandria or British Columbia. Nevertheless, the truth of the old dictum is brought forcibly home to us when perusing the history of how the Canadian Pacific Railway threw its steel rails across the American continent. Men from all corners of the world hastened to help build the gigantic system; there were northern and southern labourers, hands from Scandinavia and Italy, emigrants from Transylvania and Croatia, Slavs and Slovenes and Jugoslavs. Truly, the world is small, and Near Eastern people, whatever their number, helped build the greatest Imperial link in the great all-red belt stretched across the globe.

The above is one of the first impressions to be gathered from Mr. Keith Morris's popular *exposé* of the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Incidentally, moreover, it is a graphic chronicle of one of the greatest lessons of Empire-building which Britons can record; how a group of energetic, purposeful men overcame all obstacles and opposition in their hour of deepest adversity and brought their grand undertaking to a happy and successful finish. It is a lesson applicable to other parts of the Empire, to other continents, and to the Britons residing therein. The example of the pioneers of the Canadian Pacific—the Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, for instance—can be followed by South Africans bent on spiking rails northwards across the hills and rivers of Africa until they link up with the far-distant railhead in the Sudan. It can be followed by those experts in matters pertaining to cotton who continually urge the cultivation of that most useful plant on a big scale along the banks of the Nile and in the neighbourhood of Tokar. It can be followed by those who firmly believe in the practical exploitation of the immense *sudd* district, or in the presence of important oil strata in Egypt. On a smaller scale, moreover, the lesson taught us by the pioneers of the C.P.R. will have to be learnt by the new nations which will arise in the Near East after the war is over; by the Southern Slavs bent on working out their own salvation; and by the Roumanians, eager to acclaim their brethren in Transylvania. For the story of the struggle of the leaders of the All-British Trans-Continental Railway across America, linking up the Pacific with the Atlantic, is an old, old story—namely, of perseverance in a good cause crowned by success. The setting only has changed from East to West, and the description of that setting can be advantageously read in the pages of the book under review.

BOOK NOTES.

An interesting account of the pirates—Algerian and others—of the Mediterranean is included in Mr. Henry Gilbert's "The Book of Pirates," which is published by Messrs Harrap and Co. at 5s. net.

"Modern Greek in Asia Minor" is a book for the student, not the general reader. It is written by Mr. R. M. Dawkins, late Director of the British School at Athens, and is an expansion of a paper published in the *Journal of Hellenic Studies* on the dialects used in the interior of Anatolia. Professor W. R. Halliday contributes a chapter on the Subject-matter of the Folk-tales. The price of the volume, which is published by the Cambridge University Press, is 31s. 6d. net.

"Lancashire Territorials in Gallipoli," by George Bigwood, is issued from the offices of *Country Life*, at 1s. 3d. net.

The Cursitor Publishing Company announce for immediate publication a volume of "War Letters" by Mr. Oliver Bainbridge, whose name is familiar to our readers in connection with his travels in and lectures on the Balkans. Among the letters included are some to King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, King Constantine, M. Také Jonescu, Lord Cromer, Lord Curzon, and Madame Olga Novikoff.

"Greece and the War" is the title of the latest pamphlet (No. 26) issued by the Anglo-Hellenic League. It contains an interesting survey of M. Venizelos' policy, a letter from the Hon. Pember Reeves on "The Bulgarian Invasion of Greece," and extracts from a letter addressed to Lord Burnham by Prince Nicholas of Greece.

Messrs. Harrap have just issued "The Story of Lord Kitchener," by Harold F. B. Wheeler, at 3s. 6d. net.

"With the Zionists in Gallipoli," by Colonel Patterson, which was recently reviewed in these columns, is in such demand that Messrs. Hutchinson and Co. have gone to press with a second edition. This will be ready shortly.

In "La Syrie et la Guerre" (Paris, Chapelot, 2 francs), M. Henri Richard gives his reasons for holding that France must occupy Syria. He also sketches a scheme for the administration of the country.

Messrs. Pearson have published recently "In the Hands of the Senoussi." The narrative is compiled from the diary of Captain R. Gwatkin-Williams, R.N., by Mrs. Gwatkin-Williams. The price of the book is 2s. net.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Our Kitchener. By Richard Hayes McCartney. (New York: Charles C. Cook.)

The Queen of the Secret City. By Joseph Doke. (Hodder and Stoughton. 6s.)

From Dartmouth to the Dardanelles: A Midshipman's Log. Edited by His Mother. (Heinemann. 1s. net.)

Gallipoli Days and Nights. By Trooper L. McCustra. (Hodder and Stoughton. 1s. net.)

Central Europe. By Friedrich Naumann. With an Introduction by Professor W. J. Ashley. Translated by Christabel M. Meredith. (P. S. King and Son. 7s. 6d. net.)

With Gypsies in Bulgaria. By "Andreas" (Mui Shuko). (Liverpool: Henry Young and Sons. 2s. 6d.)

Les Persans à Monaco: Etude sur l'origine du nom de lieu Gaumatâ. By H. Villiers Barnett. (Imp. de Monaco.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

PROFESSOR POPOVIC'S PAMPHLET.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—THE NEAR EAST has always shown a marked impartiality in dealing with Balkan questions. May I ask if the ideas put forward in the pamphlet entitled "Serbian Macedonia," by Professor Popovic, and published by THE NEAR EAST, Limited, are officially accepted and endorsed by THE NEAR EAST?

It would not be opportune at this moment to discuss the debatable matter contained in the pamphlet, but it should at least be put on record that an entirely different point of view exists, and that some of Professor Popovic's arguments could be used to support a very different case.—I am, etc.,

Bingham's Melcombe, Dorchester, Dorset, August 4, 1916. ELLINOR F. B. GROGAN.

[The pamphlet entitled "Serbian Macedonia" contains a letter by Professor Pavle Popovic, which appeared in THE NEAR EAST. In publishing this letter, itself in the nature of a reply to the Bulgarian view of the Macedonian question—also set forth in our columns—THE NEAR EAST acted in accordance with its policy—to which Lady Grogan kindly bears witness—of affording hospitality to both sides in a controversy, and did not necessarily endorse the writer's opinions. The reprint of the letter in pamphlet form was undertaken at the wish of Professor Popovic as a business proposition by THE NEAR EAST, Limited. The proviso that its publication does not commit THE NEAR EAST to an endorsement of the views contained in its pages holds good; and we regret that this fact should not have been made clear in the pamphlet.—ED.]

Under date of August 2, the Bucharest correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* reports:—The *Epoca*, the journal of M. Filipescu, publishes a sensational document, proving the existence of the closest relations between M. Marghiloman and Count Tisza. It consists of the facsimile of a letter addressed by the Austrian Deputy Hruscha to M. Marghiloman, stating that he had forwarded his letter to Count Tisza. The letter declared that M. Marghiloman was "more than the gods for his country," and that he was preparing "to fight together against the common enemy." The revelation has caused great public indignation.

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* "The Story of the Canadian Pacific Railway." By Keith Morris (William Stevens. 3s. 6d. net.)

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Dardanelles Inquiry. August 3.

On the order for the second reading of the Special Commissions (Dardanelles and Mesopotamia) Bill,

The Marquess of CREWE said he understood that when the measure got into Committee amendments would be put forward to make further additions to the membership of the Commission which would investigate the circumstances of the Dardanelles Expedition.

The Earl of CROMER said that if he had consulted his personal inclination he would have declined the honour of acting as President of the Dardanelles Commission, but he had thought it his duty to accept. If he found, after a trial, that the work was too much for him he would resign. With regard to the composition of that Commission, he would suggest that a judicial member of the House should be added, because the subject was rather for a mind accustomed to weighing evidence than for experts. In spite of something said elsewhere, he understood that the Government intended the inquiry to be complete and not devoted to whitewashing purposes, otherwise he would not have consented to take part in it. With regard to what the Government might communicate to the Commissioners, he hoped there would be no reticences and that arrangements would be made to communicate to them anything relevant which had passed at Cabinet Councils. In connection with the report of the Commission, he would be in favour of a maximum amount of publicity and a minimum amount of secrecy, provided that nothing was made known to the enemy. He was convinced that his colleagues would, like himself, enter on their arduous task without any preconceived convictions as to either events or individuals.

On the motion to go into Committee on the Special Commissions (Dardanelles and Mesopotamia) Bill,

Viscount MIDLETON referred to Lord Cromer's intimation that he would suggest a further name from their lordships' House as an addition to the Committee, and his statement that it would be desirable to obtain some peer of high judicial attainments. Some negotiations had taken place, but there appeared to be some difficulty in regard to the judicial sittings. Perhaps, if it was desired to take the Committee stage now, there would be no objection to moving the addition of the name on the third reading.

The Earl of CROMER agreed with what the noble viscount had said. He would very much like to have someone of large judicial experience on the Committee.

The Marquess of CREWE said he would raise no objection to the course proposed. The House would understand that it was no easy matter to spare from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council a noble and learned lord, but as the desire had been so strongly expressed it should receive every possible consideration. He confessed that if he were in Lord Cromer's place he would desire that the Committee should be as small as possible, and should look with suspicion on any attempt to add to its numbers, even if the individual added might be of the most acceptable kind. But if the noble earl took that view the Lord Chancellor, he was sure, would do his best to arrange the judicial business of the House so that some learned lord acceptable to Lord Cromer should be spared.

The Earl of CROMER: It need not necessarily be a peer, but may be some other person of judicial experience.

The Marquess of CREWE said that enlarged the field of choice, and no doubt the Lord Chancellor would consider how far it would be possible to suggest a name.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said it was, of course, a matter of the highest importance that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council should be maintained at its highest standard of efficiency, but it might be possible to secure that, and at the same time meet Lord Cromer's not unreasonable desire that someone with experience in sifting evidence as a judge should assist him, and he would do what was possible.

The Bill was passed through Committee.

On the motion for the third reading of the Special Commissions (Dardanelles and Mesopotamia) Bill,

Viscount MIDLETON said that it had been intimated that the services of Lord Justice Pickford would be available on the Dardanelles Commission, and he understood that would be highly acceptable to his noble friend (the Earl of Cromer). He therefore moved to insert in the Bill the name of "The Right Hon. Sir William Pickford, Knight, one of the Lords Justices of Appeal."

The Earl of CROMER said the services of Lord Justice Pickford would be of the utmost use.

The amendment was agreed to, and the Bill was passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Prisoners from Kut. August 7.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to a question put by Sir E. CORNWALL regarding the British prisoners captured at Kut, said: On June 9 the United States representative at Constantinople reported that notwithstanding repeated inquiries he had been unable to ascertain the whereabouts of the British prisoners of war taken at Kut excepting General Townshend. The United States Consul at Baghdad had not been allowed to get into touch with the prisoners. The only information which General Townshend had was that they were being brought northwards across the desert. The United States representative sent £T2,000 by telegraph to the Ottoman Red Crescent at Aleppo for the prisoners, and pressed the Porte to allow the Consul at Baghdad to visit them and supply their needs. The Porte refused on the ground that the men were being moved, and stated that they were being treated according to the established rules. On receiving this information we requested the United States representative on July 6 to protest strongly, and to press the Porte to state the names of the camps to which the prisoners were being sent, and to allow a member of the Embassy to visit them immediately on their arrival. The Embassy have so far received no reply to their representations made at our request. We have heard that twelve officers have arrived at Broussa well, forty-five officers and men at Afion Karahissar, six officers at Baghdad, seventy-five officers at Kastamuni, and an equal number at Yuzgat. On June 26, 1,000 prisoners were at Baghdad too weak or ill to travel, and forty British officers were at Adana ill with dysentery. Medicines and nourishing food were being sent them. On June 21 sixty-two prisoners arrived at Angora. On July 28 the United States representative telegraphed that fifty Indian officers and men were at Konia and twenty-three Indians at Eskishehir. He states that as soon as the arrival of prisoners at a camp is notified he sends them clothing, comforts, and money. The names of all officers and men mentioned in the reports received have been communicated to the War Office for the information of the relatives. The failure of the Porte to reply to our note of July 6 is most unsatisfactory, and inspires considerable misgiving, having regard to the fact that the prisoners are compelled to cross the desert in this season of the year, and are obviously in no condition to endure hardship.

An Egyptian "Incident." August 8.

General Sir IVOR HERBERT asked the Secretary for War whether any inquiry had been instituted into a regrettable incident that occurred to the east of the Suez Canal on Easter Sunday last; whether any report had been received fixing the responsibility for the disposition of the troops engaged on that occasion; and whether the officer responsible for the apparently faulty dispositions had been permitted to retain his command.

Mr. FORSTER said that such information as the War Office had received of the operations apparently referred to was published in the *communiqués* of April 24 and 25. There was nothing to add to this information at present, and, in the opinion of the military authorities, the reports did not disclose any ground for inquiry. From time to time changes had been made in the command of troops in Egypt, as in other theatres, on the recommendation of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief. It was not in the public interest to give any information in regard to changes which might have taken place.

General Sir I. HERBERT: There are very distinct reports going about which give rise to a great deal of uneasiness, and could not more information be given than what is provided in these brief *communiqués*?

Mr. FORSTER: I think all these matters have been taken into consideration.

Regarding Mesopotamia. August 9.

Sir R. JARDINE asked when the report of the three Commissioners who had inquired respecting medical supplies and transport in the Mesopotamia campaign would be laid on the table.

Mr. C. ROBERTS replied that Mr. Chamberlain was doing all he could to expedite the report.

Sir E. CARSON: How long are we to go on waiting without any explanation of the delay?

Mr. C. ROBERTS pointed out that on a previous occasion the Secretary for India explained that he was giving the Government of India an opportunity of considering the report.

Sir E. CARSON: That is three weeks ago.

Sir R. JARDINE asked for assurances that the river craft used for conveying troops up and down the Tigris and Euphrates had proper appliances for securing that the drinking water should be uncontaminated and not dangerous to health, and that sufficient supplies of drugs, medicines, bandages, and other medical appliances had reached the troops at Busreh, and the stations on the lines of the Tigris and the Euphrates.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: My hon. friend asks me for two assurances, but he will, I am sure, have taken into account that since the War Office assumed the additional responsibilities with which I dealt in the speech I made on July 28 not sufficient time has elapsed for an appreciable change to have been effected in the situation as a direct result of the change of responsibility. Subject to its being understood that the Army Council do not claim that all has yet been done which should be done and will be done, I may inform him that on all new boats ordered in the United Kingdom arrangements for securing adequate proper drinking water have been made. Filtration barges are being sent and supply tanks on various points in the river will be provided. As regards the vessels already on the spot, I am informed that an installation for sterilizing water recommended by the Director of Medical Services and the late Sir Victor Horsley has already been provided on many ships and will be fitted to the remainder. Two tanks holding forty gallons for cooling purposes have also been added on each vessel. A large number of hospital river steamers and barges have also been ordered. As regards drugs, medicines, bandages, and other medical appliances, all demands have been supplied, and, as the General Officer Commanding has repeatedly been told to ask for all he wants, I am satisfied that sufficient supplies are now available on the spot.

Arab Prisoners Released.

Mr. BRIDGEMAN, replying on behalf of Lord R. CECIL to Mr. PETO, said the Foreign Office had just heard that the members of the crew of the s.s. Coquet, who had been in the hands of the Bedouin Arabs, had been handed over to us. They were expected to arrive in Bengazi on August 6.

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British Refugees from Turkey Fund.

The following is a list of subscriptions to the above Fund received since last November, bringing the collection down to July 24. (The last list published in THE NEAR EAST *appeared in our issue of November 19, 1915.) The Committee make a further appeal, which we have pleasure in commending to our readers. Subscriptions may be forwarded to the Hon. Treasurers (Mr. A. Baker and Mr. W. G. Middleton Edwards), at 5, Giltspur Street, London, E.C.*

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Capt. W. R. Latham	0	10	0
Harold Francis, Esq.	30	0	0
Miss Scovell (per Percy Martindale, Esq.)	1	0	0
Mrs. Murell (per Percy Martindale, Esq.)	0	2	6
Messrs. Leopold Walford and Co. (Liverpool), Ltd.	0	10	0
Madame Viengue	5	0	0
P. I Melitus, Esq. (per Percy Martindale, Esq.)	2	0	0
Mr. and Miss Chamberlain (per Percy Martindale, Esq.)	1	0	0
Miss Sprague (per Percy Martindale, Esq.)	0	2	6
Messrs. Leopold Walford and Co. (Liverpool), Ltd.	0	17	6
E. H. Man, Esq. (per Percy Martindale, Esq.)	0	10	6
Mrs. Scratton (per Percy Martindale, Esq.)	0	10	0
Canon J. T. Parfit	1	0	0
Messrs. Leopold Walford and Co. (Liverpool), Ltd.	0	8	0
Mrs. Makins	20	0	0
N. C. Eliasco, Esq.	5	0	0
M. N. Reuben, Esq. (per Percy Martindale, Esq.)	0	5	0
I. J. Nathan, Esq. (per Percy Martindale, Esq.)	0	5	0
Mrs. Katherine Calderon	1	10	0
Messrs. Thos. Firth and Co., Ltd.	100	0	0
Messrs. John Brown and Co., Ltd.	150	0	0
Major the Rt. Hon. C. P. Allen, M.P.	25	0	0
Lady Neave's "White Elephant Fund"	227	15	0
Mrs. Camp	0	5	0
H. G. Brown, Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs. B. Rigold and Bergmann	1	1	0
Alfred Dewick, Esq.	1	0	0
Messrs. Aaron Afriat and Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
Charles Zimmermann, Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs. Berner and Nielsen	5	0	0
Carl Kleinhaus, Esq.	5	5	0
Arthur H. Lanvon, Esq.	2	2	0
Messrs. Thornhill, Ltd.	1	1	0
Messrs. United States Rubber Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
Maurice Bossard, Esq.	0	10	0
Wm. Lovegrove, Esq.	1	1	0
Geo. Traill, Esq.	1	1	0
Arthur Baume, Esq.	2	2	0
Henry Headley, Esq.	2	2	0
Geo. W. Taylor, Esq.	1	1	0
A. S. M. Anik, Esq.	1	1	0
Albert W. King, Esq.	1	1	0
E. F. Harrison, Esq.	2	2	0
Joshua M. Levy, Esq.	1	1	0
Gabriel M. Assael, Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs. Wm. Herrmann and Co.	2	2	0
J. Armour Brown, Esq.	10	0	0
Messrs. the Eastern Telegraph Co., Ltd.	25	0	0
Richard H. Keeping, Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs. J. P. Werner and Co.	2	0	0
Sir Henry Kimber, Bart.	1	0	0
Messrs. Walter Potts and Co.	0	10	6
Messrs. Oetzes and Gerritsen	1	1	0
William T. Western, Esq.	5	0	0
Edward R. P. Moon, Esq.	1	0	0
Messrs. the Imperial Dry Plate Co., Ltd.	5	0	0
Alfred Joensson, Esq.	2	2	0
Messrs. Petri Bros.	1	1	0
J. D. Pappaelia, Esq.	5	0	0
Mrs. Stewart Margetson	5	0	0
Messrs. J. G. Ingram and Son	0	5	0
Messrs. Jacobs Bros. and Co.	2	2	0
Messrs. the Imperial Ottoman Bank	105	0	0
Edward C. Penney, Esq.	5	5	0
Messrs. Gleitzman and Ring	1	1	0
Messrs. the Jewish Colonial Trust, Ltd.	10	10	0
T. J. Hunt, Esq.	5	0	0
Messrs. Roura and Forgas	1	1	0
Ernest L. Heatley, Esq.	2	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. J. Q. Rowett	1	1	0
Sir Robert Kennedy, K.C.M.G., and the Hon. Lady Kennedy	1	0	0
Lt.-Col. Sir Henry Trotter, K.C.M.G., C.B.	10	0	0
Miss Phyllis Fowler	0	5	0
David Forbes, Esq.	50	0	0
Messrs. the London Oil and Tallow Trades' Association	5	5	0
Joseph Howard, Esq.	2	2	0
Messrs. G. P. and J. Baker, Ltd.	50	0	0
Messrs. Lavino Keun and Co.	1	1	0
Messrs. George Bowles, Nicholls and Co., Ltd.	10	10	0
Mrs. Gerson	0	5	0
Messrs. Machin and Kingsley	1	1	0
R. W. Gibbon, Esq.	2	2	0
Anonymous	0	10	0
Messrs. George Payne and Co., Ltd.	5	5	0
Messrs. Van Oppen and Co., Ltd.	1	1	0
J. W. Stephens, Esq.	1	0	0
Messrs. Hawkins and Tipson	2	2	0
Francis Ransom, Esq.	10	0	0
Messrs. the Giffre Electro Chemical Co.	0	10	0
Messrs. Andrews and Co., Ltd.	10	0	0
Messrs. L. and R. Heymans, Ltd.	1	1	0
George Glanvill, Esq.	1	0	0
Messrs. Olivier and Co.	1	1	0
Messrs. the General Transport Co., Ltd.	1	1	0
The Hon. Harold Nicolson	5	5	0
Messrs. Burrell and Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
Messrs. H. V. Low and Co.	2	2	0
Messrs. Ofenheim and Co.	2	2	0
Henry John Webb, Esq.	1	1	0
P. B. Brown, Esq.	1	0	0
D. G.	3	3	0
M. Myers, Esq.	2	2	0
Messrs. K. Ettlinger and Co.	5	5	0
W. J. Varcoe, Esq.	1	0	0
Colonel R. K. Bevington	5	0	0
Messrs. Murgatroyd Bros.	2	2	0
Messrs. the Manganese Bronze and Brass Co., Ltd.	5	0	0
David Davis, Esq.	0	10	6
Mrs. Carvick Webster	5	0	0
Herbert Cook, Esq.	10	10	0
The Hon. Aubrey Herbert	5	0	0
The Lord Newton	3	3	0
James B. Hunt, Esq.	1	1	0
James Munford, Esq., F.R.C.I., M.R.S.A.	2	2	0
Sir John Jackson	25	0	0
Messrs. Revillon Freres (London), Ltd.	5	5	0
F. Cavendish Bentinck, Esq.	1	1	0
In Memoriam	5	5	0
Miss Charlotte Ford	1	1	0
Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.	3	3	0
W. W. Storr, Esq. (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.)	10	10	0
D. C. Drakeford, Esq.	0	10	0
Messrs. Cox, Ritchie and Co.	2	2	0
Messrs. E. Foster and Co.	2	2	0
Messrs. Delbanco and Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
Messrs. Griffiths Bros. and Co., London, Ltd.	2	2	0
The Principals and Employees of H. Lebus' Special Appeals Fund	5	5	0
Sir Henry Babington-Smith	20	0	0
Messrs. D. and W. Gibbs, Ltd.	2	2	0
Stuart A. Russell, Esq.	1	0	0
Messrs. J. J. Franses and Sons	0	10	0
W. Morrison, Esq.	500	0	0
Cecil M. Botibol, Esq.	0	10	6
G. E. Cornisley, Esq.	5	5	0
A. Abercrombie, Esq.	2	0	0
The Hon. Walter Guinness	10	0	0
Messrs. T. M. Fairclough and Sons	5	5	0
W. W. Howard, Esq.	1	0	0
Messrs. the Ideal Film Renting Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
The Lord Bishop of Gibraltar	3	3	0
Alfred Farquhar, Esq.	10	0	0
Mrs. J. S. Mitcalfe (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.)	1	1	0
Messrs. Lindsay, Gracie and Co., Ltd. (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.)	5	0	0
J. L. Gracie, Esq. (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.)	10	0	0
Messrs. Courtaulds, Ltd.	100	0	0
Messrs. S. Deyong	1	1	0
Messrs. N. G. Fergusson and Co.	1	1	0
F. Carrick, Esq. (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.)	5	5	0
John T. Steel, Esq. (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.)	5	0	0
A. Munro Sutherland, Esq. (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.)	10	0	0
H. K. McAllam, Esq. (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.)	5	5	0
Messrs. Edward Cook and Co., Ltd.	10	10	0
The Hon. Lady Herbert	5	5	0
Captain A. W. Dennis, R.A.M.C.	2	2	0
Messrs. Barry Bros.	3	3	0
Messrs. Pyman, Bell and Co., Ltd.	10	10	0
Stewart Margetson, Esq.	10	0	0
Messrs. T. Cohen and Co., Ltd.	1	0	0
Sir Beethom Whitehead, K.C.M.G.	5	5	0
Prince of Wales' Fund	220	5	2
Miss R. Allen-Olney	5	0	0
H. Washington Faire	1	1	0
Messrs. J. T. Davis, Ltd.	2	2	0
Messrs. Hammer and Thomson	5	0	0
Messrs. the Yost Typewriter Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
Messrs. Hall Bros. Steamship Co., Ltd.	5	5	0
Messrs. H. C. Vivian and Co.	5	5	0
Messrs. G. and J. Weir, Ltd.	5	0	0
The Hon. Mrs. Sackville West	1	0	0
Messrs. W. Vernon and Sons	5	0	0
Messrs. Stephenson Bros., Ltd.	2	2	0
Mrs. Hugh Poynter	2	0	0
Messrs. Oetzmann and Co., Ltd.	1	1	0
Messrs. the Thermogene Co., Ltd.	1	1	0
Messrs. Thos. W. Ward, Ltd.	3	3	0
Messrs. Arthur Balfour and Co., Ltd.	5	0	0
Messrs. Joseph Jackman and Co., Ltd.	5	5	0
George Stevenson, Esq.	2	2	0
Messrs. Brittains, Ltd.	2	2	0
Messrs. the Anglo-Swiss Cond. Milk Co.	10	10	0
Harold A. Lowther, Esq.	5	5	0
George A. Mounsey, Esq.	5	0	0
Edwin Freshfield, Esq., LL.D. (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.)	10	0	0
Owners of Holmside and South Moor Collieries (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.	10	0	0
A. G. Barr, Esq. (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.)	1	0	0
Leon Zorayan, Esq.	2	0	0
J. A. C. Tilley, Esq.	2	2	0
Anonymous (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.)	0	10	0
Messrs. E. J. Sutton and Co. (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.)	3	3	0
Messrs. Irvin and Sellers	2	2	0
Thos. Swan, Esq.	5	0	0
Messrs. Curtis's and Harvey, Ltd.	25	0	0
W. Lias, Esq.	5	0	0
Messrs. Jos. Gardner and Sons	2	0	0
Messrs. Harpin and Co.	5	0	0
Messrs. P. and W. Maclellan, Ltd.	20	0	0
Messrs. MacAndrews and Forbes, Ltd.	50	0	0
Messrs. Neale and Wilkinson, Ltd.	1	1	0
H. D. Barnham, Esq., C.M.G. (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.)	3	3	0
Messrs. Hadfields, Ltd.	25	0	0
Lord Gerald Wellesley	10	0	0
Mrs. E. M. Holland	2	2	0
Lady Hamilton Lang	1	1	0
Messrs. Adam Bros., Ltd. (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.)	5	0	0

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916.	1916.		1334.	5676.
Aug.	July.		Shawwal	Ab.
11	29	Friday	11	12
12	30	Saturday.....	12	13
13	31	Sunday	13	14
	Aug.			
14	1	Monday	14	15
15	2	Tuesday	15	16
16	3	Wednesday	16	17
17	4	Thursday	17	18

Prince Andrew of Greece has left London for the Continent.

The King of Montenegro has visited the French front and the position held by the Russians.

King Constantine travelled from Athens to Paris to attend the funeral of General Manoussojanakis.

Prince Antoine Bibesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London, has presented to the National Council of the Young Men's Christian Association the hut erected in Sloane Square for the rest and recreation of men of his Majesty's forces. Prince Antoine Bibesco is now in Bucharest.

Lord Barrymore has left 20, Hill Street, Mayfair, for Marbury Hall, Northwich, Cheshire.

General Sir John Maxwell has returned to Dublin.

Lady Maxwell is now much improved in health, and has left her residence in Grosvenor Place for Lichfield, Staffordshire.

General Sir Ian and Lady Hamilton left town last Friday for Dunblane.

Letters received lately in London report that H.R.H. the Zil-es-Sultan arrived in Teheran on July 9, and that he was the guest of the Sippar Saleh.

From the same source we learn that Prince Firman Firma had left for the south, and would travel to Ispahan by way of Kum and Sultanabad.

Essad Pasha was, says the *Temps*, received by King Nicholas of Montenegro last week, and had a long and cordial audience of his Majesty.

The King has received the following answer to the telegram which he sent to the King of Serbia on the second anniversary of the declaration of war:—"Corfu, 4th August. —Partageant du fond du cœur les sentiments dont Votre Majesté a bien voulu me faire part à l'occasion du second anniversaire de la guerre, je m'empresse de lui dire avec quelle satisfaction je viens de recevoir ce nouveau témoignage de la volonté inébranlable de faire triompher la noble cause pour laquelle coule à flots le sang précieux de braves soldats alliés."

An engagement is announced between Harold Knox Shaw, of the Helouân Observatory, Egypt, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Knox Shaw, and Mary Elinor, younger daughter of Mr. A. G. Rickards, K.C., and Mrs. Rickards.

FRENCH, English, Spanish, Italian, German, Scandinavian Languages, Greek, etc., rapidly taught by natives.
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Διερμηνεῖς κ.λ.π. Δίδακτρα μέτρια.
Lyceum Institute, 85, New Oxford Street, and 64, Haymarket.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (July 22):—Captain Gallagher, D.S.O., Chief Commandant of Police, has recovered and is back at Salonika, whence he was invalided.

Many friends in Egypt will be glad to hear that Private Ralph van Millingen, brother of Mrs. Augustus van Millingen, who is serving in the machine-gun section of the London Scottish, has been commended by the G.O.C. of his division and the G.O.C. Brigade for bravery in the field on July 1, and has been awarded the Military Medal. He had a marvellous escape, he and his sergeant being the only two survivors to return from a captured trench.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Marjoribanks Craigie-Halkett, Highland Light Infantry, who is reported wounded, has seen service in the Sudan and in Somaliland. He also served in the South African War.

Another officer formerly serving with the Egyptian Army who is reported wounded, is Major Alexander Phayre Churchill, Essex Regiment. His name appears in the list issued on Tuesday.

Brigadier-General the Hon. Charles Sackville-West, C.M.G., has been wounded at the front, and is now in a London hospital.

News has been received this week that Mr. J. L. Battey, who was taken prisoner at Kut, is now at Yuzgat, in Asia Minor. He was allowed by his captors to write to his family, and his letter, which was dated July 12, and came through the Agence Internationale de prisonniers de guerre, Geneva, stated that he was well at the time of writing.

Our Khartoum Correspondent writes (July 21):—Amongst others leaving northwards by to-day's train is Capt. F. R. Kennedy, C.M.G., Director of Public Works. He was employed at Gallipoli for some months, and returned thence to the Sudan. He has recently had very hard work in connection with roads and communications in the Darfur patrol, and has been especially interested in the development of mechanical transport. He has latterly suffered from the stress of work and is proceeding to England for a well-earned holiday.

Judge Peacock is travelling to Cairo on his way to England.

A notable departure from Khartoum is Mr. Frangoudis. He has long been one of the only two advocates in Khartoum, and since the outbreak of war the only one; his nephew, however, joined him recently, and is starting practice, and Mr. Frangoudis is leaving Khartoum for a more equable climate.

Another passenger for north is the well-known cricketer, "Sam" Woods, who is serving in the Warwickshire Battalion at Khartoum.

Our Special Correspondent in Athens reports, under date of July 24:—

News has been received here that Lady Woods and Lady Whittall have arrived safely in England from Athens.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Whittall have left Athens for London.

Mr. Vernon Whittall, second son of William Whittall, who recently joined the Artists' Rifles, has now obtained an interpretership, and has arrived at Salonika.

It is reported that Shefik Bey El Moyyad, at one time Imperial Commissary on the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, was one of the Syrians recently hanged in Syria. If this is true, many readers of THE NEAR EAST, who knew Shefik Bey, will deeply regret the fate of so distinguished and charming a man.

The English ladies who were removed from Baghdad and interned at Mosul were to have been transferred to Aleppo; but according to latest advices their departure had been delayed, and they were still at Mosul, but were all well.

A telegram from Toulon states that Miss Flora Sendes, an Irishwoman, who was in Serbia at the beginning of the war, served as a hospital nurse, and when the hospitals were closed enlisted as a private in a Serbian regiment. After a holiday in London she has arrived at Toulon on her way to rejoin her regiment at Salonika, with the rank of sergeant.

Mr. C. A. Wilkinson, formerly sub-editor of the *Egyptian Gazette*, who was recently wounded, is now at the London Hospital, and is recovering from his injuries.

A public meeting organised by the London Czech and Yugoslav (Serbian) Colony to commemorate the declaration of war on Austria-Hungary will be held this evening at a quarter to eight in the Y.M.C.A. (large hall), Tottenham Court Road. Members of Parliament and other prominent men will speak.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Under date of August 9, Reuter's Bucharest correspondent reports:—The King to-day received the new French Minister, M. de Saint Aulaire, who presented his credentials to his Majesty and then introduced the newly appointed members of the Legation staff. The King received the French visitors with great cordiality. The Minister was afterwards received in private audience by the Queen. The King has conferred the high distinction of the Grand Cordon of the Star of Roumania on M. Blondel, the retiring French Minister.

The War Office announced in the *London Gazette* of Monday night the temporary appointment of Lieutenant-General Sir J. G. Maxwell, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., as a General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, First Class. The appointment is dated April 27, 1916.

The Egyptian Gazette of July 26 announces:—Sir Murdoch MacDonald, Under Secretary of State for Public Works, arrived at Cairo from Alexandria on Monday morning. He intends going to England on leave this week.

Dr. D. Dunlop, Adviser to the Ministry of Education, is also proceeding to England on leave this week.

Under date of August 7, Reuter's Petrograd correspondent reports:—Vice-Admiral Koltchak has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Black Sea Fleet in place of Admiral Eberhard, who has been put on the retired list. Admiral Koltchak is 40 years of age, and is the youngest Russian admiral. In 1903 he led a reserve party in search of the members of the ill-fated Arctic expedition of Baron Tolle. He distinguished himself particularly in the defence of Port Arthur. He has also proved his capabilities in this war, and was promoted admiral in April, 1916.

It is rumoured that General Callaris, Greek War Minister, has tendered his resignation.

Lieutenant J. S. La Fontaine, R.N.V.R., has been seconded for special duty in the Mediterranean.

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OBITUARY.

GENERAL E. C. INGOUVILLE-WILLIAMS, D.S.O.

It is reported that Major-General Edward Charles Ingouville-Williams, C.B., D.S.O., has been killed in action. The son of General Sir J. William Collman Williams, K.C.B., of Purbrook, Hampshire, he was born in December, 1861, and had his commission in the Buffs in July, 1881. He transferred to the Worcestershire Regiment in April, 1903, and reached the rank of colonel in 1908. From January, 1898, to April, 1899, he was specially employed with the Egyptian Army. In South Africa he filled various posts—Assistant Provost-Marshal, D.A.A.G., and C.O. of Mounted Infantry, and a mobile column. Afterwards he was commandant of the School of Mounted Infantry, Longmoor, and Brigade Commander, 16th Infantry Brigade, Irish Command. His subsequent promotion came in August, 1914 (brigadier-general), and June, 1915 (major-general).

For service with the Nile Expedition (1884-5) General Ingouville-Williams was awarded the Egyptian medal with clasp and the Bronze Star. The Nile Expedition of 1898, when he was employed as Special Service officer with the Egyptian Army, brought him more honours—mention in despatches, his brevet as major, and the Egyptian medal with two clasps and the Nile medal. He fought in the battles of Atbara and Omdurman. In the Nile Expedition of 1899 he was D.A.A G. to the Kordofan Field Force. In the South African War he took part in the Relief of Ladysmith, and was present at Spion Kop, Vaal Krans, the operations on Tugela Heights, Pieter's Hill, and Laing's Nek.

CAPTAIN T. A. FLATAU.

It is announced that Captain Theodore A. Flatau was killed in action on July 1. The news will be received with sincere regret in Egypt, where he was well known, having for a time edited *The Season*, as well as in this country, where he was regarded as a rising man in the literary world. An Australian by birth, he had travelled extensively, especially in the Middle East, and though not of robust physique he was of an adventurous and daring spirit. At the outbreak of the war he obtained a commission, and before long was promoted captain in his battalion of the East Surrey Regiment.

He was for some time editor of the *World*, and was a man of all-round talent—poet, prose writer and organiser—great success having attended the matinée he promoted for the sufferers by the wreck of the Titanic. That he was brave and full of the true spirit of courage his fellow officers and men testify. He returned to the Front (after a spell in hospital from a gas attack) against medical orders, because he wished to be with the men he had trained so efficiently when they went into the "Great Push." The officer commanding his regiment says:—"He was killed on the parapet of the German front line when he was standing up cheering his men on. One can only say of him that he was a very gallant gentleman. Those who were privileged to see him stroll out over the parapet into an inferno of shell, machine-gun, and rifle-fire will never be able to forget it." Let his epitaph be in his own words:—"For the ways of men are little ways And the ways of God are great."

LIEUT. R. W. GORDON LAWSON.

Second-Lieut. R. W. Gordon Lawson, Gordon Highlanders, was killed while charging the enemy trenches on July 18. Aged 26, he was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Lawson, of 12, Polworth Road, Streatham, and formerly of Smyrna. He joined the London Scottish in November, 1914, and went through the Battle of Loos on September 25, 1915, where few of his comrades survived. In April last he obtained a commission in the Gordon Highlanders. His colonel writes: "He was a gallant officer, who will be much missed, and his death is a great loss to the battalion." His chaplain writes: "His loss is keenly felt by his brother officers and men, by whom he was held in high esteem, in spite of the comparatively short time he had been with the battalion. I saw a good deal of him during the time he was with us, and learnt to appreciate greatly his fine, manly qualities and his frank and kindly nature, so that I feel I have a real personal share in your sorrow." He was a keen oarsman and footballer.

TWO WELL-KNOWN ANGLO-EGYPTIANS.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes (July 27):—This week Anglo-Egypt lost two of its old residents in the persons of Mr. G. B. Kerr and Mr. J. Meredith Austin, who died within a few hours of one another.

Mr. Kerr, who came out to Egypt some thirty years ago, had made quite a name for himself as a reliable contractor, his speciality being road-making, and in connection with the defences of the Canal he had done some excellent work. He was an exceedingly cultured and popular man, ever ready to do a kindly act, and the essence of hospitality. "G. B.," as he was affectionately known to his intimates, will certainly be very much missed by a host of friends.

Mr. Meredith Austin was not quite such an old resident, having come to Egypt in 1906 as manager of the British Engineering Co., in which the world-famous firm, Babcock and Wilcox, are largely interested, but he was just as well-known. A genial, generous-hearted Irishman, and withal an exceedingly capable engineer, Mr. Austin was not only popular in all circles, but highly esteemed by all who had ever had any dealings with him, and especially by the engineering authorities in the country. The measure of the position, which he acquired out here in his profession, is the sincere regrets expressed at his death by his competitors and the handsome tribute paid by them to his character and work.

The many friends of Mr. W. R. Salisbury, manager of the American Tobacco Co. in Smyrna, will sincerely regret to hear of the death of his wife, Quintelia, in Mytilene, on July 2, at the early age of twenty-seven. Mrs. Salisbury had been in indifferent health recently, and had gone to Mytilene for a change of air. As a result of a chill she succumbed to bronchial pneumonia after an illness of but nine days. She was the daughter of Dr. Cav. Stanislas Pecchioli, for very many years Italian and British Vice-Consul at Kavalla. She leaves two sons, aged 5½ years and 20 months respectively.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank, London, regret to announce that two more members of the London staff have been killed in action in France. They are 2nd Lieut. Ernest W. Martin, Bedford Regiment, and 2nd Lieut. Gerald A. N. Sharpe, Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment. This brings the total of those members of the staff killed in the recent advances to four—all officers. Eight men have been killed, one is missing (presumed dead), and four others wounded since the outbreak of the war, out of a total of forty-seven serving. The proportion of killed, as will be seen, is high.

It is announced that Second Lieutenant Harold Q. Carver, King's (Liverpool) Regiment, was killed in action on July 30. Lieutenant Carver, who was twenty-five years of age, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Carver, of Seeton, New South Wales, and a nephew of Mr. Charles Carver, of Liverpool, and of Mr. E. D. Carver, of St. Mary Axe, London. He had been in Egypt for several years working for the firm of Messrs. Carver Brothers and Co., Ltd.

The death of Mr. J. J. Bayford, Consul for Greece at Southampton, took place on Tuesday at Bursledon, near Southampton.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

HIGHAM.—On August 8, at 1, Victoria Square, Clifton, Bristol, the wife of Lieut. T. F. Higham, Greek Interpreter, Salonika, and Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford—a daughter.

PEEL.—On August 3, at San Stefano, Alexandria, Egypt, the wife of Captain Willoughby Peel, of a daughter.

DEATH.

OLPHERT.—On July 29, of enteric, at Cairo, Egypt, Wybrants Olphert, Inspector, Ministry of Interior.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

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THE BATTLE OF KATIA.

Only an evil genius could have prompted the Turks to venture upon an attack on Egypt at the present time. Until the attempt was made Turkey could claim that in her struggle with Great Britain on a variety of fronts the honours were entirely in her favour. The evacuation of Gallipoli, however brilliantly and successfully carried out, was an admission that the enterprise had failed; in Mesopotamia the surrender of the Kut garrison was a notable achievement for Turkish arms; again in Egypt Ottoman troops were in possession of the greater part of the Sinai Peninsula, and, in spite of their defeat in a raid on the Suez Canal, had succeeded in immobilising a large British force. In courting disaster by an attack on the British lines at Katia the Turks have reversed the favourable verdict which the war with Great Britain has secured for them hitherto, for they have shown themselves bankrupt both of strategy and of fighting material. No military command still in possession of its senses could have imagined that Egypt could be conquered by a force of 14,000 men; and the Turks would not have made the attempt with so small a number, if they had been able to spare a larger force. In the despatch of these troops on a mission foredoomed to failure military considerations had clearly been overridden by political exigencies. Whether these had reference to German wishes or arose from the situation in the Hejaz cannot be known at present. It must have been in any case a forlorn hope that prompted this isolated mission across the Sinai desert, and the fact is eloquent of the straits to which Turkey is reduced. Of one thing we may be certain: whatever considerations prompted the expedition, it had the support of Turkey's German taskmasters. Among the prisoners taken were several Germans. They would not have been there, if Germany had not favoured the enterprise. For this reason we incline to the theory that Germany instigated the advance. It would serve the double purpose of keeping both the Turks in Constantinople and the British troops in Egypt occupied. The employment of a German force would only have been justified by there being some prospect of success. No such scruples would trouble the German military authorities in Constantinople, if the force employed were Turkish. The inclusion of a few German officers or gunners might be necessary to overcome Turkish reluctance; but the expedition as a whole would be regarded merely as a Turkish pawn in the game played by Germany.

While the strategy which prompted the attack on Egypt's eastern lines of defence will be universally condemned, it is difficult to refrain from admiring the Turco-German achievement in transporting a force of 14,000 men, well equipped with artillery, across the Peninsula. German scientific methods and powers of organisation were freely laid under contribution, and were backed up by the admirable qualities and staying power of the Turkish soldiery. Such a combination was worthy of a better cause. The expedition proved superior to the difficulties of the march; but was powerless to make any impression on the real defences of Egypt. Battle was joined over a front of from seven to eight miles in the neighbourhood of Romani and Katia, and the Turkish frontal attack lasted the whole day. The tactics of the British command appear to have been to allow the enemy to exhaust himself against our entrenchments, while encouraging his southern wing, engaged in a flanking movement, to penetrate into unfavourable ground. This manœuvre was entirely successful. Late in the evening of August 4 a counter-attack was made by all arms. The troops on the enemy's southern flank were the first to be involved in disaster, and here the earliest batches of prisoners were taken. By dawn on August 5 the retreat had become general, and the British forces were carrying out a vigorous pursuit, which was continued for eighteen miles. Over three thousand unwounded prisoners were taken, while the enemy's losses in killed and wounded are reported to be very heavy.

Eighteen months ago, when the Turks made their first attempt to reach the Suez Canal, the Egyptian scheme of defence was situated on the western bank. They were driven off—not before some of their number had actually reached the Canal, and a few had crossed it—and the raid collapsed; but no effort was made by the British command in Egypt to follow up the advantage. This time the British success has been won by pushing home the pursuit of the enemy as soon as his attack on the entrenchments had failed. For the alteration in its whole scheme of defence, which rendered the pursuit possible, Egypt is indebted to the late Lord Kitchener. On the occasion of his hurried visit to the Eastern Mediterranean in November, 1915, he found that no steps had been taken to improve upon the system which left the Suez Canal continually exposed to enemy raids. He insisted that the troops had been sent to Egypt to protect the Canal, and that the Canal was not there to protect the troops. The work of fortifying the eastern bank was at once begun, and was carried out, as the world knows, with stupendous energy. Under the capable command of General Sir Archibald Murray the network of defences was extended and elaborated. Strong entrenchments were constructed, advanced posts occupied, roads and railways were built, and pipe lines carried into the desert. The result has been that not only is Egypt more securely held, but it requires a smaller number of troops for the purpose. True, in the interval since February, 1915, the efficiency of the garrison has been enormously increased. What were comparatively untrained men in those days have now all the confidence of veterans, as the enemy has good reason to know. In last week's battle they fought well, and were well handled. No room has been left to the Turks to suppose that, with slight modifications or amplifications of their arrangements, any further attempt on Egypt will stand the least chance of success. Herein lies the chief significance of the Battle of Katia. A comparatively small Turkish force has been routed, and there can be no question of the British following up the victory in such a way as to compel the Turks to modify their main dispositions. But General Murray has not only carried out his task of defending Egypt; he has also shown the advantage of thorough and painstaking organisation—a lesson which has yet to be learned, it is to be feared, in Mesopotamia.

TO OUR READERS.

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PROBLEMS OF THE SUDAN.

I.—DIVERSITY OF POPULATION.

(By Our Khartoum Correspondent.)

The rapid recovery of the Sudan from a state of chaos and utter poverty to a position small but distinct in the commercial world has been as striking as the changes in administration and security within its borders. To the stranger, however, or to one who has but travelled to Khartoum by the train, many of the chief difficulties that have stood in the way of development do not directly present themselves: from the map it appears that the Nile flows through the length of the land, just as it does in Egypt, whilst the presence of tributaries such as do not exist in Egypt, *prima facie*, merely repeats in the case of each tributary the conditions of the Nile itself. Actually, however, the whole Sudan presents a series of problems very different from those in Egypt, the reasons for which are due partly to climate, soil and latitude, partly to distribution and the customs of the population. The diversity of the Sudan is very great, and an examination of the provinces separately is instructive in showing this.

Starting at the north: half a province is inhabited almost entirely by Berberines, who are employed as servants in the Sudan and Egypt. The river has cut so deep into the land that the water for purposes of cultivation has to be lifted an inordinate distance, and the wealth of the population, if it can be called wealth, lies in the endless lines of palm trees that skirt the river bank. The male population absent on service supports the women and children and old men living at home by doles from wages, assisted by the profits obtained from the dates. The people, owing to their contact as servants with the outer world, are for the most part extremely sophisticated, but their ideals are those that they have acquired in Egypt, with a not wholly pleasing veneer of "flunkeyism," and they have just the touch of fanaticism that makes them tenacious of their own views, whether the subject in true fact concerns their faith or not.

In Dongola Province the northern part is inhabited largely by Berberines, but of a different kind. They speak one or more of the Berberine dialects besides Arabic—in fact, many of the women know no Arabic—but their life is spent not in service but on the soil. In good years, when the river is kind, when locusts and other pests are absent, and cattle are many, they obtain a winter crop of wheat or barley, a summer crop of millet or maize, and a flood crop of the same, with alternations of beans and other things. They may also get a basin crop from land flooded the previous high Nile, requiring but to be ploughed and sown to bring a magnificent return. Thus the Dongolawi is primarily a hard-working cultivator with constant employment on his land.

In the past, as is evidenced by the remains of many Christian churches, he was a Christian, but has lost all but a few vague traces of the faith, and is inclined to be bigoted and violent in word if not in deed on questions which he thinks pertain to Islam. The southern part of the province is held chiefly by Shaigia Arabs, good cultivators, sailors and steady workmen. The quasi-nomad Arabs who graze their animals in the country parallel to the river are largely dependent on the riverein population, for whom they tend their date trees or work for wage or share.

In Berber Province the same conditions of life that hold in Dongola apply, but the population is almost entirely Arab and Sudanese. The nomad Arab is more numerous and influential than in the northern provinces, and, having his own resources of food supply, is not dependent on the river population. The Atbara, too, that looks, and is, an imposing flood when at its height, dwindles to nothing and would leave the perennial cultivator idle; so that the nomad has its banks of rich grazing land for his animals undisturbed, whilst he gets enough rain in the southern part of the province to grow what he needs of millet to feed himself and his family.

Khartoum, a small province in itself, is complicated by the three towns, Khartoum, Khartoum North and Omdurman. The first is practically European and the official centre, the last is the native capital, with a large population dependent on business of markets and commerce for their living. From Omdurman go out numbers of small pedlars to wander throughout the Sudan with their wares and all the latest news; and there is an urban population quite distinct in its way from the cultivating class or the quasi-nomad, though all are inextricably confused in blood and relationship.

Roughly speaking, from Khartoum northwards the country depends upon the river, the population is practically limited to the river bank, and there is little or no rain. South of Khartoum the contrary holds: the villages are scattered far and wide, and the people rely on their rain crops, using the river if they happen to live upon it for special crops of fruit trees, or cotton, or vegetables.

In the Blue Nile Province, which occupies the greater part of the Gezira, rests one of the great hopes of the future in the Sudan—an endless flat plain, unbroken till the horizon is lost in mirage, in which it is hard to find a stone to throw at a dog; all good, rich soil, if the water is available. Till the schemes for the development of irrigation mature the land depends on rain, and enormous crops of millet of various sorts can be raised if the rains fall fortunately. The people who cultivate were mostly followers of the Mahdi, and in some parts are extremely fanatical. The land has all been "settled," i.e., mapped, demarcated and allotted to its owner, if such there be.

The northern part of Sennar Province is similar to the Blue Nile, but being further south its rain supply is more constant. The waters of the Dindes and the Rahad also make easy settling places for new villages. The population is widely mixed: Arabs of the riverein tribes, Baggara left over from Omdurman after the expedition, Fellata (Western people from the region of Chad and elsewhere), and blacks of various sorts, all have their settlements. The country is not merely agricultural, but supports considerable numbers of camels in the North and cattle to the South, which move North to avoid the tsetse fly in the rains and return to the rich grazing in winter, when the northern pools are dry.

The White Nile Province, east of the river, similar in many respects to the Blue Nile, on the west of the Nile, approximates rather to Kordofan.

It will be seen that in the provinces directly on the Nile and its tributaries considerable diversity exists. In the North complete dependence on the river, in the South relative independence. In the North a non-Arabic race much influenced by Egypt, in the South a mixed population largely Arab and Sudanese, many of them long under the influence of the Mahdi, and knowing no other religious rule.

Once away from the river a new set of conditions arises. The development of the land depends upon water supply, which is, except for a few fair-sized towns, limited in amount, though fairly widely scattered. Thus, except for great expanses of dry and apparently worthless desert, the whole country is dotted with villages, each with its cultivation and grazing ground, and, when the trees grow, its gum gardens. Here the natives vary from the purely sedentary to the purely nomad, the former clinging to their stores of water and grain and knowing no other home, till the wealth they acquire in animals compels them, both by long habit and by inclination, to spend at least part of the year travelling from grazing ground to grazing ground with the animals, until they develop into nomad or quasi-nomad people. This habit maintains a spirit of independence and conservatism, attractive in itself, yet bound up with much that is antagonistic to true development. The place of the small boy or girl is not at school but herding the goats; learning is the luxury of the few; the ancient custom is the true law, whatever may be the ruling of the Government, and above all is Allah—and the fatalism that refuses all help. Thus, in Kordofan and Kassala, parts of Sennar and Berber, and the greater part of the Red Sea Province there is a pronounced difference of ideal from the riverein people tied to their plots of land, whose life is bounded by the prospects of the harvest and the price of grain. In these provinces, more especially in Kordofan, grows the gum that is one of the chief staples of Sudan trade; and this adds more riches whilst it does not tie the inhabitants to the soil.

In the northern half of the Sudan the final contrast is in the towns of Port Sudan and Suakin and the settlement of Tokar. Port Sudan is the youngest, as Suakin is, perhaps, the oldest, of all the Red Sea ports. In both is a population dependent almost entirely upon business and commerce, but whilst the former deals with the modern trade and the modern markets, the latter still thrives under considerable disabilities in the business it has maintained for 2,000 years and more. The population is "sui generis," speaking a polyglot dialect of its own, and the ancient town on its picturesque island is a replica of its own spirit. At Tokar is the chief and most successful cotton-growing centre of the Sudan. Everything turns upon cotton, and the population is of every sort, having but one thing in common, a knowledge of some item in the production of cotton and its sale.

Thus, apart from a riverein population, itself divided, there is a most distinct population of the wider areas varying from true nomads to purely sedentary people, whilst a considerable people of variously special interests thrives along the Red Sea coast. Grain, cattle and camels, gum and hides claim the attention of some, pearl fishing and cotton, sesame and dom nuts of others. The population may be divided almost endlessly, and always brings a result of conflicting interests or sharply divided ways of life and thought.

South of latitude 12 deg., moreover, a new country is opened up. Here the Arab is a stranger, driven only by stress of drought or grazing needs, or seeking his profit as a trader. The real inhabitant is the black—and the black is subdivided into many different types. In the Nuba Mountains there are a number of dialects, but even

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on the roughest subdivision there are the short sturdy black and the big-boned tall black. They live on the hills ready at a moment's notice to take refuge in their caves, yet for the most part are contented to grow large quantities of inferior red millet and tobacco, and breed their little cattle, merely maintaining a blood feud here and there for the interest and variety of life. The Shilluk of the Upper Nile is quite distinct, shy, too, but not so expansive as the Nuba is when encouraged. The Dinka, again, widely scattered, extends over different parts of the Upper Nile, Bahr el Ghazal and Mongalla provinces. He has his code of law and his religion, and seems in many ways to be above the standard of his neighbours. Still further south the tribes are numberless, some of them only recently in touch with Government, so remote are they from any administrative centre. The Azande, almost the only artistic people in the Sudan, the Beirs, the Bongo—the names could be added to indefinitely—all these have their customs, and to administer them requires special knowledge. Yet in amongst them the traders of the North bring new ideas or old ideas refurbished for their unsophisticated minds. Trade relations make an unending chain from the civilised centres to the remote villages of savages, and the code that binds the pedlar to his merchant chief must cover the same pedlar when he barters his wares for whatever he may find for profit amongst the naked negroes of Central Africa.

Such diversity involves a thousand difficulties, not only in the law, which must respect local custom and local faith, but in administration, in coinage, in language, in almost every circumstance of life. A system of land tenure that may seem equable in the North may lead to revolt in the South; too clear a definition of status in the South may be acutely resented in the North. The system of barter has to work side by side with the modern exigencies of exchange; whilst the question of labour is as difficult as in the most modern States.

Thus it may be seen that the chief difficulty of the Sudan is its immense diversity, its infinite variety. Historically its troubles have been due to religion, administratively to difficulties of finance, strategically to the ardours of its climate and its droughts, and, finally, all these are complicated by the difference within the Sudan of the people, the climate and the soil.

THE LEGEND OF GHIUL-BAHAR.

(From Our Bucharest Correspondent.)

The *Journal des Balkans* recounts a pretty legend associated with the history of the beautiful "Imaret" Mosque in the city of Trebizond.

A Sultan was once upon a time riding through the village of Liveras. Attracted by the pastoral tranquillity of the spot he decided to rest there a little while. Dismounting from his horse he seated himself beside a spring, and while taking count of the surroundings his gaze fell upon a maiden of great beauty. She was Marie, the daughter of the village priest, and tended her father's flock. Struck by her great beauty, the Sultan called her to him, and handing her his goblet of gold, requested her to fill it at the spring. She readily complied, and returned the cup with a graceful gesture, her thumb, however, dipping into its contents. The Sultan drew her attention to this, and pouring out the water bade her refill the goblet. This she did, and offered it once more, but this time there were blades of grass on the surface of the water. Whereupon the Sultan grew wroth, and would have scolded her. But Marie, bold and yet respectful, observed that the spring water was cold as ice, and that if he had drunk of it while he was hot he might have fallen ill. In order to gain time she had resorted to the little stratagems that had provoked his displeasure, but now that there was no more danger she would bring him the cup filled with pure water.

Captivated by such considerate forethought, by the modest and yet dignified ways of the maiden, and by her surpassing beauty, the Sultan caused her father to be summoned, and asked for her hand, a request to which the father eagerly consented.

The Sultan named her Ghiul-Bahar—Spring-flower—and wedded her in Constantinople. Later on she became the mother of the Sultan's heir, and acquired great power and influence, which she used in favour of the Christians. But after a time she fell into disgrace, and retired with her son to Trebizond, where she lived the rest of her days, educating her child and enjoying all the dignities of a queen-mother. On her death her body was laid to rest in the mosque at Imaret.

The authenticity of this tale has been contested, but among the Christians the tradition is said to receive wide credence.

PASSPORTS FOR SALONIKA.

The Secretary of the War Office announces that all persons wishing to proceed to Salonika must have on their passports the *visa* of the Anglo-French Bureau de Contrôle at Athens. Travellers who fail to do so will not be allowed to land at Salonika. Persons wishing to proceed to Salonika from Great Britain must also obtain a permit from the Military Permit Office, 19, Bedford Square, and should apply for the permit at least sixteen days before the date of their proposed departure from the United Kingdom.

EGYPT'S NEW COINAGE.

Below we give reproductions (the first to be published) of the designs for the new Egyptian coinage, which were described in The Near East of June 9 last. The illustrations are the actual size of the coins:—

GOLD.

Obverse.

Reverse.

SILVER.

Obverse.

NICKEL.

Obverse of 10 & 5 Mill.

Obverse of 2 & 1 Mill.

BRONZE.

Obverse.

Reverse.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Balkans and the War.

The following paragraph is taken from a survey of the "Two Years of War" contributed by Professor A. F. Pollard to the *Daily Chronicle* (August 4):—

The Balkan campaign will probably appear to the future historian the climax of German success in the great war. It was rendered possible, not by the failure of our diplomacy, but by our military failure at the Dardanelles and the Russian retreat from the Vistula and the Bug. The work was not achieved, and probably could not have been achieved, by German and Austrian arms alone: the decisive factor was Bulgaria, whose desires fathered her conviction that the Central Empires were the winning horse. The Balkan dynasties (with the exception of the Serbian, the only native royal family in the peninsula) are very German in their realpolitik, and in their contempt for popular government; and Greece was nearly forced by the German field-marshal on its throne to follow the example of Bulgaria and join its secular enemies against its natural friends. The Allies' demands for the complete demobilisation of Greece indicates the seriousness of the situation. Greece was kept under arms throughout the winter and spring not, as events have shown, to defend Greek soil against Bulgarian invaders, but to take advantage of the Allies should they advance from Salonica. Rumania's foreign policy has, perhaps, been more skilful than that of any other country during this war. A greater Bulgaria at the disposal of the Central Empires would be fatal to Rumania's freedom; but, as things stood last autumn, she could not afford to intervene without courting the fate of Belgium. Intervention might have been magnificent, but it would have meant destruction rather than war.

Political Considerations.

In a second article (August 5) Professor Pollard emphasises the importance of the Russian campaign in Armenia from the political point of view, and touches on the Mesopotamia campaign also:—

Mr. Churchill has said that our expedition to Salonica was a political rather than a military demonstration; and the Russian campaign in Armenia may be of a similar character. Even Erzingan is five times farther from the Bosphorus than from the Russian frontier, and the conquest of Asia Minor is a lengthy and expensive method of achieving the purely military object of cancelling the Turkish contribution to the strength of our enemies' forces. The plan is the political one of settling the fate of Armenia and the southern coast of the Black Sea before Germany is defeated, instead of prolonging operations after the main issue is decided or leaving the question to the chances of argument at a Congress of Peace. The same may be said of the torrid zone of Mesopotamia, the fate of which should be determined by an autumn and winter campaign following on the Russian summer campaign in the cool highlands of Armenia. Politics and war cannot, however, be pursued in separate compartments, and these primarily political successes would have also a military value. The effect on the moral of the Central Empires and the Balkans would be considerable, and there would, further, be the military result that Turkey would be unable to render any assistance to her Bulgarian ally.

The Armenian campaign is thus improving the prospects in the Balkans by weakening the hostile forces which might be brought into the field, and by the impression it makes on Greek and Rumanian public opinion; and the offensive from Salonica is dependent upon these factors.

To Mislead Moslems.

Writing from Berne, Mr. Julian Grande gives in the *Daily Graphic* (August 2) some astonishing facts regarding Germany's propagandist activities in Moslem lands. After remarking that he is assured from a perfectly trustworthy source "that her budget for propaganda in Switzerland alone for the last two years has amounted to 2,000,000 marks, which does not surprise us," he proceeds:—

I have no means of knowing what she has expended upon propaganda in Mohammedan lands, but it must be also a considerable sum, for, according to one of our Egyptian fellow-subjects, Mr. Aly El-Ghaiaty, she has, to his certain knowledge, published and circulated in these countries seventy-two different pamphlets, and, of course, there may be others which he has not succeeded in discovering.

The pamphlets are published in a variety of languages, principally Turkish, Arabic, Persian, Tartar, Hindustani, Chinese, and modern Sanskrit. Some of these productions bear on their covers the statement that they were printed in Paris or London; but most ostensibly proceed from Zurich, Rio de Janeiro, or some neutral European capital. Some are illustrated, some actually printed on art paper, while in order the better to impress the Arabs and Persians in particular, the writers of pamphlets intended for them have blossomed forth into poetry.

As for the contents of these precious productions, they may be judged from some of their titles: "A Verdict on England," printed in Berlin; "British Atrocities," "Russian Cruelties," "French Lies," and "French Intrigues against Islam." The so-called Young Egyptians, or Egyptian Nationalists, who idle about the lake promenade in Geneva, and who are not, as a rule, true Egyptians at all, but Levantines and nondescripts generally, have, of course, been pressed into the service. If those for whom these pamphlets are destined could but see the individuals whom Germany has employed for their writing, they would scarcely be edified. Nowhere are these "Young Egyptians" looked upon with more contempt than in their headquarters, Geneva, where no serious newspaper will have anything to do either with them or with their silly resolutions.

The unfortunate thing is that those whom the pamphlets are designed to mislead cannot, as a rule, see their writers!

"Sufferings in Mesopotamia."

Under the above heading, *The Times* last Friday published "an impartial review of the question of the sick and wounded in Mesopotamia." The principal cause of avoidable suffering among the troops in Mesopotamia is, says the writer, the inadequacy of the transport service.

This could hardly have been worse, and although improvements are now being made, trustworthy information suggests that the difficulties can never be effectively overcome until railways have been constructed between Basra and the front. The Tigris is so tortuous, the current is so swift, and there is so great a difference in the level between flood tide and low water, that the river can never become a proper line of communication for large forces. Before a railway can be made it will be necessary to lay a causeway. It is understood that a scheme for such an undertaking has now been passed, but the decision comes late in the day and after an amount of suffering for which someone must be brought to account.

As to some of the complaints made, we read:—

It is quite true that too much importance should not be attached to some of the complaints which have come from Mesopotamia. Allowance must be made for the inevitable contrast between conditions in France—where the men are exceptionally well cared for—and conditions in a desert land. The standard of comfort achieved in France is impossible in Mesopotamia. Most of the men recognised this, and have borne hardships and suffering cheerfully. The loudest grumblers are generally those who have done the least and suffered the least. But the fact remains that if there had been sufficient ambulance transport by land and water the wounded could have been brought to Basra under decent conditions, and the troops would also have received their proper scale of rations.

Happily there is a change for the better in regard to the whole deplorable business:—

Recent reports show that with the help of the Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John the tangle is being gradually straightened out. The Joint Committee offered to help twelve months ago, but beyond being asked to supply two motor-boats they were not allowed to do anything. The change for the better began in the spring, and arrangements for dealing with the wounded in the battles of March and April were much in advance of those of the winter. The Joint Committee are now sending out thirty motor-boats for the conveyance of wounded men for a short distance on the river and to move hospital stores about. A river hospital boat—one of eight which are required—is also being provided. These hospital boats have to be specially built to suit the river. Failing the railway, they are essential. There is now a road between Basra and Amara which could be used for motor traffic in dry weather, but it is not always dry in Mesopotamia. In bad weather travelling by road becomes impossible because of the mud, which is agglutinous in its first stage and knee-deep and soft when the rains are heavy.

A Lesson for the Senussi.

In a short note on "Anglo-Italian Interests in Africa," the *Field*, of August 5, referring to the conclusion of an Anglo-Italian agreement regarding their interests in North Africa, says:—

The complete defeat of the force which invaded Western Egypt (on February 26) has been followed by shrewd blows against the Senussi tribesmen delivered by the Italians in Cyrenaica. No wonder that Sidi Ahmed, the Grand Sheikh of the Senussi, has been convinced that his short-lived alliance with the Turco-Germans was a mistake. There is abundant evidence to show that the Sheikh was only induced to enter into that alliance by the advent in Cyrenaica of Gaafer Pasha with a considerable number of men and munitions and a large store of treasure. The complete re-establishment of British and Italian control of the coast has now put an end to any prospect of further help from the Turks, and Sidi Ahmed has recently been in negotiation with General Ameglio, Governor of Cyrenaica and Tripoli, with the result that fighting has been suspended and an exchange of prisoners effected. Another result of the new attitude of the Senussi has been that the tribes in revolt in Tripoli, who are without political cohesion, have made overtures for peace. But to effect a lasting settlement of the question closer co-operation between Great Britain and Italy was essential, and this has been provided by the new agreement.

"Coming Events—"

On Monday *The Times* published an interesting article, headed "Tyranny of the Young Turks," from its correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula. The writer

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states that the movement against Enver and the C.U.P. is rapidly gaining strength in Constantinople. He goes on to say:—

The Old Turk Party has latterly been reinforced by the clandestine adhesion of many important persons, who, while openly professing loyalty to the policy of the Young Turks, secretly favour the cause of the Entente, and steadily aim at the overthrow of Enver and his partisans. Their resolve to put an end to the present *régime* has been quickened by the prospect of the approaching ruin of Turkey.

For the present Enver remains master of the situation, but his opponents are working as best they are able against him and his clique. It is especially interesting to learn that—

The Ulema, with the Sheik-ul-Islam, stand aloof from the Government. They are much excited at the Arab revolt, which they attribute to Enver's pro-German policy and anti-Islamic tendencies. They sympathise with the Grand Sherif, who, they hope, will proclaim himself Caliph and obtain the recognition of the Moslem world. Such action would probably lead to momentous events in Constantinople. The dissentions among Young Turk coteries have latterly become more pronounced.

Baron Schenk's Activities.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* of August 7 contained an article entitled "Baron Schenk," by Mr. Crawfurd Price. The writer gives a lively, but quite trustworthy, account of the notorious propagandist's activities in Athens, and shows how—to give the Devil his due—he has succeeded in influencing Greek opinion. That the Baron is clever none could deny; that he is engaged on the dirtiest of dirty work, and does not hesitate to employ the lowest means of carrying out his orders, is equally certain. Mr. Price concludes his article with some painful truths:—

Those who doubt the value of propaganda need only study what the Germans have accomplished in Greece by that agency. A positive "funk" of Teuton prowess, a dread of war, a blind confidence in the monarchy, a hatred of Venizelos, a revolt against the Entente Powers, a desire to live and suffer and be left alone—all these have been dinned into Hellenic ears day after day by 75 per cent. of the Press, until there has been wrought a gigantic, if superficial, transformation. The results are self-evident. Last summer the Central Theatre produced an Entento-Venizelist revue; this season it stages the same framework, filled in with Germanophile tableaux and patter. A year ago the Bulgarian occupation of Rupel would have set the Greek nation aflame, but yesterday it was received with nothing more than a dull exhibition of painful discontent.

It is beside the point to suggest that we cannot stoop to similar methods. We are fighting a determined and unscrupulous foe, and just as we had to follow the German lead in the use of poison gas (a much more repulsive weapon), so we need not hesitate to copy the Teuton in the handling of public opinion. But half-hearted mediocrity will avail nothing. We have need in Athens of a Baron Schenk: a cleaner Schenk, if you like, but nevertheless one capable of pitting his tact, initiative, and organising ability against this clever by-product of Prussian militarism.

Concerning Armenia.

M. Dikran Kouyoumdjian contributes to the *New Age* (August 3) an article entitled "An Appeal to Sense," which is well worth reading. He points out, very truly, that—

Most of the sentimentalising about Armenia has been done by friends, and not by Armenians. For much of it an Armenian is grateful; for much of it, if he counts himself a man like other men, as well as an Armenian, he is not grateful. Most of the articles, pamphlets, and books I read of my countrymen seem to encourage the casual person to think of the Armenian as something like a beggar, with torn and tattered clothing, his eyes red with weeping, his hands stretched out supplicating every passer-by, a weak, helpless creature, without nationality, without self-respect. A little of this is true: an Armenian in Armenia is a symbol and a warning to all nations of the curse of nationality. Much of it, if not untrue, is perverted truth. In the wash of thoughtless sentimentality the casual person is allowed no other idea of the Armenian than that of the supplicating beggar; he scarcely knows what the Armenian is, and certainly does not know what he was, and soon he will be so bored with what he has been told that he really will not care. Therefore, it would be well to try and dispel a little of his ignorance, and to blow away the chaff of sentimentality, which is hysteria, from the grain of pity, which is human.

Unfortunately, lack of space prevents our attempting to do justice to the writer's attempts to "dispel a little of the casual person's ignorance." Much that he writes cannot fail to be painful reading for anyone who sympathises with the Armenian, but it is all more to the point than much that is written on the subject. Mr. Kouyoumdjian concludes:—

Armenia has had to contribute her share to the world's civilisation in scattered bits, as each Armenian settled in a different country, giving as well as he could and can to the collective progress what he has learned from centuries spent in such a country as his, and what he has learned after his short stay in the country of his adoption. For, after many centuries of ministering at the feet of history, the Armenian's greatest curse at the past is the lack of common sense, and his greatest claim on the future is an abundance of common sense. And if, as I hope at some future date, a generous Power, which has got more than it wants, makes a gift of Armenia to the Armenians—and a gift so long delayed can be given in no other spirit than "There, take your beastly country; I don't want it"—the Armenians should, by their long experience of watching and learning from the ebb and tide of the fortunes of whatever countries they have settled in, make a very good thing out of their own.

Students of War.

The services which professors and archæologists are rendering to the Allied cause, especially in the Near East, have been referred to on several occasions in our columns. All that we have said on the subject is amply borne out in an article in *The Times* (August 2), contributed by a correspondent in the Ægean, and headed "En Peau de Loup: Professors as Cattle-Lifters." The writer gives some most amusing examples of the learned ones' achievements in walks of life that must be distinctly strange to them. Apparently many of them have taken to a life of adventure as readily as a spaniel takes to the water; and clearly they are all "doing their bit" in a truly admirable way. Says the writer, after sketching the style of life of the conventional professor up to the outbreak of the war:—

Then very curious things happened, and the mortality among preconceived opinions and generally accepted theories was almost as heavy as among the Germans at Verdun—so nobody was really surprised and the Navy and the Army were almost ready to be polite when Professors with a following of Masters of Arts began to appear—chiefly in the Eastern Mediterranean—as interpreters or intelligence officers. Of course they were only Professors or Masters and not quite human, but many of them had been there before and spoke the languages of the local Turks and Dagoes. Presently it became obvious that the Professors were not above cocktails and knew some funny stories. Mess committees are now known to have been grateful to strange temporary R.N.V.R officers, subject to seasickness, for the introduction of little-known but pleasant and inexpensive wines, and even admirals and generals began to realise that the bearded and bespectacled scholars, who, if not checked in time, would dilate upon incidents of local politics which had happened two or three thousand years before, were also capable of examining current reports from agents in enemy countries, and dealing with the minor emergencies of a polyglot War.

These suddenly uprooted scholars, we are told, do not lack episode and variety in their share of the strife:—

Think of the pleasure of the poor scholar—a mere child in the affairs of this world—who by patient argument in three languages obtained for £16 a receipt in full from an avaricious Greek who sought 16,000 drachmæ of compensation for damage done to him by a British ship. Picture the delight of that other archæologist—a blind-alley occupation tending to warp the intellect—who became famous for his consistent firmness in a very difficult administrative post when he infuriated a local Orthodox prelate (by the constant detection and frustration of archiepiscopal swindles) into threatening a British admiral with being reported as a persecutor of the Church to—the Archbishop of Canterbury.

After referring to "that other professor, who for months interpreted the oracles of the Athenian Press for the benefit of our forces in Salonika, and found that the pure fount of prophecy is defiled in the very shadow of the Parthenon by barbarian gold in a manner quite unknown to the Pythia of Delphi," and who, "later, wrestled with the innate Byzantinism of the modern Hellene," the writer presents us with one more picture from the life:—

Lastly we come to an absolute triumph of atavism in the shape of a professor of archæology who turns from the rapt contemplation of a Mycenæan pattern on a modern island water-jar to maintain the diplomatic equilibrium with an ally or perpetrate one of those cattle-lifting expeditions against the coast of Anatolia which have alike made his name famous as the Black Beard of the Ægean and provided H.M. ships with many a welcome head of stolen cow or sheep. This modern border scourge, who was once a model Proctor of Oxford University, has developed under the fierce heat of War into a trusted leader of Komitadjis, who by his atavistic prowess, inherited probably from Galloway or Northumbria moss-troopers, has stopped many thousand Turkish beasts from being sent to Berlin for German consumption by the simple process of capturing them for the benefit of our own people.

Articles to Note.

"Photographed from an Aeroplane: Soldiers' Gardens Round Salonica," in the *Field* (August 5).

"The Sultan and the Khalifate" (Letter to the Editor from Mr. W. B. Stevenson), in the *Nation* (August 5).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

I hear from Bucharest that the Banca Romanesca has done exceedingly well recently. When it increased its capital to 60,000,000 lei the other day, the sum asked for was subscribed three times over. The bank has just bought the Austrian interest in Fernic's Chantier Navale, and has also acquired land near the river at Braila, where it is intended to erect works for lighter-building. It is even said that the Société Maritime Roumain Fleet will be taken over, as well as that of the Navigation Fluviale. Flour mills, a macaroni factory, and a tannery at Constantza are also spoken of. Capitalists have a great deal of money at their disposal just now, as a lot of money has entered the country and very little has left. The shares of the bank, by the way, reached the level of 790 francs during the boom in June. Recently there has been a deal of profit-taking, however, and the price a few weeks ago stood at about 650 francs. Another indication of the prosperity of the bank is that the new 500-franc shares were issued at 600 francs.

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There is more to be said about the neglect of British interests in the Balkan States, particularly in Roumania, where the French are as guilty in this respect as we are. Reports that reach me go to show that we spend too much time in mere talk, while the Huns are busy in more practical ways. The Germans even now are flooding the country with their goods, and unless prompt steps are taken it will be too late to recover lost ground "after the war." The Germans have initiated a regular campaign to monopolise trade in many directions, and, I am told, are assisted very whole-heartedly by the Jews, whose sympathies are almost without exception entirely German. I am told that our friends in the Balkans are desperately grieved at our neglect, and it is time that the Board of Trade and the Foreign Office threw themselves into the fray. The commercial situation out there is dangerous, and the time to act is now.

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The German trade campaign overseas, even now, is strenuous and unceasing. "Our merchants, principals and employees, unable to return home, have settled in American ports, *where they are making themselves as useful as possible*," a well-known German paper wrote a few days ago. "China, the United States, and South America are the principal fields of their new commercial activities. They have succeeded with remarkable skill in adapting themselves to their new conditions. German firms in South America, after the cessation of the arrival of German goods, are working for native firms or for account of neutral firms. England's attempts to prevent this have been mostly ineffective. The organisation of German trade overseas stands as firmly as ever, and the German business world abroad looks with all confidence to the period after the war." Ask honest men in Greece and Roumania, and they will tell the same story.

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I should like to invite attention to a special article that appears in this issue of THE NEAR EAST, in which British trade in Mesopotamia is reviewed. The writer has spent the best part of a long life in Baghdad, and knows his subject as thoroughly as a man could. His reference to the great services rendered to the British cause by the merchants of Baghdad opens up the question as to what has become of the businesses they developed with much strenuous effort and unflagging energy, often in the teeth of obstruction and corrupt practices on the part of the Turkish officials. I am afraid that our friends, a number of whom are interned in various Turkish towns, have suffered much loss, and I think the point ought to be represented to the Government concerned in the matter—the British, I presume. Mr. Bonar Law is the man to deal with this very deserving question, and there ought to be sufficient influence somewhere to induce him to take it into consideration.

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In connection with my recent comments on the report of the North-German Lloyd, which was issued some weeks ago in Hamburg, it is interesting to note that the Austrian Lloyd and its daughter company, the Austro-Americana, held their annual meetings of shareholders at Trieste towards the end of July, and show a combined loss for the year 1915 of 16 million kronen (about £650,000). It is doubtful if the companies will ever recover from the shock—nor is it necessary that they should, considering that both are controlled by the German shipping combine (N.D.L. and Hamburg-Amerika), and are subservient in the matter of policy. The inner history of how the Ballin—*i.e.*, Prussian shipping—group obtained control of the Austrian steamship lines is one of the most flagrant instances on record of Hunnish bribery, corruption, and illegal financial and political manipulation. The national interests of Austria, both as regards shipping and emigration, were openly flouted by the Prussians and their paid tools in Vienna; besides, in all "pool" questions the Austrian Lloyd was compelled to play Ballin's shady games, as proof of which the C.P.R. persecution three years ago can be taken as a striking example. This reminds me of a subject that has not yet been seriously discussed in shipping circles—namely, the future of that ignoble German "pool" to which we had in many cases to submit.

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The "pool," as it existed in pre-war days, must not be permitted to be resumed after the war. If there is to be any dictation at all, it must emanate from the Grand Alliance, and the share allotted to Germany must be as a crumb falling from the rich man's table. Let us not forget this—as for the Austrian Lloyd, let it work out its own salvation as a tool in Ballin's wasted hand, or as an independent company dependent on our good-will. Certainly it should never be allowed to re-acquire in the Eastern Mediterranean that privileged position which enabled it to convey to and from Egypt yearly, viâ Trieste, many of our most prominent Anglo-Egyptian officials, including Lord Kitchener and, I believe, Sir Reginald Wingate. This honour must in future be reserved for British (or Allied) ships, and if the shortest route home from Alexandria continues viâ Trieste (it may be diverted to the Piræus), I hope some British company will command it, even at a temporary financial sacrifice.

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I do not think that sufficient notice has been taken of the fact that at least one-third of the Egyptian cotton crop has in previous years been handled by enemy firms, backed by German financial concerns. These firms, such as Lindemann, for instance, have been, or are being, wound up under official supervision, thus creating a void which will have to be filled up somehow or other. It is true that a number of Greek firms have sprung up to replace the late unlamented, but neither are they in a financial position to handle the crop satisfactorily, nor is it to our advantage that the greatest of all Egypt's trade assets should continue in foreign hands. Not that any serious objection can be taken to Greek participation in moving the crop, except that it is easier for Germany and Austria to be supplied through a neutral Greece with the cotton they may require—to British, particularly Lancashire, loss — than through a British firm. If we are to maintain and consolidate our cotton industry, we must command the handling of the entire Egyptian crop and be in a position to dispose of it according to our liking. Any other procedure on our part would be contrary to the spirit of the Paris Trade Conference. And it can only be done by the promotion of British companies, with sufficient financial backing, to move that part of the crop hitherto in enemy handling.

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Moreover, the crop is not a stationary one. It increases, if not steadily at least progressively, decade after decade, and as it does, so must its handling by British firms increase. After the war, and when the industrial situation becomes normal again, the world's demand for cotton goods will augment considerably. This will be to our advantage if we take the necessary steps now to prevent the Huns from importing Egyptian cotton *ad libitum*. The long staple of the Egyptian boll is vital to many branches of the cotton industry, and if we wish to control the latter we must control the handling of the raw material. This will entail, let me assure my readers, no sacrifice on our part. The investment is a sound one, otherwise, surely, the astute Greek merchant would not jump at the opportunity thrown at him by the wise liquidation of enemy cotton brokers.

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While on the subject of Egyptian cotton, I cannot refrain from referring to a message sent to his paper by the Cairo correspondent of *The Times*, to the effect that the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works is studying a project destined to give a free flow of water to certain districts in Lower Egypt where at present lifting engines are indispensable. The idea is to fit movable gates to existing dams, and the result will be not only a saving of expense in coal to landowners of £1,500,000 per annum, but an enhancement in the value of their land. If, as is to be presumed, the enhancement in value is based on productiveness of the soil and not merely on speculation, it means an increase in the output, or, in other words, a larger crop. I hope that it will be so.

COMMENTATOR.

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Romance of British Trade in Mesopotamia.

All eyes have turned recently to the vast territories at the head of the Persian Gulf beyond the waterway of the Shatt-el-Arab, which for some all-British reason we have dubbed Mesopotamia. The area between Busreh and Baghdad is not Mesopotamia as a matter of fact; but the name may serve for the present.

The British commercial exploitation began with a concession granted by the Ottoman Government to the British Government—strictly speaking, the result of the Euphrates expedition. Under it the old Indian Navy maintained two gunboats on the Euphrates rivers, which term embraced the Euphrates and Tigris, although mention of the Tigris was for some reason omitted, and navigation was permitted to these British vessels as far up as Baghdad. Between 1840 and 1850 Lieutenant Henry Blosse Lynch, an officer in the Indian Navy, who had taken part in Chesney's Euphrates expedition (in 1836-37), induced his two younger brothers to proceed to Baghdad, and there to open up trade. Mr. (afterwards Sir William) Mackinnon, the founder of the British India Steam Navigation Company, inaugurated an occasional steamer service between Bombay and Bushire, which was later extended to Busreh; but there were no direct sailings to or from Europe, and when Mr. Thomas Kerr Lynch first went to Baghdad the little trade that was done directly with India was carried on by means of native sailing craft.

First British Steamers.

When Messrs. Lynch began work at Baghdad they imported their merchandise from England by the old "windjammer" route viâ the Cape. There were two arrivals a year on the average, and each vessel was met at Busreh, where all her cargo was transhipped into country craft, and, when all was ready, a long winding procession set out on the journey up-stream to the City of the Khalifs. Changes were made in course of time; as trade improved, efforts had to be made to cope with its growing volume, and so it came about that the concession which had been enjoyed for so many years by the British Government was transferred to Messrs. Lynch Brothers, and this was the beginning of the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company, a shipping concern only less well-known than their more powerful friends, the British India S.N. Co. Since the war with Turkey began the vessels of this company have rendered great service to the Military Transport Department in the carrying of troops and munitions of war and other stores.

The first British steamer to run on the Tigris was the City of London, a little vessel capable of carrying about 120 tons of cargo. She was followed by the Dijleh, a slightly larger vessel, and for some years these steamers were able to cope with all the trade that offered, which, by the way, was shared by Turkish Government vessels on the rivers. The Dijleh was mysteriously wrecked near Bagdadieh, a small river village not far from Azizieh, which town, it will be remembered, British troops occupied early in the Mesopotamia campaign. The Blosse Lynch and the Khalifah, the former capable of carrying from 200 to 250 tons and the latter a little more, followed each other in quick succession, and shortly afterwards the City of London, which had, in the meantime, been chartered by the Indian Government as a consular despatch boat, was lost while under the command of an officer of the Royal Indian Marine. The next vessel to make her appearance was the Mejidieh, the largest steamer yet placed on the river, with a cargo capacity of about 350 tons.

In about 1884 the relations between the British and Ottoman Governments underwent a change, and one of the results of this was the pretended discovery by the wily Turks that something was wrong with the concession under which British river trade had been permitted to develop. They declared that it was not of the character of a *firman*, and it did not mention specifically that the river Tigris was made free to British navigation. At the same time the document allowed for the sailing of the vessels up to Baghdad, and, since it was obviously impossible for them to proceed to that city across country, the free passage of the Tigris was fairly and reasonably assumed, and for a large number of years had been permitted without protest. The local authorities professed not to take this view, however, and caused the sailings of the vessels to be suspended for some weeks. Eventually, the authorities at Constantinople allowed themselves to be persuaded that the British reading of the concession was right, and that the provincial authorities in Baghdad were wrong. There is no reason to doubt that this temporary trouble was engineered in Baghdad without reference to the supreme Government at Constantinople. And it can be explained easily. While the better class of natives, including the merchants, recognised the advantages which the population of the entire country were deriving from a well-regulated steamer service, the rabble clamoured vehemently and incessantly for its discontinuance. They were incited to this by the Moolah class, always influential, who in their turn were "influenced" by the local representatives of other foreign countries intensely jealous of the exclusive British privilege of trade and navigation on the river.

Old-time Prestige.

Before this occurrence there had been very little trouble with the Turkish Government in Mesopotamia. So far back as the year 1800 the word of the British Consul-General had been supreme. His wishes were consulted, his counsel was sought, and if the British Government of that and succeeding times had utilised all the opportunities that were presented the British name and position would have been placed on a level of unassailable security. We complain of official apathy in these days, and with very good reason; but apathy would appear to be a chronic British malady. Very many of the opportunities which our forbears in trade-making had worked so strenuously to develop were regarded by the official mind as being of little account, and it was left largely to chance, and to the enterprise of private individuals, to make good in their own way. We may be thankful that their way was sound.

It was not so with our rivals, however. No opportunity was allowed to pass. Not only did they realise what the vast possibilities for profitable trade were, but they adopted the same pushful methods which we know so well to-day—methods which we abuse with one breath and yearn for with the next. Consulates were established in Baghdad, propaganda work was begun—not only to push their own interests, but also to undermine the British position. Intrigue was initiated, and gained strength as the years went on; and there is reason to believe that the troubles of 1884 really began in this movement. It is certain that the predominance enjoyed by the Germans in more recent times had its beginning then, the early apostles of "kultur" in the East being loyally and ably supported by their friends and brethren in Europe. Which is a reason why, when the war is over, and we have cleared away all the international debris which now hampers our path, we must not allow the same thing to happen again. Since 1884 there has been steady deterioration in Anglo-Turkish relations, which has shown itself progressively in the imposition of petty restrictions and annoying regulations, obviously framed for the purpose of causing trouble and creating difficulties. The influence of our consular officers has declined steadily, and this unhappy loss of prestige has culminated in the German, temporarily at any rate, coming out on top with the Turk.

When the river steamers were again permitted to run trade increased rapidly. The Baghdad route had by this time become the principal one for trade into Persia. Direct lines of steamers from Europe had been established, the first vessel to make the round passage being the Mesopotamia, a steamer of about 1,500 tons, owned by Messrs. Lynch Brothers. She made the first trip in about 1870, and continued to trade regularly between London and Busreh until she was wrecked off the coast of Portugal in 1878. The British India Company, which had a fortnightly, afterwards turned into a weekly, service between Bombay and Busreh, had also started a monthly service between London and the Gulf; and the Persian Gulf Steamship Company, controlled by Messrs. Jones, Price and Co., was running regular boats to the United Kingdom. Then came the Anglo-Arabian Steamship Company, which was controlled by Messrs. F. C. Strick and Co.

The trade with Baghdad increased by leaps and bounds with the more frequent arrivals at Busreh of ships from Europe, and it soon became impossible for the two Lynch boats on the river to deal with all the cargo. Large accumulations of merchandise were held up at Busreh for want of carrying capacity, and the situation became so serious for British shippers that at length our Foreign Office actually moved, and obtained for the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company further concessions, which permitted them, first, to run a third steamer in case of need, and, second, to tow barges laden with cargo. Meanwhile, other ocean steamer lines had entered the Busreh trade. Steamers of the Bombay and Persian Line from Bombay ran in opposition to the British India Company. The Clan Line came, but did not stay long. The Persian Gulf Steamship Company disappeared, and was succeeded by the well-known Bucknall Line. Then the Russians put on a service from Odessa, and they were followed by the German Hamburg-Amerika Line from European Continental ports—a line inaugurated under German auspices with the evident object of creating a trade between the Persian Gulf and Germany.

Sixty Years of Trade.

Here we have the rise and development of British maritime trade with Busreh and Baghdad. In the year 1850 it amounted practically to nothing. A few native sailing craft occasionally found their way from India to Busreh laden with country produce, returning with cargoes of dates in baskets. In the year 1913 the exports, as set out in a British Consular report, were:—

> 2,161,339 packages of dates, 44,392 bales of wool, 36,521 bundles of liquorice, 725,380 cwt. of barley, 1,358 bales of carpets, 63,740 cwt. of paddy, 75,980 cwt. of seeds. The wheat crop in 1913 was a failure, and it would be misleading to give the export figures, but in 1912 the exports of wheat amounted to 373,928 cwt. The total value of exports in 1913 was £1,939,259, and of the imports £3,899,273.

A fair tale of success in sixty years, achieved, let it be remembered, not by means of the great British official system, but despite the neglect and indifference of the British authorities, who should have fostered it. It might have been expected that, seeing the enterprise of the pioneers of British trade, our own Government would have extended a helping hand; but that appeared to be beneath their notice, and as the Turks continued to place obstacles in the way of our people, the full measure of success which might have been ours was not achieved. In spite of these severe handicaps, however, our trade expanded very considerably, the difference being that we got the lion's share instead of the whole of it.

Throughout this little history mention has been made only of the shipping companies interested, but it must not be forgotten that many other British merchants have spent years in Mesopotamia pushing British trade, and without their assistance these results could not have been achieved. Here are the names of some of them:—Messrs. Gray, Mackenzie and Co., Messrs. Blockey, Cree and Co., Messrs. Darby, Andrews and Co.

We must leave the country at this point. Let us hope that very soon another *régime* will be established—a *régime* which has never failed to bring peace, plenty, and prosperity to the peoples that have been brought under its influence. The British flag flies over Busreh now; the entire district is being administered by the civil departments of the Government of India; whatever trade there is passes through the British Customs House; oppression and evil have disappeared. What to-morrow holds for us we know not; only let us pray that it will not see the making of another huge mistake, which the abandonment of Mesopotamia, the land of the blessed name, would certainly be.

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LEGAL AFFAIRS IN EGYPT.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

In the Note by the Procureur-General on the Mixed Courts in Egypt for 1915-16, as in previous years, attention is paid to the memorandum drawn up by the Import Trade Association on the question of bankruptcies and compositions. Once again the association lays stress on the advisability of giving publicity to the noting of accepted bills, and the Procureur-General endorses its view. But while the association thinks that this publicity could be obtained by a daily posting up of the protests in the Courts and the publication of details in the newspaper in which legal notices are officially inserted, M. Eeman considers that the object would be attained by the establishment in the office of the Commercial Court of a register which would be accessible for reference by all and sundry and by the publication of a periodical "List of Protests" which would be officially issued to subscribers.

With regard to the question of the deposit of £E12 required by the Courts for the issue of a bankruptcy summons which the association formerly wanted abolished and which it now asks shall be reduced, the Procureur adheres to his opinion that the amount is reasonable. He points out that this sum was fixed because it represents the average of the fees that have to be incurred in the preliminaries for bankruptcy proceedings, and that it is merely a deposit intended to guarantee the payment of those fees.

This deposit is destined to prevent useless proceedings in bankruptcy, as, for instance, in cases where it is evident that there are no assets. There is no object in starting such proceedings if the estate cannot find the amount required by the Courts to be deposited; and as for the small debtors who, it is alleged, would be saved from the threat of bankruptcy proceedings unless the amount of the deposit were reduced, M. Eeman remarks that the remedy is in the hands of the trade. Let the merchants stop supplying goods to this category of buyer and the latter will disappear of its own accord.

As regards the question of extending the system of bankruptcy to civil as well as commercial debtors, the Procureur gives it as his personal opinion that there is no reason to differentiate between these two classes of debtors. "It is, however, for the Legislature of the future to deal with this question," but he gives no hint as to whether the Commission at present sitting will consider this suggestion.

Very interesting is the point raised by the Association with regard to compositions. It appears that very often the majority of creditors which approves of a composition is artificial. In many instances these majorities are obtained through the intervention of relatives of the debtor, who have agreed to accept any proposals that are made, or even of third parties or friends of the debtor, who have bought the rights of certain of the creditors on terms no doubt far more favourable to the latter than those offered to the mass, and who take the place of those creditors, when it comes to voting for a composition, and are able to get proposals passed which would not be accepted without their intervention.

Surprise is expressed by the Procureur that this proceeding goes on to such a great extent as is stated by the Association, but the writer of this review can affirm that such, or very similar procedure, is followed as a matter of course by some of the reputedly most respectable houses in the country. It seems that in other countries the same devices are resorted to, for in Italy a law was introduced in 1903 excluding from voting on a composition all creditors related to the debtor up to the fourth degree, all persons who, during the year in which the composition is proposed, acquire claims to the estate, and all assignees of claims who have acquired their rights since the summoning of the creditors.

The Procureur agrees that these devices, besides being fraudulent, are calculated to render nugatory all the precautions taken by the law for ensuring the *bona fides* of all compositions, and he considers that the enacting of a law similar to that of Italy is necessary. The Adviser, in his comments on this, says that it would be advisable to deal with these devices "whenever general legislation in such matters becomes practicable, as in a new law of bankruptcy."

TRADERS' BLACK LIST.

Restrictions Removed.

The following firms have been granted licences to trade without special restrictions in place of the restricted licences granted to them:—The Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Co., Ltd., 8, Sharia Bank el Watani Cairo; Fred O. H. and Co., 3, Rue Pirona, Alexandria.

Upper Egypt Irrigation.

The Receiver of the Upper Egypt Irrigation Co. (in liquidation), in the *Journal Officiel* of Egypt, calls for the presentation of all claims and demands against the concern.

FAILURES IN EGYPT.

The failures of the following firms were notified between May 26, 1916, and June 28, 1916:—

P. Plunkett, dealer in Manchester goods, Ataba-el-Khadra, Cairo; Tohani Hassanein Adaoui, dealer in Manchester goods, Assiout; Aron Frangi, tobacco merchant, Beni-Souef; Mahmoud Farakat, coal merchant, Cairo; Raphael de Picciotto and Co., dealers in Manchester goods, Jardin Rosette, Cairo; Mohamed Hassan Yaktin, dealer in Manchester goods, Behera, Chibrikhit; Mahmoud el Tawil, dealer in Manchester goods, Mehalla-el-Kobra, Gharbieh; Mohamed el Hawari, dealer in Manchester goods, Kafr-el-Chaikh, Gharbieh; Moghazi-el-Haddad, ex cotton merchant, Saidioun (district of Fouah); Mourai Youssef Zeid, dealer in Manchester goods, Dekerness.

NO HASHISH FOR EGYPT.

As the punishments provided under the Egyptian Customs Code for contravention of the law prohibiting the importation into Egypt and the possession of hashish do not appear to be a sufficient deterrent, a proclamation under martial law has been published over the signature of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief notifying that enhanced penalties may be inflicted, on conviction, as follows:—Fine £E1,000 or five years' imprisonment, with or without hard labour, or both.

Persons convicted of inducing soldiers or sailors to import hashish, or of assisting in the importation, or of being in possession, will be liable to the same penalties.

Fifteen days from July 7 were allowed for the handing over of whatever quantities of the drug "in the possession of any person."

THE SUDAN AND ERYTHRÆA.

It is announced by the Foreign Office that the Italian Government denounced on July 2 last the Customs Convention of November 26, 1901, between the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Erythræa. The Convention will, accordingly, lapse on January 2 next.

Besides providing for reciprocal most-favoured-nation treatment in respect of imports into the one from the other country, the Convention stipulated that natural products of either country shall be imported into the other at a rate of duty not exceeding 5 per cent. *ad valorem*. Such goods, however, when in transit from Erythræa through the Sudan to Egypt, are required, on entering Egypt, to pay the difference between 5 per cent. and the duty leviable under the Egyptian tariff.

BOLL WORM PEST.

Mr. Gerald C. Dudgeon has had his paper on the boll worm in Egypt reprinted from the Transactions of the Third International Congress of Tropical Agriculture, in pamphlet form. Previous to 1911 the name boll worm was used in Egypt exclusively in application to one species (Earias insulana, Boisd.), but in the year named a new pest appeared which resembled the other in its depredations upon cotton bolls, and to which the name "pink boll worm" has been applied to distinguish it. Owing to the points of difference between the two species being somewhat marked it is necessary to refer to each separately, and Mr. Dudgeon's essay deals only with the common boll worm (E. insulana, Boisd.). He proposes to give an account of the pink boll worm (Gelechia gossypiella, Saund.) later on.

The Army Finance Department, Cairo, invite tenders for the supply of fourteen tons of candles to be delivered c.i.f., Alexandria or Port Said. Date, September 5, 1916.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nicosia, July 22.

The parching heat wave has seriously damaged grapes in the vine areas, as well as other fruits. The locust bean crop has also been adversely affected in many parts. The pods are gathered in August.

The course of instruction in elementary agriculture for village schoolmasters will be given here and at Limassol between August 6-27. Teachers who present themselves will have an opportunity of attending courses in various other subjects.

Somewhat gloomy forebodings appear in the Native Press in respect of the supplies which this year's cereal harvest will yield, and Government is again being urged to provide relief work for the unemployed and for those more or less in distress owing to the continued effects of the war on local industries. Work on roads and harbours is specially advocated.

Mr. Cecil Hay, who has for so many years been agent of the Eastern and Colonial Association in Cyprus, is looking after the interests of the Perapedhi Wine Association during the absence of Mr. Chaplin.

BULGAR EXPLOITATION OF SERBIA.

The Bulgars lost little time in beginning their exploitation of Serbia's mineral and forest resources. Such information as we possess is gathered from Bulgarian papers, from which we are able to quote as follows:

Dnevnik:—

Gold washings from the river Veresnica, in the county of Pasharevatz, are yielding good results. Our State will draw a good profit from them. (June 19, 1916.)

Utro:—

In the Morava valley there are good mines which were not properly exploited under the Serbian Government. At the present moment copper, gold, and coal mines are being worked with good results. The mines in Majdanpek, Bor, Leskovatz, Radovishte, etc., have been reorganised. (June 20, 1916.)

The Ministry for Agriculture has ordered the inspectors of woods and forests in Chupria and Zanj to supervise the exploitation of the forests in the Bukovik Mountain.

HOW GERMANY LIVES.

We take the following points from a report submitted to the Washington Government by the United States Consul-General in Berlin:

The problem of obtaining lubricating oil has been partially solved by supplies becoming available in Galicia and the Balkans.

Express trains running through Breslau kept open an avenue of trade with the Near East. Roumanian grain and petroleum were imported through Austria-Hungary with little difficulty.

Small supplies of copper are being imported from Turkey and the Balkans.

Among the buyers who attended the Leipzig Fair in 1915 were fifty from the Balkan States.

The *Erzgebirgischer Volksfreund*, published in Schneeberg, Saxony, says:—"According to a report from Braunau, in Bohemia, the cotton-spinning mill of Benedit Schrolls Sohn, located in Halbstadt, has discovered a method of using the fibres of nettles and hops as a substitute for American or Egyptian cotton, and the firm A. Schlesinger has used these fibres with marked success in the production of textile yarns."

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Years 10 Old
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Soft, Mellow, Old Pot Still Scotch Whisky.
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PRODUCE REPORT.

London, August 10.

Currants.

The market has been quiet this week, with very little business done at late rates. Quotations for new crop are very high, and, so far, no business has been reported. The stocks of currants in London on July 31 were 3,701 tons, against 4,239 tons the same period last year. There is, apparently, a poor selection which does not encourage buyers, and trade, thus, is restricted.

Sultanas.

The demand continues on a small scale, good quality Afghanistan fruit being in preference. The stocks of sultanas of all kinds in London on July 31 were 2,949 tons, against 2,396 tons the same period last year.

Figs and Dates.

Both these kinds are quiet, but prices are well maintained.

Seeds.

Linseed has been rather slow of sale, but is steadily held. London-Calcutta, spot, afloat, and July-August, 76s.; August-September, 76s. 6d., and September-October, 77s. Bombay to London, small grain, August-September, 76s. 3d., and September-December, 77s. sellers. Bombay to Hull firm, spot, 77s. 6d. Rapeseed is quiet and unchanged. Cottonseed is quiet but steady; Egyptian to London, September, £12 12s. 6d., and October, £12 5s.; Egyptian to Hull inactive, spot and prompt quoted £12 10s. Bombay to Hull, spot, and July-August offered at £12.

Oils.

Linseed oil is dull and easier. Spot pipes are quoted £36 15s.; spot, barrels, £37 5s.; August, £37 7s. 6d.; September-December, £38 10s., and January-April, £39 10s. Rape-oil is steady, ordinary brown naked, spot, remaining nominal. English refined, in barrels, £48 to £50. Cotton-oil is quiet. Crude, pipes, spot, £38 15s.; refined, pale, pipes, £44, and sweet, barrels, £52 to £54 as to make. Soya oil, Japan, is quoted August-September, £37 10s. Olive oil has been very firm recently, and spot is quoted at £59 to £60 per ton for good Spanish and Levant.

Miscellaneous.

Sulphate of copper has been quiet recently, quotations for spot being £50, f.o.b. Greek cream of tartar scarce. Quotations for firsts, £198 6s. Beeswax in good demand, but scarce; East Indian yellow, £6 to £6 10s., and white £8 12s. 6d. to £8 15s.

An agreement is reported between the Roumanian Export Committee and representatives of the Central Powers in regard to the purchase of brewing barley and peas from this year's harvest. About 2,000 railway wagons of peas and 6,000 wagons of barley are at the disposal of the committee.

THE PROBLEM OF RAW MATERIALS.

Mr. R. B. Stoker, president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, made some interesting observations in his recent presidential address, regarding the attitude of Germans towards us after the war. Last week, it will be recalled, we discussed the relations that ought, in our view, to exist between manufacturers in this country and British producers of raw material in our Oversea Dominions. This is what Mr. Stoker says:—

So far as was possible—and with considerable success—German cunning has been devoted to "having it both ways"; to obtaining on the most favourable terms such foreign raw materials as were indispensable; to procuring access on favoured terms to the foreign markets in which German goods have been sold; and to excluding from the German market competing manufactures, and in particular such as have been manufactured most fully. The war gives no evidence that the German disposition has changed, and so far as may be divined the attitude towards British goods after the war will simply be one of an increased virulence.

A Reuter telegram from The Hague, dated August 10, states:—"The Turkish Legation here contradicts the reports of the alleged negotiations with the former American Ambassador in Constantinople, Mr. Morganthau, regarding the sale of Palestine to the Zionists."

Prominent Industries of India

The Announcements below are published to acquaint our readers with the opportunity India affords the keen purchaser.

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Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
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Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
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OUR TRADE PROBLEMS.

British Contempt for Trade Opportunities in Near East.

Attention has frequently been drawn in this journal to the defective consular system employed by Great Britain as compared with other foreign Governments. It is not suggested for a moment that all the fault is to be laid at the charge of the Consuls who, probably, are as devoted to the success of British commerce and the safeguarding of British interests as anybody—except the traders and manufacturers who are not kept posted systematically regarding opportunities for trade that arise, and which, in the absence of the Briton, pass to foreign rivals. But if the Consuls are not to be blamed for the loss of trade, obviously somebody should be, and we suggest that one or more of the Committees which are "sitting" to devise a new "after-the-war" campaign should lose no time in hatching a scheme for the remedying of this grave defect in our commercial system.

American Methods.

Probably the series of daily consular and trade reports which are issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at the Department of Commerce of the Government of the United States are too well-known to require lengthy description, but we should like to draw attention to the thoroughgoing character of these useful documents. Apart from the mass of world-wide information contained in the reports, all of value and interest to the manufacturer, there is a section, printed unostentatiously at the back, which keeps the American manufacturer completely informed regarding new trade openings in every country in which there is an American consular representative—and where is there not one? As a matter of interest, we reprint some items from the list of "Foreign Trade Opportunities" to be found in recent issues of the reports. Here they are :—

OSIER, RATTAN, SEEDS, ETC.—A flower merchant and manufacturer of wicker goods in Greece requests an American Consular officer to furnish him with the names and addresses of American exporters of osier, rattan, seeds and bulbs for flowers, and flower vases. Illustrated catalogues and price lists should be sent.

MACHINERY.—An American Consular officer in an insular possession of a foreign country reports that a man contemplates the construction of a starch factory, and wishes to receive proposals for the requisite machinery and equipment.

IMITATION LEATHER.—A manufacturer of travelling bags and leather goods in a foreign colonial possession informs an American Consular officer of his desire to be placed in direct communication with manufacturers of imitation leather for travelling bags. Samples of the imitation leather may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 77741.)

SHEEP AND GOAT SKINS.—An American Consular officer in Greece writes that a firm in his district wishes to enter into commercial relations with American importers of sheep and goat skins. Correspondence may be in English.

OIL STOVES.—An American Consular officer in Greece reports that a man wishes to represent American manufacturers of oil cookstoves. The two and three-hole burners, blue-flame type, are desired. Correspondence may be in English.

LEATHER LEGGINGS.—An American Consular officer in North Africa reports that a merchant is in the market for leather leggings. Requirements, about 1,000 pairs a year. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

British Inquiries.

These are only a few selected from a great many contained in a week's reports. They hail from every land, and it reflects little credit upon British traders that many of them are inquiries by British houses, both in the United Kingdom and in the Overseas Dominions. The following instances are eloquent testimony to the Imperial ideal as it is held by *some* British traders :—

HARDWARE, NOVELTIES, ETC.—An American Consular officer in *South Africa* writes that a firm is anxious to secure exclusive agencies for American products suitable for the South African market, with a preference for tools, small hardware, and novelties.

CREAM SEPARATORS, ETC.—An American Consular officer in the *United Kingdom* reports that a firm is desirous of being placed in communication with American manufacturers of cream separators and other dairy apparatus. Reference is given.

CROCKERY.—An American Consular officer in *Canada* reports that a firm wishes to receive catalogues and price lists, etc., of crockery ware.

BUTTONS AND BUTTON MACHINES.—A man in *Australia* informs an American Consular officer that he desires to communicate with manufacturers of buttons of all kinds; also with manufacturers of machines for making buttons.

A Charge

British Consuls are not always blameless, however. A correspondent, writing to THE NEAR EAST from Chios, on July 10, says :—

"The various English industrial products could find a ready market in this town and the neighbouring islands if the British Consuls in the Orient worked energetically to accomplish their introduction without leaving the field free for German producers, who, owing to the efforts of their agents, are now sellers of the majority of the principal articles formerly imported from England. These are iron, hardware, cutlery, cotton goods, millinery, etc.

"Germans offer these wares at low prices, with which English goods cannot compete. Thus, the Turkish and Greek markets have been flooded with Hun productions, to the great detriment of English export trade, which has fallen considerably. Nevertheless, it would have been easy to contend advantageously against German competition if the English goods were more favoured by the British Consuls.

"Instead of engaging themselves in protecting their native trade, they are occupied, exclusively, in politics, whilst their *confrères*, the Austro-Germans, devote themselves body and soul to the development of their commerce, and do not fail to furnish their respective Chambers of Commerce, and their manufacturers, all necessary information concerning English-made articles, and submit specimens to be used as patterns."

The German Way.

At the beginning of the war a French officer was ordered to examine the records of a German consulate in Morocco. He was astonished by the evidence he found of the most complete organization. Every notable, every merchant and manufacturer, every farmer, however small, and of whatever nationality, was allotted a pigeon-hole in which were recorded his requirements, his means, his morality, the names of his customers and of his suppliers. In other compartments products were classified with the names of those who used them; other lists contained the names of, and information concerning, German exporters. Whole rows of book-shelves contained annotated catalogues, kept up to date, besides numerous show-cases; a marvellous exhibition of German products! Everything was so well arranged and organized that any German commercial traveller could learn from his Consul at which places to call, what were his chances of success, and the financial precautions that he must take.

On the other hand, if a trader or manufacturer wanted such and such an article or machine, the Consul could immediately furnish him with the list of German producers. In acting thus, the Consul in no way restricted the initiative of the merchant, with whom rested the choice of contractor, the option of going elsewhere, the terms of the contract, and all the integral points of trade; but he pushed German trade and laboured for its expansion.

We have said before, and it cannot be repeated too frequently, that Germany is preparing formidable reprisals against our trade and commerce, and when peace has been reached she will lose no time in putting them into operation. There may be differences of opinion as to whether she has ready stocks of manufactured goods accumulated in her factories for "dumping," but it is accepted that she hopes, not only to recover the markets from which she has been ousted, but also to open up new avenues of trade. The German has a certain genius, and power of push and hustle which, combined with his mastery of intrigue and double-dealing, will make him a formidable rival, even if we set our house in order. If we are not prepared to meet his campaign with energy and thoroughness, once will see us confronted with as great a commercial peril as we have had to face.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

It is notified that telegrams in code can no longer be accepted for Abyssinia.

It is reported that a heavy slump in Roumanian securities has occurred on the Berlin Bourse.

By a proclamation issued in Cairo General Sir Archibald Murray calls for the declaration, within thirty days, of all property, real or personal, belonging to enemy persons of every description in Egypt.

According to a Vienna telegram, the Roumanian Minister of Commerce has sent a delegation to Vienna to complete an agreement for the exchange of goods between Roumania and Austria-Hungary.

The Sultan has inaugurated at Alexandria an exhibition of Egyptian industries, organized to demonstrate what the country can do towards replacing articles formerly obtained from enemy countries.

In Hungary oil is being extracted from maize on a large scale. The product is said to be excellent both for illumination and cooking. In Austria the Government is offering subsidies to the millers to produce this oil.

The ginning factory belonging to the Ginning, Pressing, and Warehouse Company of Egypt at Damanhour has been sold to a syndicate of native merchants of Damanhour. The property covers 13,000 square yards, and has been disposed of for £E13,000.

The Chilian Nitrate Committee announce the nitrate of soda statistics for July as follows :—Europe (including Egypt).—Exported from Chili to Europe (including Egypt), July, 130,033 tons; arrivals in Europe (including Egypt), July, 144,800 tons. Owing to the war we are unable to compile the usual figures of deliveries and visible supply (stocks and afloat).

The Indian Police authorities have instructed Bombay merchants not to accept or receive for collections bills of exchange drawn by firms or individuals doing business or residing in Kerman, Yezd, Shiraz, and the adjoining districts of Persia, which are, for the time being, under enemy influence. The merchants affected by the order are petitioning the Government of India to devise some means to enable them to carry on their business.

The Board of Trade announces that applications for licences to carry oranges to ports in the United Kingdom should be made by persons and firms interested in ships not later than August 25. Applicants should state the name and nationality of each ship for which a licence is desired, the port of entry, and the deadweight and cubic space. The application should be addressed to the Controller, Import Restrictions Department, 22, Carlisle Place, London, S.W.

What is an almost unprecedented situation has arisen in Alexandria, where the cotton stock has now been reduced to 8,000 bales, says a Cairo correspondent of *The Times*. This is the result of heavy exports to meet outside demand and the smallness of the 1915 crop due to the legally restricted area. The stock of the old crop in the interior is exhausted, whilst the new crop will not arrive in any quantity before the end of September. Meanwhile, exports will cease and there will be no business in the cotton market.

The War Trade Department at Cairo, Egypt, has drawn the attention of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom to an opportunity which occurs in the Egyptian cotton trade. As a result of the war, a number of enemy firms which used to handle a third of Egypt's cotton crop, valued at about £10,000,000, are being liquidated under official supervision. A gap is thus created in the distributing machinery, which in recent years has not increased so rapidly as the size and value of the goods handled by it, and an opportunity presents itself for a British or Allied firm to fill this gap.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Platinum Production.

The production of platinum has been a source of much anxiety, and prospects in the Ural mines do not appear to be promising. According to the report of Mr. T. H. Preston, British Vice-Consul at Ekaterinburg (dated June 22), the production is likely to be smaller this year than it was in 1915. He writes:—Recent mobilizations in the platinum mining districts, which have hitherto not been called upon, have greatly curtailed the output from hand washings. Austrian prison labour and Chinese labour, although largely utilised in other industries, have not been adopted in the platinum industry. The production from the larger companies by means of dredging is likely to be similarly affected by this scarcity of labour. As regards prices, the abnormal scarcity of the mineral habitually brought in and sold by the small holders at Ekaterinburg has tended to make these people (remembering last year's rapid fluctuations) very cautious, and most of them now prefer to pledge their mineral with the banks, with the idea of waiting for higher prices, than to take prices ruling at present, viz., 67,500 roubles per pood (for quantities up to 10 lbs.). Larger quantities—one pood and over—are unobtainable under 68,000 to 68,500 roubles per pood. The future as regards prices is largely dependent on the quantities the Government allow to be exported, as the Russian internal consumption is not sufficient to influence prices either one way or the other.

Asbestos and Pyrites.

Similar conditions are threatened as regards asbestos and sulphuric pyrites. The same Consular officer reports that the production of asbestos in the Urals in 1915 amounted to 481,227 poods, or about half the output of 1914. The output of sulphuric pyrites mined in the Urals in 1915 amounted to 2,180,000 poods, the district of Ekaterinburg being responsible for the whole amount.

Electric Lighting Problems.

A reason for the slow progress made in the use of electricity in rural districts and country establishments is the fact that electric supplies are, generally, controlled by large companies or corporations, which confine their operations to towns and places more or less thickly populated. Thus, rural communities, country houses, farms, and factories, which happen to be situated beyond the reach of large electric centres, are compelled to adhere to old-fashioned methods of lighting, such as oil lamps, candles, or, if available, locally manufactured impure coal gas. This apparent state of backwardness can easily be altered by the employment of a small electric lighting plant. It appears, however, that many people believe that the installation of a small independent plant to generate electricity is a very expensive undertaking, or a complicated and unreliable mechanical arrangement; but that is an error. Since the introduction of the internal combustion engine the means for producing electricity conveniently, and at a comparatively small cost, have much developed, and the advantages of electric light can now be secured by private residents in rural districts, farmers, or manufacturers at a small capital outlay, and power may be produced more cheaply than if the current were taken from a public electric supply.

Utility of Small Plant.

What is wanted is a small lighting plant of modern design which can be fixed in a spare room, coach-house, barn, or shed; and the electric power which, in addition to providing light, can be utilised for cooking, heating, charging accumulators for motor cars, or for light power work, such as pumping water, driving a churn, a chaff-cutter, or ventilating fans in the house. There are several plants in the market, all of which claim one or other special feature and points of efficiency, and each proclaimed to be the best. In the choice of a plant, buyers at home have the advantage of investigating the merits and demerits of each system on the spot; but those abroad should obtain experts' advice, and, in the latter case, as such experts would probably be also abroad, it is advisable that British manufacturers and shippers should advertise, as explicitly as possible, the merits of their plant, giving thus an opportunity to foreign buyers to communicate with them. The Near East (and even further eastward) is virgin soil so far as small electric lighting plants are concerned, and with the Germans out of that market at present there is a great opportunity open to British manufacturers to secure business if they act promptly.

A Self-contained Plant.

We are able to refer to a compact little plant which we have seen at work recently. It is novel, self-contained, and petrol-driven, and has many points of interest. The leading feature is that it consists merely of a small petrol engine and generator, with water and petrol tanks, and needs no battery, instruments, or accessories of any kind. It has been found possible to dispense with these, and yet to run lamps direct from the generator without the least "flicker." The demand may vary from nothing to an overload up to 50 per cent. as suddenly as you please, yet there is only a momentary drop in the pressure, the speed of the machine adjusting itself automatically to the load. The variation in pressure between "no load" and an overload of 50 per cent. does not exceed three volts, a remarkable result for a single-cylinder petrol engine coupled direct to a generator. The bore of the cylinder is 2¼ in., with a 3 in. stroke, the speed when dealing with the rated output of 500 watts being about 1,950 d.p.m. As the engine is of the four-stroke type, this means 975 explosions per minute, or something over 16 per second, the slight difference in torque on the crank-shaft being entirely absorbed by the inertia of the flywheel and generator.

No Flicker.

Makers of small lighting sets in many instances have attempted to avoid "flicker," when no battery is used, by combining a very large fly-wheel with a slow-speed engine; but by the use of a high-speed four-stroke engine and comparatively small flywheel in the plant now under reference, absolute steadiness in running, with absence of "flicker," is secured Changes in the engine speed are effected by a potential governor acting directly on the throttle of the engine, so that when only one or two lamps are in circuit the throttle is practically closed; but as more lamps are switched on the throttle opens automatically and permits of greater speed, closing again as the load falls off. This plant is intended mainly for the lighting of country houses, and it is claimed that it is of sufficient capacity not only for lighting, but also for such domestic accessories as flat-irons, table cookers, and the like.

The tonnage passing through the Suez Canal last year decreased to 4,143,340 tons, as compared with 4,767,729 tons in 1914. The revenue collected declined from £5,026,037 in 1913 to £4,889,954 in 1914 and £3,740,905 in 1915. The number of ships which passed through the canal last year was 3,708, or 904 less than in 1914. The number of British vessels which used the Canal in 1914 was 3,078, of an aggregate of 12,910,278 tons; in 1913, 2,736 vessels, aggregating 11,656,038 tons, passed through the waterway. The German tonnage using the Canal declined from 3,352,287 tons in 1913 to 2,118,946 tons in 1914; while in 1915 there was, of course, a complete cessation of German traffic.

FUTURE OF LIBYA.

The claims and prospects of Libya as a trade route between Europe and the Sudan are the subject of an enthusiastic article by the Abbé C. Rubico, in the July number of *La Vita Italiana*. The limits of Italy's African colony are not yet definitely ascertained, but there is an agreement with England whereby, to the east, the Egyptian boundary is fixed at the 25th meridian of longitude, and extends northward to the middle of Solum Bay. How far it reaches southwards is a matter subject to negotiations which are still pending. The Oasis of Siwah appears to be regarded as Egyptian. Italy's claim to the Oasis of Kufra will not be contested, says the Abbé, nor will England be disposed to object as regards the Oasis of Jarabub.

Then there is an understanding between Italy and France regarding the western and southern limits of Libya. The boundary starts at Ras Agir, on the Mediterranean, about mid-way between Gabes and Tripoli, while the inland frontier follows the Ghadames-Chat line. But if it is now certain that these two oases are to belong to Italy, diplomatic mystery still prevails concerning the Oases of Janet and Bilma, which France was to occupy in due time for purely military reasons—the safety of the caravan routes, and as a precaution against possible agitation amongst the Arabs. This is really to Italy's advantage, and the present situation will subsist until the end of the war.

At the same time, regard must be had to geographical laws as well as to other considerations. The author of the article points out that, in addition to the actual colony to be administered by Italy, the African territory affected by the ultimate settlement is of enormous extent—a geographical and, as it were, an autonomous entity. Its limits would be described by a line drawn from a point between Gabes and the Gulf of Sidra, and passing between the Jarabub and Anjila oases to touch the 25th meridian and following it southwards so as to include Kufra and Ennedi, thence approximately identical with the watershed separating the Chad and Nile basins traversing the Marra Mountains, and practically dividing the two regions of Wadai and Dar-Fur. Reaching the Manga Mountains at the point where the Chad-Nile-Congo basins intersect, the boundary turns south towards the Belo Mountains and continues to the sea, touching the Equator on the Gulf of Guinea, where the coastline completes the southern boundary of the entire Libya-Chad-Cameroon region.

Westward, the line begins near Gabes, proceeds in the direction of Shot-el-Jerid, passes from east to west at Shot-el-Melghir to the north of Tuggurt, touches the 4th meridian of east longitude, where it intersects the 30th parallel of north latitude, and includes Wargla, continuing due south along the meridian line to the Atlantic.

Libya's future will be essentially commercial. The seacoast will become the *carrefour* of a most prosperous trade between Europe and Central Africa, and necessarily so, for it is the natural gateway of the Sudan, and the terminus not only of the routes from the Chad region, but of all those which extend to the Atlantic and to points still further south—to the Congo and Cape Colony. Therefore Italy must at all costs seek to ensure easy communications with the interior. And, while the existing caravan routes are valuable, they are not sufficient: a railway, some 8,000 kilometres in length, must be built southward to the Chad, to the Gulf of Guinea, and on to Cape Town. Of course, it would have branches reaching to the Wady and the Upper Congo, and elsewhere.

To those who have asserted that the Niger, Senegal, and Benué are the natural and sufficient highways of commerce, the Abbé replies that navigation on these rivers is very difficult and costly. According to M. Leroy-Beaulieu, the task of making the Niger completely navigable would mean an expenditure of £20,000,000. Hence, the hope is expressed that at the end of the present war enlightened statesmen will put their heads together in order to facilitate, as above, the exploitation of the African regions concerned, which have a total area of some 4,000,000 square kilometres.

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SHIPPING NOTES.

The Norwegian steamer Sama has been detained at Gibraltar.

The vessel reported sunk on August 4, which was described as the steamer Eugenia, is now stated to have been an Italian sailing ship.

The British steamer Mount Coniston has been sunk. She was of 3,018 tons, built in 1892 as the Vortigern, and owned by H. E. Moss and Co.

The Greek steamer Tricoupis, the Italian steamer Siena, and the British steamers Tottenham and Favonian, have been sunk, the two latter while going to the rescue of the Siena.

The Italian liner Re d'Italia, which has arrived at New York from Genoa, reports having been attacked by three submarines in the Mediterranean. It is believed that one submarine was sunk.

The Egyptian Government ask for offers for the purchase of the steamer Nicolaos, 893 tons register, built at Wallsend-on-Tyne, engined by Black, Hawthorn and Co., now in Alexandria Harbour. Offers were to be made to the Marshal at Alexandria on or before July 31, 1916.

The liner Mascara, belonging to the Compagnie de Navigation Mixte, of Marseilles, arrived at Marseilles from Algiers on Tuesday after a narrow escape from a German submarine. The submarine fired thirty shells at the steamer without hitting her, and then made off quickly on the appearance of a French auxiliary cruiser.

Messrs. Petersen and Co., Limited, announce that the London American Maritime Trading Co., Limited, which is managed by them, has absorbed the Leander Steamship Co., Limited, recently controlled by Messrs. Scaramanga Brothers. The fleet of the London American Maritime Co. consists of nine cargo steamers of about 4,000 tons gross each, and the Leander Co. of four steamers of between 2,600 tons and 3,100 tons each.

The first communication received by the Imperial Merchant Service Guild (London) from interned merchantmen in Turkey arrived on Wednesday, a postcard being received from Mr. T. S. Mason, late third officer of the steamer Assiout. He said:—"We are all well here." Mr. Mason is the only surviving executive officer of the vessel, the other two—Mr. Marshall, chief officer, and Mr. Sykes, second officer—having died since they were captured.

The sinking of an enemy submarine off Algiers by the steamer Strathness is thus described by the captain, David Thomson, in the ship's log, under date of July 15: "At our sixth shot submarine was hit, and also with our seventh, when a big explosion with fire was caused on the submarine. Then firing ceased and submarine disappeared, which I have no doubt was sunk by our fire. Altogether the submarine fired about fifteen shots, but none took effect. We fired seven shots, and two hits were made. Great credit is due to the gunners for the way in which they worked, especially the remarkable marksmanship they made at the submarine."

COMPANY REPORT.

Baku Russian Petroleum.

The report of the Baku Russian Petroleum Company for the year ended January 13 was issued on August 7, and records a gross profit from trading of £72,949, an increase of £45,698. The directors state that the capital expenditure for the year (exclusive of advances to the Romany Zabrat Company) amounted to £24,840, in comparison with £52,542 for 1914 and £84,943 for 1913. The decrease was principally at Bibi Eibat, where conditions do not warrant a heavy outlay at a time when materials are abnormally costly and experienced labour is very scarce. The cash and other liquid assets have been increased by £51,695, against an increase of only £8,833 in the current liabilities. Since the accounts were made up the outstanding balance of the Government loan, amounting to £9,065, has been paid off, and a further reduction has been effected in other local liabilities. The gross profit from trading was £72,949, an increase of £45,698. The gross income from all sources was £87,985, and, after deducting administration charges, debenture interest and exchange loss on remittances, there is a balance of £73,047, which has been appropriated as follows:—Depreciation, £40,000; provision for taxes, London and Russia, £10,000; discounts, £6,092; amount written off investments, £3,060; and reserve against exchange fluctuations, £13,895. The accounts are, for convenience of calculation and comparison, rendered at the conventional rate of 9.41 roubles per £1 sterling. The rate prevailing on January 13, 1916, was 16.20 roubles per £1, and, applied to the trading profit and royalties in Baku (£82,951), the difference between the normal rate and the prevailing rate amounts to £34,758. Pending the remittance of further moneys from Baku to London, this difference remains in abeyance, except for £3,217 charged to profit and loss and £13,895 placed to special reserve. For reasons incidental to the income-tax assessments in Russia, it has been deemed expedient to revert to the practice of setting aside a round sum for depreciation in lieu of writing down specific assets on a percentage basis, and the £40,000 now set aside for depreciation, other than on lands, approximates to the sum so allocated on the two previous occasions.

The sum of £18,724 set aside a year ago as a contingency reserve for depreciation in 1914 of plant and machinery and materials and stores was found to be more than sufficient for the object in view. An arrangement has been made with the holders of the company's debentures under which, in consideration of the rate of interest being temporarily increased from 5½ to 6½ per cent., the sinking fund payments due January, 1916 and 1917, are postponed until January, 1918, by which time it is hoped the necessary remittances may be effected at an improved rate of exchange. The following table summarises the operations in the last two years:—

	1915 (o/s) Poods.	1914 (o/s) Poods.
Gross Production—		
Balakhany Plots	3,762,955	3,319,665
Bibi-Eibat Plots	1,430,215	1,820,773
Total from Plots worked by Co.	5,193,170	5,140,438
Production from Plots leased off	1,100,000	1,265,800
Total gross production on all Plots	6,293,170	6,406,238
Average per week	121,023	123,197
Royalty oil payable to Government in kind	198,578	280,852
Oil used as fuel	673,169	1,320,804
Allowances, leakages, etc.	138,875	113,429
Net production available for sale	4,182,548	3,416,353
Total as above	5,193,170	5,140,438
Average net production per week from Plots worked by Co.	80,434	65,699
	Kops.	Kops.
Average price per pood realised by Co.	42.60	35.47
Average Bourse price (per pood)	42.30	36.59
Wells baled during year	81	80
Wells baled at end of year	71	65
Wells temporarily stopped for repairs, etc.	11	9
New wells being bored	4	5
Wells being deepened	1	—
Amount of new boring done during year	568 sag. 3,977 ft.)	590 sag. (4,132 ft.)

The reduced production from the Bibi-Eibat plots is largely the result of the two-months' strike in 1914, when the influx of water consequent upon the sudden stoppage of work caused serious damage to many of the wells. The average daily production from the Bibi-Eibat plots, which before the strike was 6,000 poods, is now only 3,800 poods.

The company is selling its entire production under a contract for one year from April 1 (old style), 1916, at 1 kopeck per pood above average monthly market price, with a minimum of 42 kopecks per pood. On the properties of the Romany-Zabrat Co., Limited, a paying oil source has been struck in No. 2 well at a depth of 323 sagenes (2,261 ft.), and a production obtained ranging up to 1,800 poods (29 tons) per day. Water difficulties have arisen, however, and steps have been taken to deal with them. No. 3 well (which is being drilled by the rotary process) has been carried to a depth of 243 sagenes (1,701 ft.).

COMPANY NOTES.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for the week, 117 tons (last week 762 tons); Hurgada production for the week, 503 tons (last week, 410 tons).

Baku Russian Petroleum Co. (1909).—For week ended July 29, 84,500 poods.

Bibi Eibat Oil.—For week ended July 30, 60,733 poods.

Black Sea Amalgamated.—For week ended July 29, 21,974 poods.

Cheleken.—Fortnight to July 29, 505 tons.

Lobitos Oilfields.—For July, 7,337 tons.

Maikop Combine.—For week ended July 29, 6,991 poods.

Russian Petroleum.—For week ended July 29, 57,000. For week ended August 5, 55,700.

Meeting.

Baku Russian Petroleum.—August 15, noon, at River Plate House, London, E.C.

Redemption of Bonds.

The numbers are published of Greek 5 per Cent. National Loan Bonds of 1907 which have been drawn for redemption. 1,370 Obligations of £4 each, repayable July 15, 1916. The above-mentioned Obligations, with Coupon No. 20 attached, should be presented for payment in London by Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son or the Ionian Bank, Ltd.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, E.C.,
August 10.

As last Saturday was kept as a holiday on the Stock Exchange, the interest of the week begins with Monday's (August 7) transactions. So far as Near Eastern stocks and securities are concerned, we are handicapped by the absence of sellers; of potential buyers there are plenty.

Perhaps the most notable event of the week has been the advance in shares of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt. On August 4 the price of these stood at 4 9-16; by August 8 it had moved forward to 4¾, and to-day they stand at 4 25-32. They have been in steady demand all the week, and have been difficult to buy, the difficulty arising out of the fact that the several thousand shares which were carried over in London just before the war broke out at 4½ have now all found happy homes with strong holders.

Cotton Position.

In the Egyptian agricultural world the outlook is of the brightest. The cotton reports from the United States regarding the growing crop are less favourable, and point to the belief that the crop will be considerably less than was estimated originally. This has led to higher prices being demanded in America, and, of course, better prices will be realised for the Egyptian staple, which is already at a very remunerative level for the growers. It is early in the season to make a definite forecast regarding the Egyptian crop. September, with its dread of the pink bollworm, has to be negotiated yet; but I think it may be regarded as pretty certain that Egypt will be able to market its produce at high prices.

The splendid military news from Egypt of the past few days has had a heartening effect on Egyptian values here.

A further improvement is also to be noted in the shares of that sound institution the National Bank of Egypt, prices having advanced during the week from the neighbourhood of 12 7-16 to 12 9-16.

Khedivial Mail shares have become quieter, in full sympathy with the reaction that has occurred in other shipping shares. Shipping has not yet done with the limelight and continues to be firm in its very strong position.

There is, then, in regard to Egyptian securities, a comfortable undercurrent of strength, and, to repeat myself, only the lack of sellers prevents great activity. Buyers are waiting for offers to reach them; but their attitude must not be held to mean lack of keenness.

Greek Prosperity.

The persistent and continuous demand from Athens for all descriptions of Greek securities has continued to throw a somewhat lurid light upon the various statements that have been made regarding the financial conditions prevailing in the country. In this market, too, there would be great activity if sellers could be found; but they are not at hand. Much money has been, and is being, made through the war, and accounts privately to hand speak of much prosperity among the people.

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STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Price Aug. 4.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	82	82
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	62½	62½
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	71⅜	71⅜
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	81	80⅜
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	70½	70⅜
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	67	67
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	57	57
Do. 5 %, 1894	56	56	56
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	50	50
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43⅜	43⅜
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	53	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50½	50½
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	68	68
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	76½	76½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	55	55
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, 8c., £60p.	92	77¼	77¼
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	xd	xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	85	85
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	77½	77½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	52	52
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	37½	37½
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	4 9/16	4 9/16
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7	6 15/16
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	69	69
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	71	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11⅜	11⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	¼	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	1¾	1¾
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	6 13/16	6 13/16
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6⅜	6⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	75/-	75/-
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5⅛	5⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	12 7/16	12 9/16
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	93/9	93/9
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5⅛	5 1/16
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	88½	88½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	10	10
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	11½	11½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	59½	59⅛
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	55	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10 1/16	10 1/16
Pireus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	55xd	55xd
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	15/-	15/-
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	89½	91
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	¼	¼
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2¼	2¼
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	6⅜	6⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	3¼	3¼
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	⅛	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	9 4½	9,4½
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	87½	87½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	⅛	⅛
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	¼	¼
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	⅛	⅛
" " Founders	¼	¼	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	96	96
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	7¼	7¼
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	77	77
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	9/-	9/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	¼	¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	1/16	1/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/8	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11⅜	11⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1¼	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	24/9	24/9
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99⅛	95	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	18/3	18/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	27/-	26/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3 1/16	3 1/16
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	89	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	1½	1½

OIL.	Price on Aug. 2.	Aug. 9.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/3	7/-
Anglo-Persian	20/9x	20/9x
European Oilfields	3/9	3/9
Roumanian	14/6	14/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Aug. 2.	Aug. 9.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4565	4700
Credit Foncier Egyptien	—	632
Turkish Unified 4%	62	63.25
Egyptian Unified 4%	90	90.15
Serbian, 1895	59	60.90

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Cote du 24 Juillet, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt		12⅜	to —
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	92	,, 93
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11⅞	,, 11 15/16
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5⅜	,, 5½
priv.	L.E.	3⅜	,, —
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	124½	,, 125
Bons de Panama	Frs.	92	,, 93
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs.	62	,, 62½
Privilégiée	Frs.	95	,, —
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	75	,, —
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2⅛	,, —
Comptoir Financier et Commercial d'Égypte	£	⅜	,, —
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 1/32	,, 1 1/16
Union Fonciere d'Egypte	L.E.	⅜	,, ⅝
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	4⅛	,, —
Bonded Warehouse	L.E.	4 1/16	,, —
Unifiée	L.E.	82⅛	,, —
Land Bank of Egypt	£	5	,, —
Fondateur	£	23	,, —
Pressage et dépôts	£	28⅛	,, —
Nungovich Hotels	£	2⅛	,, —
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	4⅛	,, —
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅜	,, —
Ord.		19/6	,, —
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3⅛	,, —
Egyptian Delta Light Railway	£	5⅛	,, —
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£	104	,, —
Jouissance	£	155	,, —
Egyptian Markets		23/9	,, —
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	210	,, —
Div.	Frs.	140	,, —
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	125	,, —
Egyptian Salt and Soda		18/-	,, —
Crédit Foncier d'Egypte	Frs.	587	,, —
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	304	,, —
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	245	,, —
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	255⅛	,, 257
Delta Land		1/16	,, —
Port Said Salt		33/-	,, —
Cotton Ginners		⅜	,, —
New Egyptian		8/5	,, —
United Lands	P.T.	4	,, —
Levant S.S. Co.		24/-	,, —
Fondateur		90/-	,, —

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended Aug. 5.		1916. Week ended Aug. 5.
Cattle markets	361	..	170
General markets	344	..	180
Cattle markets closed	31	..	2
Receipts (£)	705	..	350*
Total from commencement of year (£)	31,785	..	32,394

* Bairam holidays.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 276.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The battle of Katia was followed by a pursuit of the Turks. Though decisively repulsed, the enemy was able to withdraw his force in some order, as the stubbornness of the rearguard actions proved. It was impossible for the British infantry to advance an indefinite distance from their original positions; but mounted troops took up the work with great effect, and pressed the Turks for a considerable time. It was due to their efforts, particularly those of the Anzac Mounted Division, that the enemy finally evacuated his advanced base at Bir-el-Abd. At a point fifty miles east of the Suez Canal, about halfway to El Arish, the pursuit ceased. The number of prisoners taken was over 3,500, of whom 300 were wounded, and it is estimated that the total losses of the Turks amounted to nearly double that number. During the retreat they are reported to have been reinforced by several battalions of fresh troops. The presence of these reserves is not likely to portend any further efforts against the Canal on the part of the enemy, but it points to El Arish being held in sufficient force to enable small raids to be carried out, unless some steps can be taken to make that place untenable.

In Armenia the Turks have met with better success. Little information of the operations in the neighbourhood of Erzinjan has been published from either side, but it is evident that the Russian advance has been stayed by the course of events to the south-east. Here at a point only fifty or sixty miles south of Erzeroum the Russians have been compelled to fall back before the Turks, who have retaken both Mush and Bitlis. So far the enemy's advance has been in a northerly direction, and if it were capable of serious development, the Grand Duke Nicholas would have to divert his attention entirely from Erzinjan to deal with this southern menace. The configuration of the country, however, at this point does not lend itself to rapid movements in a northerly direction.

From Persia, where the Turks have also been pushing back the Russians from the frontier, comes the first news for several weeks of a Russian success. The Russian advance in the region of the town of Sakiz, it is stated, has ended in the occupation of a very strong Turkish position in the vicinity of that town, and the enemy is retiring precipitately southward. The district mentioned is at a considerable distance from Hamadan, some 170 miles to the north-west. It was known that the Turkish advance into Persia was proceeding on two lines, along the Kermanshah-Hamadan road and sixty or seventy miles to the north of that route. An engagement at Sakiz is more likely to have some reference to the Russian force which at one time had reached Rowanduz. There has been no recent news of this column, which at one time promised to threaten Mosul. The Turks claimed to have driven it back from Rowanduz; but it would hardly choose the Sakiz route. This latter town, however, might be on the route taken by reinforcements for the relief of the pressure in the Hamadan district.

The statement, to which reference was made in these columns last week, that an agreement had been reached between the British, Russian, and Persian Governments dealing with the financial and military affairs of Persia appears to have been premature. In answer to a question in the House of Commons on the day that our last issue went to press, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs stated that no agreement had yet actually been concluded, but he trusted that one would very shortly be arrived at with the Persian Government. The general condition of affairs in Persia, he added, has recently shown a decided improvement, and the arrest or dispersal of the German parties or agents in that country gives good reason to hope that this improvement may be maintained.

There is still little more than artillery duels to report from the Macedonian front. The preliminary bombardment enabled the French to occupy Doiran railway station, lying two miles south-east of the town, and Hill 227, but did not bring our Allies into contact with the enemy's permanent defensive works. Operations in this region must of necessity be slow at the outset. The country is mountainous and broken, and there is no open ground for the deployment of large forces. It must also be remembered that the Bulgarians have had ample time to strengthen their defences under German supervision. The task of demolishing these must be performed gradually. Moreover, the quickest way of dealing with the Bulgarians will be by means of a simultaneous attack from north and south. Roumania has not yet taken the step which is to bring her within the Grand Alliance, but the Central Powers, and Bulgaria in particular, are anxiously awaiting the "appointed day."

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The German Press announces that Turkish troops—the figures are placed at 150,000 and 200,000—are about to take part in the fighting in Galicia side by side with the Austrians, and hails the event as evidence of the close co-operation which is the birthright of the Central Alliance, and is only now being laboriously aimed at by the Entente Powers. It may be true that Turkey has been called upon to come to the assistance of Austria-Hungary, or it may not be. There can be no doubt that the Austrians need the help, and that the Turkish authorities, knowing what is at stake for them behind the defeat of the Central Powers, would wish to be in a position to send army corps in the place of the divisions asked for. But until the Turkish troops are met with on the field of battle in Galicia we may receive the report with reserve. Their German Allies insist emphatically upon the point that neither the Germans nor the Turks hasten to help one another "from motives of altruistic generosity or tender friendship," but because each country renders itself the best service when it helps the other. The Turks will subscribe to this theory within certain limits. It remains, however, to be seen whether they consider it to be consonant with their own interests to despatch a force to a distant theatre where, apart from its fate at the hands of the Russians, it runs the risk of being cut off from any possibility of returning. It would be strange if the Turks did not try to place some of their troops at the disposal of their Allies, but we cannot help thinking that they are more likely to be encountered in Bulgaria than in Galicia.

Parliament continues to be very properly exercised over the condition of things in Mesopotamia. The Secretary of State for India was obliged to admit that everything was not yet absolutely satisfactory. There can, however, be little doubt that Government is thoroughly alive to the serious state of affairs, and is no longer being put off with misleading assurances. The sufferings of the troops are held to have been due mainly to transport difficulties, and unfortunately these can only be remedied gradually. Transport has been improved, but still leaves much to be desired. The new Director of Medical Services in India went to Mesopotamia on his way out to take up his post, and was able to deal with the defects he found. Everything possible, it is held, is now being done to set things straight.

Considerable dissatisfaction now fastens on the failure of the Government to produce the report of the Commission, consisting of Sir William Vincent, General Bingley, and Mr. Ridsdale, with regard to the medical arrangements and transport in Mesopotamia. The Government contends that as a Statutory Commission has been appointed, since the Vincent Commission reported, to conduct an inquiry into the whole Mesopotamian campaign, the matter is now *sub judice*, and the report cannot be made public. It will be submitted to the Statutory Commission. Mr. Chamberlain gave some indication of the tenour of its contents. "In addition to criticisms of Indian military organization—a matter which is now engaging the serious attention of his Majesty's Government—it mentions certain officers by name as having a grave responsibility in connexion with the state of affairs disclosed by the investigation." He added that for various reasons the Commission was unable to examine any of these officers in person. They would no doubt be examined by the Statutory Commission, by whom their case and the measure of their responsibility would be considered. In the meantime the officers so named have vacated their positions, and new appointments have been made to the posts formerly held by them.

Mr. Chamberlain's reference to criticisms of the Indian military organization may be read in connexion with a previous statement which mentioned the anxiety of the Commander-in-Chief in India to record his own observations on the report of the Vincent Commission. The decision to submit the report to the Statutory Commission may or may not be justified; but the Government would seem to have been somewhat remiss in not limiting very strictly the time allowed to the India authorities to write minutes of the Commission's findings. If sufficient confidence was not felt in Sir William Vincent and his colleagues to admit of their decisions being accepted, they ought not to have been appointed. The somewhat strange course of events points to the Government having had difficulty in making up its mind to bring the India authorities to book. Only the determined attitude of Parliament saved the situation, and now from the tenour of Mr. Chamberlain's remarks the public will be prepared for very high changes in the Indian military command. There is much to be said for the view that men who have been intimately associated with a system that has proved a terrible failure can hardly be expected to carry out with any conviction or enthusiasm the methods adopted to supersede it.

We are glad to see that Mr. Bliss, M.P., has taken up in Parliament the Veshovitch case, to which attention has been called in these columns. On the flight of General Veshovitch from Montenegro, the Austrian Military Governor seized his aged father and one of his brothers, and announced his intention of hanging them unless General Veshovitch surrendered himself to the authorities within five days. A subsequent proclamation stated that the brother had been executed, while the father had been reprieved. The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs stated that the Government had taken cognisance of this matter, and implied that it would be dealt with in accordance with the decision of the Allied Governments to bring home responsibility to the perpetrators in the enemy nations of individual crimes against civilised law. The British Government's intention was stated with remarkable clearness by the Prime Minister. He said, "The Government are determined that this country will not tolerate a resumption of diplomatic intercourse with Germany after the war until reparation has been made for the murder of Captain Fryatt. Some of our Allies have suffered by brutalities even more gross and on a more extended scale than ourselves from the action of the German authorities. We are in consultation with them as to the best and most effective steps to be taken, and as to what conditions shall be exacted in the terms of peace to secure reparation that will satisfy justice."

An interesting sidelight on the relations between the Arabs and Turks is thrown by the translation of an article in *El Mokattam*, which appears on another page. The Mecca revolt is based on something more than personal antagonism between the Grand Shereef and the Turkish Government. It is the reply of an important section of the Arab world to the persecution of their nationals at the hands of the Turkish authorities; but it has also a religious basis, and represents the growing hostility towards what is regarded as the irreligious attitude of the leaders of Young Turkey. The writer in *El Mokattam* holds the view that the ill-treatment of Arabs is part of the policy of Turkification to which the Committee of Union and Progress is committed, and also attributes to the latter the still more sinister intention of Turkifying Islam to serve their own ends.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 2.

The End of Ramadan.

The Ramadan month has come to an end, much to the relief of the Followers of the Prophet, who have suffered unusually severely this year, owing to the abnormally hot and damp weather we have had during July. Bairam passed off very quietly. H.H. the Sultan received the Ulema and the Ministers at Ras-el-Tin on the first day, but beyond that there was no ceremonial, and a book for signature was merely left for the public.

Under normal conditions the close of the Ramadan Fast is a sign for the making of preparations for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. During the past two years the war, of course, interfered with the performance of this duty, but in view of the events that have recently taken place in the Hejaz it is thought that the pilgrimage might become possible this year. A declaration of the Egyptian Government as to the attitude it will take up towards intending pilgrims is momentarily expected.

Egypt and the Arab Revolt.

Locally, the progress of the Arabian movement is being watched with interest. The publication of the British recognition of the movement was received quite calmly in Egypt, where the inclination amongst the Moslems is to wait on events and eventually side with the victor—a trait that is a peculiar characteristic of the Egyptian race. It is considered that the immediate success or otherwise of the movement which the Shereef is directing depends entirely on the fate of Medina, which the Turks are straining every effort to relieve. The Shereef is now in direct telegraphic communication with the outside world from Mecca, and will, it is believed, issue his own *communiqués* as to the progress of events. For this purpose, and in order to inform the Moslem world of his intentions and projects, his Highness has decided to publish at Mecca a weekly paper to be called *El Kibla*, which will be edited by Fuad Effendi Khatib, late lecturer in Arabic literature at Gordon College.

Coal in Egypt.

The question of the existence of coal in Upper Egypt has at length been definitely decided. It is understood that Mr. Wells, who was specially engaged by the Egyptian Government to investigate the matter, has reported that all hope of finding coal in the region in question must be abandoned. Previous reports written by experts came to the same conclusion, but as the bores never were made on any extensive scale or to any adequate depth a doubt has always existed. Now, however, the point has been settled for all time. Nevertheless, the Egyptian Government has not given up all hope of finding coal; and as soon as the military situation permits, Mr. Wells will carry out researches in the Sinai, where the geological conditions in certain parts are similar to those in the coal area in Syria. It is not expected that the coal, if found in the Sinai, will be of first-class quality; but it will, it is hoped, be sufficiently good for agricultural purposes, which is, after all, the main consideration.

DEATH OF THE SULTAN'S MOTHER.

A Reuter's message from Cairo announces that the mother of the Sultan of Egypt died at Alexandria on Tuesday morning. She had been in ill-health for some time. The annual ceremony of the cutting of the Khalig has been postponed until the 20th inst. The Sultan has requested that there shall be no external manifestations of mourning.

A later telegram (August 16) says:—The Sultan's mother was buried this afternoon. Rarely have larger crowds been seen in the streets of Cairo, and the tarbushes formed a crimson sea. Enormous throngs lined the route, and every housetop and balcony was crammed. The coffin was borne by the Sultan's Marines, preceded by Egyptian infantry and thurifers. A group of Ulema followed the very long cortège, which included everybody of note in Cairo.

THE ARAB REVOLT.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 2.

While pressing on with military operations, the Shereef of Mecca is working also on administrative reform. Ridding Arabia of the Turk is for him not the sole aim, but rather a means to an end, which is the establishment of order and security and the leading of the people along the higher path of moral and material progress. Here, as in other parts of the Empire, the presence of the Turk has so far been a stumbling-block in the way of such progress. Arabia is in need of a great leader and reformer, and the Shereef seems to have realised that military success alone may not entitle him to this high position, and that collateral achievements in the domain of administrative and social reform are calculated to secure the support of hesitating admirers. He has just founded in Mecca a paper bearing the appropriate name of *Al Kibla*—the Polar star, so to speak, of Moslems. This may serve not only as a public record of the Shereef's doings for the welfare of the Arabs and Arabia, but also as an organ for the dissemination of his political, religious, and social views.

In Jeddah the task of administrative reorganisation has already been started. Enlightened doctors and Custom House officials, some of them Christians, have been appointed. In Mecca itself, whose soil is sacrosanct, and where only Moslems may be admitted, the recruiting of the *personnel* destined to carry on the work of reorganisation will take more time. Egypt and Syria, however, can supply a sufficient number of enlightened Moslems of modern education to fill the posts; and now that the pacification of the country is likely to proceed apace, thanks to the fall of the last important port on the Hejaz coast—viz., Yambo, the port of Medina—we may expect this serious problem to be tackled and solved ere very long. An official *communiqué* has just been published here, declaring that postal communications between Egypt and the Hejaz have been re-established.

Meantime, the military campaign is being vigorously pushed forward. It is not hoped to reduce Medina by famine, although it is completely invested, thanks to the destruction of the railway for a distance of more than a hundred miles north of the town. The Turkish garrison there is estimated at about a division—a Turkish division is reckoned at about 10,000 only; and with their constant additions of strength the greatly superior forces of the Shereef will not find much difficulty in breaking the resistance of the Turks. The rumoured sending of reinforcements to the extent of about eight divisions to Syria and Arabia may be taken as bluff, if, as seems to be true, the Turks have had to despatch one-third of their effectives to the Caucasus. According to an authority, the whole Turkish forces now under arms and fighting do not exceed 350,000. If two-thirds of these are engaged on the Caucasian front, and 80,000 in Mesopotamia, one fails to understand how eight divisions can be spared for Arabia and Syria, unless other vital parts of the Empire, such as Gallipoli, Thrace and Asia Minor, are depleted.

Meanwhile, although the Imam Yehya maintains an expectant attitude, the Turkish forces in the Yemen, which are estimated by the same authority at not less than 16,000, may be considered as locked up and inevitably doomed to eventual capture. The Imam's feelings towards the Turks are well known, and it is equally well known that he entertains the friendliest relations with the Shereef. The latter, however, has wished to leave it to the Imam to join spontaneously in the great movement at the moment he shall judge most opportune. As is well known, the Imam is not a Sunnite, but a Zeidi; and in spite of the friendliness that exists between him and the Shereef, the latter, wise and sagacious, is exercising the utmost tact and delicacy in his relations with the great chieftain of the Yemen.

Thanks to the efforts of the Rome Committee of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund of London, the Italian Government has consented to the removal of the 161 Montenegrin refugees in the Lipari Islands to France, where it is hoped to nurse them to health and then provide employment for them.

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SUDAN LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

(From a Correspondent.)

Among other distinguished visitors from the Sudan who may be expected in England shortly is Mr. Edgar Bonham-Carter, C.M.G., who has been Legal Secretary to the Sudan Government since 1899—that is to say, from the commencement of the British Occupation. Mr. Bonham-Carter, who is only now in his forty-seventh year, has had a very successful career. A former pupil of Clifton College, he made a distinct reputation at Oxford, and at twenty-five he was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn. Under his control the Legal Department of the Sudan Administration has made remarkable headway. It was under his auspices that the work of introducing into the Sudan a judicial system particularly suitable to the requirements of the country was carried out. Mr. Bonham-Carter speedily found that one of the many serious defects in the system of administering justice in the country was the insufficiency of judges. There are still too few of these officials, but in all probability their number will be added to when the financial conditions of the country allow. The reformation of the judicial system, so far as the establishment of a Court of Appeal is in question, has already been fully dealt with in these columns. That innovation was also due to the perseverance and the aptitude for grasping difficulties shown by Mr. Bonham-Carter. In his own department he has always kept in mind the very desirable avoidance of "the law's delays."

Remarkable, indeed, is the contrast between the expedition of to-day and the tedious, harmful protractedness of all legal proceedings when Mr. Bonham-Carter first took the reins of control into his hands. In the administration of justice throughout the Sudan, expedition and no undue stress laid on the technicalities of procedure are now the main considerations. The Courts endeavour to keep in mind the remark made upon one occasion by a former Master of the Rolls (the late Sir George Jessel)—"the use of a technicality is to defeat justice." The great defect encountered in the Egyptian Courts has always been the slowness of their operation, and Mr. Bonham-Carter early determined that the same reproach should not be earned in connection with those of the Sudan. Even to-day, however, perfection in dealing with the numerous cases which are heard has not been attained, though it is the constant care of the Legal Secretary to attain it. But the difficulties encountered are enormous. The conditions of society and the general state of advance of Egypt and the Sudan are so different as to make it impossible to institute any valid comparisons between the judicial systems in force. The most competent critics are of opinion, however, that the time will come—indeed, they declare that it has already arrived—when the superiority of the system adopted by the Sudan must be acknowledged. At the same time, it is not suggested that the Egyptian system should be altered. There are reasons which point to the fact that any such change in Egypt is undesirable. But the demands of the Sudan are different.

The Legal Department of the Sudan calls for an annual outlay of an amount approximating £E53.000, while the revenue only reaches about one-fifth of this sum. In 1913, for instance, it did not exceed £E9,800, while in the following year (1914) it was £E10,500. The heaviest charges against the Department are the salaries of the Secretary and the Advocate-General, which amount to £E1.800 and £E1,100 respectively. The establishment calls for the employment of a chief judge and five other judges, the first drawing the very modest salary of £E1,500—the pay of the appointment being on the scale of £E1,200, £E1,350, £E1,500.

The Legal Secretary's office employs one Second Inspector, two senior clerks, and nine junior clerks of different classes. The Advocate-General, the Department of Lands, the Land Settlement, the Land Registry Office, and the Police Magistracy find work for a small host of officials. The whole establishment is thoroughly well organized, and there is a complete absence of overlapping in the discharge of the various duties.

In regard to the judges' salaries there is very little relation between the actual payments made and the work upon which they are engaged, which also varies from time to time. The Chief Judge is Mr. W. Sterry, who has been in the service of the Government since May, 1901, and who is considered a sound lawyer with a specially valuable knowledge of land registration. His colleagues on the Bench are Messrs. H. St. George Peacock, M. Fleming, and N. G. Davidson, while Mr. R. H. Dun is Advocate-General. Mr. G. W. Williamson has acted as Judge and Registrar of Lands since early in 1906. The new Court of Appeal was called into being by an ordinance bearing date March 30, 1915, and it has already proved a useful and acceptable institution.

NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From a Correspondent.)

The American Missionaries—

The extensive missionary work of the American Congregational Board and its affiliated colleges in Asiatic Turkey is practically ruined. Out of three hundred missionaries, some have died and most have been forced into exile. Only a handful of Americans remain in Aleppo, Aintab, Marash, Tarsus, Adana, Konia, Cæsarea, Smyrna, and Brusa. The work of the colleges, except in Smyrna, has ceased. Recently the Government summarily ejected the Americans from their splendid college and hospital at Marsovan, and confiscated the buildings. The missionaries were compelled to leave for Constantinople without even having time to put seals upon their private homes.

Word has come (in July) direct from Sivas that there is little hope of the few missionaries left in the interior being allowed to do anything for the Armenian exiles in Mesopotamia. Until May, Sivas was a centre for communication with the exiles and for the distribution of relief. Now that even the German missionaries are no longer in communication with the deported Armenians, there is no news from Mesopotamia. The very worst is now feared and expected from the Deir-el-Zor region.

—And the Armenians.

The Hon. Henry Morgenthau, former American Ambassador to Turkey, believes that the Ottoman Government will no longer oppose the efforts of the American and German Red Cross Societies to work among the Armenians deported into Mesopotamia. He declares that there are encouraging signs recently, pointing to the possibility of effective relief work among the Armenians and Syrians. The Rockefeller Foundation has now a representative in Constantinople, who is trying to arrange for organised relief work. The American, German, Austrian and Spanish Embassies and the Dutch Legation, together with Mr. W. W. Peet, treasurer of the American Missions, are co-operating with the Ottoman Red Crescent Society to this end.

The Question of Supplies.

Constantinople is out of neither bread nor coal, and there are indications that the petroleum crisis has been avoided for at least another year. Although prices are still soaring, and the poor are consequently in a state of terrible deprivation, stores of necessities do exist in the city. Grain is coming in from Bulgaria and petroleum from Roumania. It is believed by competent authorities that if the Government (German!) takes over the distribution of flour and coal and oil from October to March, there will be neither famine nor discontent in the city next winter. This holds true also of Smyrna and all cities along the railway lines. But the conditions in districts which cannot be reached by railway are very serious indeed. Even during this summer the suffering is terrible. Not more than one-fourth of the normal crop of cereals will be harvested this year. The people can realise nothing on their figs and licorice. The rug industry is dead. Perhaps it is not too much to say that if the blockade and the war continue another year, the Turks and other Moslems of the interior will be in hardly better condition than the Armenians. German organisation and German methods of aid have been able to reach only districts accessible to the few railways.

CYPRUS AND THE WAR.

Under date of July 24 our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—The purchasing of mules for the British Army has been continued, but some of the villagers engaged for service have applied to have their agreements cancelled.

Considerable numbers of youths from different villages have left Cyprus by the last mail steamer for France and America, and many others are said to be preparing to leave.

According to the *Berliner Tageblatt*, the transport of Turkish troops to the European front has now begun on a great scale, and is proceeding without a hitch.

It is notified that all letters for prisoners of war captured at Kut must be written in French. Failure to attend to this notification will probably result in the letters not being delivered.

Referring to Parsi appreciation of the fact that at the battle of Ctesiphon General Townshend gave special orders to protect the venerable Arch of Chosroes, the *World* says:—The text of their address to the General is now to hand, and the following passage is interesting:—"A great and inestimable blessing you have earned by your preservation of the royal dome. As King Darius says on his inscription: 'When thou seest this and dost not destroy it, but preserve it for me, may Auramazda be thy friend; may thy family be abundant and thy life long; and what thou doest may Auramazda prosper for thee.'"

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 29.

Shortage of Milk and Cheese.

At the last meeting of the Municipal Council at Sofia several councillors complained of the shortage of milk in the capital, amounting practically to an entire lack of this very necessary article. The mayor could only promise vaguely that he would do his best to remedy matters.

Another article which is hardly anywhere to be seen in the markets is cheese, which speculators have been and are, buying up and holding. The military authorities are requisitioning all the output, but the speculators hope to sell their stocks at high prices; for, though the sales will have to be made secretly, they will be protected by the fact that the military regard the buyer as equally guilty with the seller.

The *Official Gazette* publishes a notice to the effect that the production of butter and cheese is to be placed under official control. The entire production of these articles is to be requisitioned for the Army; all dairies will be under the control of the military authorities, and only when the needs of the Army have been satisfied may the surplus be disposed of to the public.

The Beauties of Salonika.

The Bulgarian military authorities must be very hard put to it to keep up the spirits of the Army. They have had written a song which describes the beauties and marvels of that much-coveted city, Salonika. The women of Salonika, says this song, are the most beautiful and the most obliging in the world, and so forth and so on. The newspapers, too, evidently inspired from some Governmental source, are beginning to picture Salonika as a kind of magic city, a place of marvels not unworthy of comparison with some of those wonderful cities raised by the *Jann* in the "Arabian Nights." According to these industrious and docile scribes, gold and silver seem to flow in streams in this fairy-like region; and one paper actually writes of the waves of the Vardar bearing gold in profusion! Another expatiates upon the profusion of wealth waiting the conquerors in the region of Kossovo, where there are gold and silver mines, to say nothing of such base metals as iron and copper, and where diamond mines have now been discovered!

But will all these fine fables have much effect upon the dispirited Bulgarian soldiery? The steady flow of reports of ever-spreading dissatisfaction and the spirit of revolt hardly lead one to think so.

Persecuted Serbians.

The situation of the Serbs under the Bulgarian *régime* appears to be deplorable indeed. According to the *Pravda* of Salonika, the invaders occupy themselves in pillaging, assassinating, and ravishing in a very systematic fashion. The prisoners of war are employed in the factories or on the construction of roads, and latterly many of them have been sent for this purpose to the Italian and French fronts. The male portion of the population of New Serbia has been forcibly enrolled in the Bulgarian Army, and these luckless soldiers are now on the Balkan front. All males between the ages of eighteen and forty-five have been thus impressed. Then, too, all the Serbian priests have been replaced by Bulgarians, and as a result the churches are deserted! All foodstuffs have been requisitioned, shops are pillaged during the night, and entire villages are burnt to the ground under the pretext that they afford aid to the "insurgents." Even children cannot pass along the roads without having "Serb" shouted at them by the Bulgarian and German soldiery, and one seldom or never sees the national headdress, which is sure to provoke insult if not assault.

Under date of August 10, Reuter's Bucharest correspondent reports:—About 20 persons were killed and 150 injured, most of them seriously, in an explosion at a military powder factory at Dudeshti, near here. The explosion was accidentally caused in the ether reservoir, and apart from the loss of life only unimportant damage was done. Among the killed are Colonel Albou and two other officers. Work will be resumed to-morrow, as the workshops are undamaged. The King and Queen have been on the scene of the explosion, and visited the injured in the hospitals.

A POTENTIAL BATHING RESORT.

A Hint for Alexandria.

(From a Correspondent.)

Contrary to the tendency exhibited by most large cities, Alexandria has developed eastwards, and continues so to do, although, to a resident of some years' standing, with considerable knowledge of the surrounding country, the reason has never been apparent. Had its development been normal in this respect, the thoroughfare known as the Sharia Prince Abdel Moneim might very well have been a fashionable shopping centre, and Mex, Dekhela, and onwards a no less fashionable and prosperous suburb. A residential quarter thus situated would have had much to recommend it.

For many people a glamour of interest and romance attaches to the coming and going of ships in a harbour such as that of Alexandria. The Ramleh coastline is uninteresting, for only occasionally is a ship to be seen on the horizon, and those who are fond of yachting often bewail the distance they must traverse before they can weigh anchor and indulge in their favourite recreation. Here coasting is impossible, nor is there safe anchorage for a yacht along the rock-bound shore from the "Hole in the Wall" to Montaza and onwards until Abukir is reached.

And despite all the precautions of a vigilant municipality, the Ramleh bathing season still claims its victims. Even in places such as Stanley Bay and Glymenopoulo it is inadvisable for bathers to venture far from the shore, save in the calmest of weather. Some five or six years ago a preliminary survey of the neck of land stretching from Mex, through the village of Dekhela to Fort Agami, was undertaken by a local civil engineer. As explained to the writer, the idea was to open up the neighbourhood by means of a branch line of the Alexandria Tramways Co., starting from a central point in the town and ignoring entirely the present Sister Street route. Actually the plans were submitted to the municipality; but the scheme was not proceeded with. According to my informant, it would have been possible with a rapid service of trams to have accomplished the journey from town through Dekhela to Agami by the route suggested within an hour. The repeated visits of the engineer excited some local interest, which had its manifestation in a mushroom-like growth of boundary stones all over the sand-dunes of the peninsula which terminates at Agami, whilst one or two building sites on the sea front at Dekhela actually changed hands.

Few Alexandrians are aware, one ventures to think, that on the Mediterranean side of the neck of land running in a westerly direction from the fort, there is a magnificent potential bathing resort, where the beach shelves so gradually that it is possible to wade out for two or three hundred yards along a wide front without being out of one's depth. There are no pebbles to cut one's feet, only firm white sand, and in the sunshine the deeper water is clearly defined by its colour as it changes from brilliant aquamarine to sapphire. Here, save in the stormier weather, the long waves roll languidly in; there are no rocks to break their even progress, and, as a consequence, no treacherous currents to disconcert the swimmer.

The coastline stretching away towards Abusir, parallel with the Mariout lake, curves but slightly for as far as the eye can reach, and ever and always there is the white sand, strewn here and there with patches of sun-dried seaweed. This is no landlocked bay of the like of Abukir where, of a still day, the water is almost stagnant. Here the air comes pure and fresh across hundreds of miles of open sea. The land lying back from the beach is broken up by innumerable sand-dunes, in the hollows of which the Bedouin of the Aoulad Aly tribe cultivate tomatoes in desultory fashion during the spring of the year. There are also uneven patches of barley, burnt and shrivelled by the sun, with small prospect of any harvest. The quail season may bring two or three natives, or an itinerant Greek for a few days, with his tent and nets, but, apart from these and the coastguard patrols, the region remains unvisited.

A well-known Italian contractor has built himself a *pied-á-terre* overlooking the beach, and the legend runs that he is occasionally in residence during the summer months. There is also a much more substantial structure lying farther back from the shore beneath a clump of palm-trees; never inhabited, never, indeed, completed, it bears material witness to a passing fancy.

Sooner or later some enterprising capitalist will realise the possibilities of this wonderful beach, and that which M. le Baron Empain and his associates accomplished at Heliopolis may very well find its counterpart between Dekhela and Agami. Unless he be horseman or yachtsman, however, our capitalist will find his potential subject difficult of access, especially when he leaves the harbour side of the shore to try conclusions with the sand-dunes.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Mesopotamia: Transport Difficulties. Aug. 15.

Viscount MIDLETON had given notice that he would ask that the report of the Vincent Committee should be laid upon the table. He said, however, that he would refrain from doing so after the Secretary for India's statement in the House of Commons on the previous day. But he wished to ask whether the awful state of the hospitals had now been ameliorated. He had information that as late as June 21 an officer found some of his men in a hospital where the temperature was from 115 to 117 degs. They were in their hot and dirty clothes, and the ration was four Army biscuits per day and Tigris water. That was irreconcilable with the telegram which Lord Curzon received from India and read during the last debate on the subject.

Lord SYDENHAM stated that he had met a senior officer who left the front in Mesopotamia a month ago. That officer said things had improved a little bit; the rations were better, and what the men suffered mainly from was want of shelter from the sun. There were no mats. The medical provision was still insufficient, but it had improved.

Lord ISLINGTON said that he could not, in the circumstances, give a carefully-considered answer. The position in Mesopotamia was still not as satisfactory as they could desire. That was largely due to the immense difficulties attaching to transport in the country; but these difficulties were being overcome as fast as possible. He would point out to the House that, instead of decreasing, these difficulties seemed to increase with the prolongation of the campaign. The amount of transport which this country and India had now provided was considerable. Some of it had arrived and some was on its way. Alterations had been made in the responsible positions in Mesopotamia, and they hoped the difficulties would be overcome. The Secretary for India had asked him to say that in the report by the Vincent Committee special recognition was given to the very valuable services rendered by the officers and men of the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Indian Medical Corps, who, under unspeakable difficulties and with very inadequate staff and equipment, did what they could to mitigate the suffering of their fellow-countrymen.

The Marquess of SALISBURY recognised that too much importance should not be attached to the private reports which came from Mesopotamia. Those who made them might have seen but a limited portion of the field, or might have been misled. But after making all allowances, it would appear that the state of things continued not to be good. He thought it would reassure the country if the Government would say that the Vincent report confirmed the statement made to the House some months ago that "everything possible was now being done."

Lord ISLINGTON said that only a few weeks ago he was able to give the House information that medical supplies, boats, and other necessaries were being rapidly supplied from this country and India. The difficulty now was not the provision of things that were required, but their transport up country.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Number of Turkish Prisoners. August 10.

Mr. FORSTER informed Sir E. Cornwall that, according to the latest returns his Majesty's Forces had taken prisoners 425 Turkish officers and 9,598 of other ranks, exclusive of the prisoners recently captured in Egypt.

Our Troops in Irak.

Mr. FORSTER, answering Sir E. Cornwall, said he could not say that the general health of the troops in Mesopotamia was good, but every effort was being made to combat the causes of disease. The Mediterranean Sanitary Committee had been sent to Mesopotamia to assist the local military authorities.

Anglo-Persian Relations.

Sir E. CORNWALL asked whether the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs could give the House any information as to the present general condition of affairs in Persia; whether any recent arrangements had been concluded between Persia and his Majesty's Government relating to the financial and military reorganisation of that country; and whether Anglo-Indian officers would be employed in Southern Persia in officering the gendarmerie.

Lord R. CECIL: The general condition of affairs in Persia has recently shown a decided improvement, and the arrest or dispersal of most of the German parties and agents in that country gives good reason to hope that this improvement may be maintained. In regard to the second part of the question, while no agreement has yet actually been concluded, I hope that an arrangement on financial and other questions may very shortly be arrived at with the Persian Government, who have shown a sincere desire to work with the Allied Governments. The answer to the last part of the question is in the affirmative.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

Sir E. CORNWALL asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the failure of the Turkish Government to reply to the British Note of July 6 regarding the treatment and condition of British prisoners, the Government proposed to warn the leaders of the Young Turkish Party that they will be held personally responsible for any untoward results which may happen to the British officers and men in their hands.

Lord R. CECIL: The Porte was warned in July, 1915, that all Turkish Ministers and officials would be held personally responsible for damage and loss of whatever kind suffered by individual British subjects detained in Turkey. We are renewing this warning with special reference to our combatant prisoners. I must, however, point out that in time of war it is futile to expect words to be effective, and that the defeats which the Turks are now suffering are much more likely to be effective than any threats used by the Foreign Office.

Condition of Kut Captives. August 14.

Replying to Colonel YATE, who asked for information regarding the prisoners taken at Kut, Lord R. CECIL stated that no further information had been received regarding the treatment and condition of the prisoners. The United States Embassy at Constantinople sent clothing, comforts, and money to the prisoners as soon as their arrival at an internment camp was known. He had no doubt they would send further information shortly. The main cause of uneasiness as to the treatment of our prisoners of war by the Turks was their refusal to allow them to be visited by American officials. This appeared to be due to the perversity or worse of the Turkish Government. Individual Turkish officers had, by all accounts, generally behaved with humanity and consideration to British prisoners.

Montenegro and Albania.

Lord R. CECIL informed Sir E. Cornwall that he had received, and read in the Press, reports as to disturbances in Montenegro and Albania, but had received no reliable information or confirmation regarding these incidents. He feared, from reports that have reached the Foreign Office, that very great suffering prevails in those two countries.

The Vincent Report.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, answering a question by Sir H. Craik, said that copies of the report of Sir W. Vincent, General Purling, and Mr. Ridsdale with regard to the medical arrangements and transport in Mesopotamia were despatched from India last month, and the appendices, including the evidence, were sent early this month. He was informed by the Viceroy that a general view of the report and its appendices would follow as soon as they had been carefully examined. Since the Vincent Commission reported Parliament had appointed a Statutory Commission to inquire into the conduct of the operations in Mesopotamia, including *inter alia* "the provision for the sick and wounded," and this Commission was specifically directed "to proceed with all possible expedition to inquire with regard to the provision for the sick and wounded," and to "report the result of their inquiries on this matter as soon as they are completed." All the documents emanating from the Vincent Commission would be laid before the Statutory Commission as soon as received, and would, he thought, greatly facilitate their task. Meanwhile, the matters treated by the Vincent Commission must be considered as *sub judice*, and their report could not be published. The House had the assurance of the Secretary of State for War that everything possible was being done to remedy the defects disclosed, which were largely, though not entirely, due to difficulties of transport. He had seen an advance copy of the report. In addition to criticisms of Indian military organisation—a matter now engaging the serious attention of his Majesty's Government—it mentioned certain officers by name as having a grave responsibility in connection with the state of affairs disclosed by the investigation. For various reasons the Commission was, he believed, unable to examine any of these officers in person. They would, no doubt, be so examined by the Statutory Commission, by whom their case and the measure of their responsibility would be considered. Meanwhile he might say that the officers so named had vacated their positions, and new appointments had been made to the posts formerly held by them.

Sir E. CARSON asked whether the right hon. gentleman was aware that there were still very unsatisfactory reports coming from Mesopotamia, and whether he could assure the House that any suggestions made by the Vincent Commission would be at once carried out.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: I am aware that everything is not yet absolutely satisfactory. That was stated by the Secretary for War the other day. Although the difficulties of transport have not yet been wholly overcome, and cannot be for some little time, I believe matters have much improved. The new Director of Medical Services in India went to Mesopotamia, on his way to India, and dealt with the defects he found; and I think everything possible is being done to set things straight. The appointment of the Statutory Commission shall not be used as any reason or excuse for not taking any immediate steps where these are shown to be necessary.

Mr. R. M'NEIL: Will the report of the Vincent Commission be published eventually, whether it is in agreement or in conflict with the report of the Statutory Commission?

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: On my suggestion his Majesty's Government promised to the House some time ago that they would lay papers in regard to the Mesopotamian operations. When these papers were collected and submitted to our military advisers, they reported that it was contrary to the public interest to publish them, because they would give information of military value to the enemy. I cannot therefore promise to present any further papers with regard to military affairs or operations until these papers have been seen and examined by the General Staff.

Germans Captured in Egypt.

Mr. FORSTER informed Sir E. Cornwall that 25 Germans, rank and file, were captured in Egypt during the fighting between August 3 and August 11.

Rations at Salonika.

Mr. FORSTER, in reply to Mr. Grant, said he was informed by the General Officer Commanding that there was no foundation for any complaint about the shortage of rations at Salonika.

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Postal Service to Mesopotamia.

Mr. FORSTER, replying to Mr. R. M'Neill, said that a report, dated June 30, had recently been received from the Government of India on the subject of the military postal service in Mesopotamia. It stated that shortage of river transport caused serious delays in carriage of mails, especially parcels, during the early months of the year; but at the time of the report the inward mails were being cleared from Busreh within a week of arrival at the rate of 90 bags a day, and it was hoped by August 1 to send on the whole of the English mail on the day of arrival. They had not traced any cases of pilfering. Inadequate addresses and movements of addressees, and, in the case of parcels, insecure packing, must account for a good many miscarriages. He would communicate further with the Government of India on the subject.

Mr. PEASE informed Mr. Grant that money might be remitted by the troops in Mesopotamia either by postal order or by money order. He found that about 6,000 money orders were advised from the field in Mesopotamia during the last six months. All these had been delivered except about 40, where the addresses were incorrect or insufficient, and in those cases the senders had been notified. If particulars were furnished to him of any case in which a remittance sent home by a soldier in Mesopotamia had not been delivered he would be glad to make inquiry.

Sun Helmets at Salonika.

August 15.

Mr. G. FABER asked the Secretary of State for War whether there was an insufficiency of sun helmets for our troops at Salonika, and an insufficiency of punkahs for the sick and wounded there.

Mr. FORSTER said that there was no insufficiency of sun helmets. A sufficient supply to cover issues to the whole force was sent forward from Egypt last month. No representations had been received as to any insufficiency of punkahs for the sick and wounded.

Mr. G. FABER: Is it a fact that quite recently numbers of troops were wearing soft hats; and are not punkahs required as a matter of course in a hot climate?

Mr. FORSTER: I cannot say anything further with regard to the question of punkahs. I understand that no representation has been received as to any insufficiency. It is a fact that until recently the troops were wearing sun hats and pugarees. It became evident that these were insufficient protection. They asked for sun helmets and these are being sent.

Letters for Mesopotamian Force.

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL, replying for the Postmaster-General to Sir G. Toulmin, said that letters were despatched each week to the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, and, as far as the Postmaster-General knew, the Indian postal authorities, to whom they were handed at Bombay, ensured delivery to the addresses wherever possible. Some delay seemed to be inevitable. So far again as he knew, there was no reason why telegrams addressed to members of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force should not be delivered, but in any specific case of the failure of a telegram to reach its destination he would be happy to make inquiries.

An Austrian Outrage.

August 16.

Mr. BLISS asked whether the Foreign Under-Secretary was aware that a few weeks ago Field-Marshal von Weber, military governor of Montenegro, issued a proclamation to the effect that if General Veshovitch, the Montenegrin ex-Minister of War, and his two brothers, who had fled from the country, did not surrender themselves within a few days, his father, aged seventy-five, and another brother, who were held as hostages, would be hung; whether he had any official information showing that this threat had been carried out; and, if so, whether he would take cognisance of the fact and hold Field-Marshal von Weber personally responsible for the outrage at the end of the war.

Lord R. CECIL replied that information in the sense of the first part of the question had reached the Government, and in a subsequent admission in the *Vossiche Zeitung*, an official newspaper published at Serajevo, it was stated that the brother of the General was executed, and his father, by an exceptional act of mercy, had been reprieved.

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Egypt's West Frontier.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Sir E. Cornwall, said: The situation on the western frontier of Egypt may now be regarded as far more satisfactory. It is, however, not opportune at the present moment to inform the enemy of action which the British and Italian Governments, who are working in complete accord, may find it desirable to adopt at some future time.

Hospital Ships in the Mediterranean.

Mr. FORSTER, replying to Captain Ormsby-Gore, said that it was impossible to provide for hospital ships in Egypt to meet the Indian hospital ships, and patients from India had to be transferred to hospitals in Egypt until they could come on. There had been a shortage of hospital ships in the Mediterranean lately owing to the heavy requirements arising from the operations in France, but this had now been remedied.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

"SERBIAN MACEDONIA."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In addition to what you wrote with respect to Lady Grogan's letter on my pamphlet, "Serbian Macedonia," I should like—by your leave and that of Lady Grogan, to whom we Serbians are very much indebted for the great services she has rendered to our country—to state the following:—

I think the moment is most opportune to discuss the matter contained in my pamphlet. I wrote it in order to refute the entirely different and entirely erroneous point of view which is said to exist on the question. I am perfectly prepared to support a polemic on it. My pamphlet is an historical study with a strict scientific character. It represents to a large extent the results of my own investigations in connection with the subject, which are original. These investigations are based on a literature written in English, Russian, Serbian, German, and Bulgarian, which is all to be found in the British Museum. This literature is at the disposal of everyone, and I shall be very glad to have a competent criticism of my opinions. Then perhaps I shall also be informed in what way my arguments could be used to support a very different case, of which I am now completely ignorant.—I am, etc.,

PAVLE POPOVIC.

Lyncroft, Holmesdale Road,
Kew Gardens, S.W.

CZECH AND JUGOSLAV COMMEMORATION OF THE DECLARATION OF WAR.

Last Friday the Czech and Jugoslav colony in London held a public meeting at the Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road, to commemorate Great Britain's declaration of war on Austria-Hungary. Viscount Templetown was in the chair, and among the speakers were Mr. J. A. Seddon (late president of the British Trade Union Congress), Professor Masaryk (of King's College, London, and late Czech deputy), Dr. Hinko Hinkovitch (late Croatian deputy), and Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson. The proceedings throughout were most enthusiastic.

Professor Masaryk said that a common interest united Great Britain with the Slavs of Austria-Hungary, for that Power was the pan-Germanic bridge to Egypt and Africa—the goal of Germany's colonial ambitions.

Dr. Hinkovitch said that so soon as Germany was no longer able to use the fifty-one millions of Austrian subjects she would be secluded from the Balkans and from Asia, and Great Britain would be freed from the menace of Prussian militarism.

Dr. Seton-Watson said that if people in high places had realised two years ago the importance to this country and to the Entente of the Austrian and Balkan problems, we should now be further on with the war than we are. Germany's ultimate aim was the destruction of the British Empire, but her immediate aim was the creation of a mid-European state with 150 million inhabitants, controlled directly or indirectly from Berlin. To prevent that we had to detach the fifty million inhabitants of Austria-Hungary from the clutches of Germany. Serbia had been attacked for the same reason as Belgium had—because she stood in the way of German aggression. Some Americans now were talking seriously of a peace based on the *status quo* and a league to prevent war. A league to prevent war would be admirable, but we did not want the *status quo*. The old Europe was gone, a new Europe was wanted; and that must be based on the liberation of the Slavonic democracies of the centre and south of Europe.

A resolution was passed with acclamation drawing the attention of the British Government to the necessity for the disruption of Austria-Hungary so as to secure the future peace of Europe.

The Athens correspondent of the *Times* states that rumours current that the Greek elections will be postponed beyond October 8 are contradicted by a member of the Ministry, who states that the dissolution decree will be issued at the beginning of September.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

That "blessed word 'Mesopotamia,'" which proved so comforting to a certain old lady, must, I think, have changed its character of late. At any rate, the region to which it has come to be applied—quite erroneously, as has been pointed out again and again in THE NEAR EAST—is like to be regarded with feelings of anything but affection by many of our countrymen—and their relatives—for many a long day. There appears to be only too good reason for concluding that our troops out there are still suffering much from sickness, and possibly more from the climate; though it is satisfactory to know that everything possible is being done to remedy this state of affairs. What strikes me as the strangest part of the business is that nobody who really knew anything about "Mesopotamia" and its climate seems to have been consulted by the powers that be before the Expedition was despatched. At any rate, that is the impression one receives from a perusal of Parliamentary debates on the subject, of what appears in the Press, and of what is written home by men who have been through the fiery furnace of a summer on the Lower Tigris and Euphrates.

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This is all the more strange because, though even to-day there are comparatively few people here who have any correct idea of what the climate of that region is like, there were, and are, at least a score who could have given just the information that would have been most useful. Apart from officials and former members of the British communities in Baghdad and Busreh, there was, for instance, Sir William Willcocks. If he was not available at the precise moment he was wanted, there were surely some members of his staff, to say nothing of other travellers who knew the region intimately. Had any of these been consulted there might be a different tale to tell to-day. As it is, I understand that a very talented lady who knew northern Turkey in Asia and the *real* Mesopotamia (north of Baghdad) is now on the spot. After this who shall say that our wiseacres are not ready to take advice?

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There, for the present, we may leave the subject. It is to be threshed out, without fear or favour, let us hope; and little good can be done by demanding any particular person's scalp at present. Nor, I think, can clamouring for the recall of the men who are doing their best to undo the harm that has, admittedly, been done, be productive of anything but further harm. There is so little trustworthy information available to-day that none of us can judge the case fairly. But I do not mind hazarding the guess that when at last the whole truth is known and published it will be found that the Government of India—which is just now coming in for a great deal of ill-informed criticism—has been able to give a very good account of itself in regard to this business.

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I am indebted to two correspondents for sending me particulars of one of the latest steps in Bulgaria's efforts to provide the blessings of *Kultur* for the "occupied territories." The starving population of these territories is, as we know, crying for bread: the munificent Government at Sofia gives them—not stones, it is true, but books! In other words, libraries are to be established in the more important centres of these territories; and presumably the starving people will be invited to forget their hunger in enjoyment of the rich literary feast provided for them by the beneficent Bulgar. Here is a prospect to gladden the heart of Mr. A—— C——.

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One of my correspondents, however, is somewhat sceptical about the quality of the literary fare to be set before the "conquered" people. He is unkind enough to suggest that the undertaking "will provide yet one other 'little affair' for the agents of M. Radoslavoff, who are charged with the duty of obtaining the necessary books and arranging the libraries." And he adds that: "Some time ago all the bad writers of Bulgaria, finding a ready market for their 'talent,' attached themselves to the Bulgarian Prime Minister, who commissioned countless books, pamphlets, etc., in the service of German propaganda." Strange to say, this choice literature "hung fire" sadly, and the public did not rush to buy it, as its authors—and their patron—doubtless expected. Now, my correspondent suggests, "a new use for the stuff is to be provided, in the form of these libraries," of which a hundred are to be organised. Truly, M. Radoslavoff is an ingenious person, with a fine taste for turning to account material which would otherwise be absolutely wasted. And, one supposes, he will have his reward. The Bulgarian peasants of to-day and to-morrow may curse him, as the traitor who sold their country—at a price satisfactory to himself. But all "the bad writers of Bulgaria" will undoubtedly call his name blessed!

It is not often that one catches the *World* tripping, but in one of the "What the World Says" paragraphs this week I detect a couple of errors. The writer is referring to the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Percy Molesworth Sykes as organiser of the new police force in Southern Persia, and he remarks that "Colonel Sykes, who is no relation to Sir Mark Sykes, another Persian expert, is an admirable choice." I quite agree as to Sir Percy Sykes, than whom no better or more suitable man could have been found for the work he has taken in hand, as, I think, I observed at the time of his appointment. But has the *World* already forgotten that "Lieutenant-Colonel Percy Sykes" is a K.C.I.E.? And to refer to Sir Mark Sykes as "another Persian expert" is incorrect. Sir Mark has a remarkable knowledge of Turkey, especially of Asiatic Turkey—a knowledge gained in the course of many years and at the cost of many long journeys. But he would, I am sure, be the first to disclaim any profound knowledge of Persia.

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Generally speaking, the peoples of the Levant and the Near East do not, I think, set so much store by a good dog as does the average Englishman. The shepherd may value the animal—often a fierce one—that helps him guard his flock, but he seldom makes a friend of it; similarly, the half-settled Arab encourages to a certain extent the watch dogs that make approach to his tents a matter of some anxiety to the traveller unacquainted with their peculiarities; while the true Bedawi and the Persian sportsman often shows something like affection for his swift greyhounds. Occasionally, too, you will find a Syrian, an Egyptian, or a Greek shooting man who owns a decent sporting dog of sorts; and, of course, wealthy pashas and princes often give a very high price for a showy big dog—Great Danes or boarhounds being the favourites, by reason, I suppose, of their short coats and their fine colours. But you seldom come across any native of the region referred to making a "chum" of a dog as an Englishman will do. This may be a result of the Moslem idea that the dog is an "unclean" animal; or it may be merely due to certain drawbacks attendant on dog-keeping in a hot climate. Be that as it may, the fact remains that "Man's best friend" is but little understood in the Near East, where a pure-bred dog is a rarity.

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These thoughts have been suggested to me by a little tale that a Greek gentleman told me a short time ago about the late King George of Greece. The gentleman referred to was living in Athens at the time, and he owned a fine dog, which, as far as I can make out from his description, seems to have been a Landseer Newfoundland. One day, accompanied by this animal, he was taking a walk when he met King George, also walking. The King glanced at the dog, then stopped. "Your dog wants water," said he, speaking in the easy way he knew so well how to adopt with his subjects. "But, sir," stammered the Greek, somewhat taken aback by the royal condescension, "I gave him a good drink just before I left home." The King smiled. "I mean that he wants to go into the water; he wants a swim," he said. "Do you not know he is a water-dog? Look at his paws." And stooping over quickly, he lifted one of the dog's feet and showed its webbed toes. "And I was dreadfully frightened," said the Greek, in telling me of the incident; "for, as a rule, the dog would never let strangers go anywhere near him, let alone touch him. But he did not mind the King doing so in the least. He just sat there, with his tongue lolling out of his mouth, quite gentle." Which seems to show that the animal knew a gentleman and a dog-lover when he saw one.

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A friend home from the front was talking to me a few days ago about the Battle of Jutland, when he mentioned, apropos of the loss of the gallant little Tipperary, that the name is an "unlucky" one. I find on inquiry that many of our fighting men share this view, and even dislike to hear the tune whistled or hummed at any "ticklish" time. And I suspect that there is in Egypt just now at least one native who is quite ready to believe that bad luck attaches to the famous song. It seems that some little time ago a certain native paper offered a prize for the best Arabic rendering of the ditty. The task of translating it can hardly have been an easy one; indeed it is one that any but the boldest man might well be pardoned for "funking." But some bold spirits essayed it, and, in due time, a certain Sheikh Ahmed Ashour was duly adjudged the winner. Then the trouble began. The journal which organised the competition was ready, so to say, to crown the successful poet's work—but not to hand over the monetary prize promised. As a result the Sheikh, wroth, no doubt, at the thought of burning the midnight oil in vain, has instituted an action against the proprietor of the journal. At the time of writing I do not know the result of his action, and, of course, I must refrain from comment upon a matter still *sub judice*. But I fancy that the translation of "Tipperary" is worth a good many piastres.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

AN ADMIRAL IN THE MAKING.*

The number of "war books" is already large, and it is obvious that eventually the sum total will be an enormous one, but "From Dartmouth to the Dardanelles" is unique, and likely to remain so. The person who cannot enjoy it, who can read it without a thrill of pride in his race and in that great Service to which we all owe so much, is to be pitied indeed. The mother of the anonymous author need have no qualms of conscience about having given it to the world; she has done her country a fresh service thereby, and we shall all feel very grateful to her.

The story, so we are told in the "Foreword," has been compiled from a narrative written by a midshipman during a spell of sick leave last December; and we agree with the young officer's mother that "considering that all his diaries were lost when his ship was sunk, it may at least be considered a not inconsiderable feat of memory." It is that, and it is more—much more. It is a fascinating record of some fourteen months of crowded, glorious life, the last ten of which were spent in "the thick of things"; and to Englishmen the world over it should be, and surely will be, an inspiration. The author is a mere boy in years—fifteen apparently when he wrote this narrative—and a very human and real boy at that, with a taste for getting into an occasional scrape and having an occasional grumble; but he has already had experiences which have been denied to many an octogenarian; and if his method of telling them very often betrays the unconscious plagiarism (in the matter of phraseology) of the boyish writer, that fact in no wise detracts from the charm of his work, which is, upon the whole, singularly free from affectation and self-consciousness. From the day he takes us to Dartmouth with him, fresh from his two years at Osborne, to the day we bid good-bye to him in S—— Place, home on leave after a wonderful escape at the Dardanelles, where his ship was torpedoed by a Turkish boat—"a jolly smart piece of work," as our midshipman calls it—and sunk in three and a-half minutes, we find his company excellent. To the uninitiated the first chapters, dealing with pre-war days, are almost as interesting as those which describe the stirring events in which the writer took part "on active service."

In the early stages of the war his ship was engaged on various duties in the English Channel and the Irish Sea, and was fortunate enough to account for at least one hostile craft, a torpedo-boat masquerading as a fishing smack. Several prizes were also captured—and, one hopes, condemned in due course by the Prize Courts. Then, in a grand hurry—she was actually chasing a German barque when the wireless message arrived—the good ship was ordered off "abroad." Down the Mediterranean, through the Red Sea, and on to Bombay we accompany the author, who has a good many shrewd remarks to make about various places familiar to many readers of THE NEAR EAST, who will find them often amusing. Do we not, for instance, know the ways of the traders at Mediterranean ports when dealing with travellers or sailormen who have no time to spare and urgently require some article of necessity? Shall we not, with the author's mother, admire the wisdom of the commander who refused leave to a party of youthful midshipmen who wished to go ashore at Port Said, and who made them "draw a section of the ship instead, which seemed adding insult to injury!" And can we not sympathise with the youngsters when they had their "first experience of that most objectionable thing called 'prickly heat,' and did not like it at all"? At Jeddah it was hoped to find the Koenigsberg, but the Consul—"a rather sly Arab"—denied that the ship had ever been there, and the hopes were destined to disappointment.

At Bombay the good ship became part of the escort to a large convoy bound for Tanga; but, owing to engine trouble, had to fall out and make her way to Mombasa. Here the author, with others, had a brief spell on shore as one of a party charged with keeping a look-out for enemy craft; and though no enemy craft was obliging enough to walk into the trap that had been prepared, the look-out party had quite a good time. Then follows a capital description of the bombardment of Dar-es-Salaam, brought about by a typical bit of German treachery, of the white flag description, which, most readers will agree, fully justifies the midshipman's outburst: "The treacherous, dishonourable devils!" To read this account is enough to make any self-respecting man firmly resolve never again to have any dealings with a Hun.

What we are told of the Dardanelles operations, and of the author's share in them, is extremely interesting. But we are not told much. As his editor says in a graphic note:—

> . . . I think he felt it too big a thing to tackle.
> The epic of the Gallipoli landings will, let us hope, one day be written by a pen worthy to depict that immortal tale of heroism, but I doubt if the whole truth can ever be spoken or written. . . . A word, a sentence here and there, may lift for a moment a corner of the veil, but only those who went through that inferno will ever fully realise its horror.

The description of the loss of his ship is, however, particularly vivid, because he tells us only just what he himself saw, felt, and thought at the time. Of his rescue—in the nick of time, after a very long swim—we read with a catch of our breath. And then he proceeds to tell us how he manœuvred to get appointed to a T.B., and how, having succeeded, to his "intense delight," he enjoyed the three weeks he spent in this exacting service. Mercifully it occurred to someone that a boy of his age might possibly be all the better for leave after such an experience as he had gone through, and "with some surprise and much regret" he found himself ordered home. So, in England once more, we take leave of him as reluctantly as he took his own leave, and wishing him the best of health and luck in the future.

* "From Dartmouth to the Dardanelles: A Midshipman's Log." Edited by His Mother. (Heinemann. 1s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

Part XII. of "The Great World War," edited by F. A. Mumby (Gresham Publishing Co., 2s. 6d. net), deals with, *inter alia*, the Mesopotamian Campaign, the invasion of Serbia, and the Armenian massacres.

Mr. Heinemann will publish in the autumn "The German Road to the East," by Mr. Charles Lewin, author of "The Germans in Africa."

Mr. Arthur Ruhl, an American war correspondent, has written "Antwerp to Gallipoli," which Messrs. Allen and Unwin publish.

Miss Flora Sendes, an Irishwoman who went to Serbia as a nurse, who later joined the Serbian Army as a private, and who is now serving as a sergeant, has written an account of her experiences, which Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton will publish under the title, "An English Woman Sergeant in the Serbian Army."

At the request of the trustees of the late Earl Kitchener, Sir George Arthur, who was his private secretary, has undertaken to write the Life of Lord Kitchener. All Lord Kitchener's private papers and correspondence have been placed in Sir George Arthur's hands for the purpose of the work, and he will have the benefit of the co-operation and assistance of the Earl of Derby. The book will be published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co.

Messrs. Harrap and Co. have just published "Song of the Dardanelles and Other Verses," by Henry Lawson. The price is 2s. 6d. net.

Messrs. Macmillan have published recently "Early Forms of the Cross from Egyptian Tombs," which is reprinted from "Ancient Egypt," Part III. The price is 1s. 6d.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Russians and Their Language. By Madame N. Jarintzov. With an Introduction and Preface by Nevill Forbes. (Oxford: Blackwell. 6s. net.)

The Book of Pirates. By Henry Gilbert. Illustrated by J. Finnemore. (Harrap and Co. 5s. net.)

Le Declin de l'Hellénisme. By L. P. Alaux and R. Puaux. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 2 fr. 50 c.)

War Letters. By Oliver Bainbridge. (Cursitor Publishing Co. 3s. 6d.)

In the Hands of the Senoussi. Compiled by Mrs. Gwatkin-Williams from the Diary of Captain Gwatkin-Williams, R.N., H.M.S. Tara. (Pearson. 1s. net.)

ARMENIAN REFUGEES FUND.

The Committee of the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund make a fresh appeal for help. Between October 15 and June 30 they received in donations £55,458, of which £52,550 was remitted for the relief and repatriation of the refugees and £1,165 contributed towards the expenses of the Russian Expedition. All the cost of administering the fund was defrayed from gifts specially made for that purpose. The Hon. Secretary (the Rev. Harold Buxton), who is on his way home, telegraphs that the need for money to rebuild the refugees' houses is almost unlimited. The Committee recently sent out £6,000 for this purpose, and very little money is now coming in. The offices of the Fund are at 96, Victoria Street.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Aug.	1916. Aug.		1334. Shawwal	5676. Ab.
18	5	Friday	18	19
19	6	Saturday.....	19	20
20	7	Sunday	20	21
21	8	Monday	21	22
22	9	Tuesday	22	23
23	10	Wednesday	23	24
24	11	Thursday	24	25

To-day is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Nicholas of Roumania, the second son and fourth child of King Ferdinand and Queen Marie, who was born at Castle Pelesh in 1903.

To-day is also the birthday of H.I.M. the Emperor of Austria, who was born in 1830.

Next Tuesday is the birthday of Queen Eleonore of Bulgaria.

Thursday will be the birthday of the King of Roumania, who was born in 1865.

The Queen and Princess Mary, accompanied by Lady Mary Trefusis, visited the Galleries of the Fine Art Society, New Bond Street, on Tuesday afternoon, and inspected the water-colours of Egypt by Mr. Talbot Kelly.

Princess Soutzo, the wife of the Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation in Paris, who has been visiting London, left town on Tuesday for the French capital.

Sir Ralph and Lady Paget were received by Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House last Friday morning.

Tuesday's *London Gazette* contained the announcement that the King has appointed Sir Ralph Spencer Paget, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., to be his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of Denmark. Sir Ralph arrived in Copenhagen on Tuesday night.

It is reported that Mrs. Townshend has arrived in Constantinople, having been granted permission by the Turkish Government to visit her husband.

Lady Maxwell, who is slightly better in health, is leaving Stafford to join Sir John Maxwell in Dublin.

M. Djuvara, Secretary to the Roumanian Foreign Office, who has been on a short visit to London, left for Paris on Tuesday.

Sir Henry Woods Pasha is at present on a visit to Bexhill.

Madame Misu, the wife of the Roumanian Minister, and Mlle. Margaret Misu, who have been paying a short visit in the country, have returned to the Legation.

The marriage arranged between Captain John F. King, the Suffolk Regiment, only son of Mr. and Mrs. John King, of Wandsworth Common, London, and Helen Muriel, eldest daughter of Sir Armand Ruffer, C.M.G., and Lady Ruffer, of Bulkeley, Ramleh, Egypt, will take place at Alexandria early in September.

A correspondent writes:—Professor George H. Huntington, of Robert College, Constantinople, was married to Miss Elizabeth Dodge, daughter of Mr. Cleveland H. Dodge, the New York capitalist and philanthropist, at New York on July 27. Mr. and Mrs. Huntington will sail for Constantinople on August 17. At the wedding were gathered all the Constantinopolitans, American and English and Canadian who happen to be in America this summer. A notable figure was Mrs. George Washburn, daughter of Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, founder of Robert College, and widow of the former president, Dr. Washburn.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (July 24):—The engagement of Mr. Russell, King's Advocate, to Miss Gordon, who has been paying a visit of some length to Cyprus, is announced.

General Terzitch, the Serbian Minister of War, has arrived at Salonika from Corfu.

Corporal Robert C. Murray, of the Canadian Division, son of the Rev. James Murray, Scottish Mission, Smyrna, has been awarded the Military Medal. Mr. Murray's eldest son, Sandford, a very brilliant young student, was killed at the Front a year ago.

Sister K. H. Wheatley's excellent work on behalf of sick and wounded Turks, during the Balkan wars, and in France amongst our own men during the present war, will be remembered by many of our readers. They will be interested to know that Sister Wheatley has now been appointed Matron of No. 17 Stationary Hospital, Bombay, an institution of 1,000 beds. She was, we understand, on her way to Mesopotamia when she was detained for this service.

Captain Ormsby-Gore, who has been serving for six months in Egypt, some two hundred miles south of Cairo during most of the time, is home on a fortnight's leave. In spite of the great heat, he has kept in the best of health.

It was announced at the Admiralty on Saturday that Admiral Sir A. W. Moore, G.C.B., has been awarded a Good Service Pension of £300 a year in the vacancy created by the death of Admiral Sir John Hopkins. Admiral Moore, who was born in 1847, entered the Navy in 1860, and served in the Egyptian War of 1882.

The King has been pleased to grant authority to Commander Hubert Searle Cardale, R.N., to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of Kara George, conferred upon him by the King of Serbia, in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

The King has been pleased to grant authority to Acting Vice-Admiral Sir John Michael de Robeck, K.C.B., to wear the Insignia of Grand Officier of the Legion of Honour, conferred upon him by the President of the French Republic in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

A telegram has been received from Bushire by the Imperial Bank of Persia, dated August 11, stating, Reuter's Agency is informed, that the staff of the Shiraz branch of the bank, who have been held prisoners for some months, have been released, and have arrived at Bushire.

General Sir Douglas Haig has sent a telegram to General Sir Archibald Murray, saying:—"The British Army in France join me in heartiest congratulations on your brilliant success." General Sir Archibald Murray replied as follows:—"I am anxious to do all I can in this theatre to help towards a decisive action in the Western theatre. I watch with intense interest and admiration the sure and certain progress, which nothing can stop, of the force under your command."

An artillery officer who served throughout the Dardanelles Expedition, has made and sent to the Lord Mayor a copper salver from part of the dome of the lighthouse which used to stand at Helles Point, Gallipoli.

A Reuter's message from Salonika, dated August 10, reports:—General Cordonnier has arrived here. He is taking over the command of the French forces in the Balkans, in succession to General Sarrail, who becomes Commander-in-Chief of all the Allied forces in the Balkans.

The Countess of Carnarvon writes to the *Morning Post:* "Our troops in Egypt are suffering from very great heat and the torment of flies, and many of them, stationed out in the desert, have no means of distraction or recreation. The United Services Welfare Committee, Egypt, is in constant receipt of requests for games, especially cricket sets (or odd bats, balls, and wickets), and footballs. Tennis balls, skittles, and quoits are welcomed, and used packs of playing cards, dominoes, draughts, chess, and cribbage boards are also in great demand. In England, where means of recreation are not lacking, it is difficult to realise that their absence in Egypt constitutes a real hardship, and I cannot appeal too strongly to all those who are able to do so to contribute, whether by gifts of games or by money, to lessen the dull hours of our troops in Egypt. The United Services Welfare Offices at Alexandria and Cairo, distribute to the troops all over Egypt, and any gifts may be sent to the Secretary, United Services Welfare, Banco di Roma, Rue Toussoum Pasha, Alexandria, Egypt, via Forwarding Officer, Devonport, or to the Hon. Mrs. Lloyd, 48, Wilton Crescent, London, S.W."

The Serbian Relief Fund still urgently needs funds. Donations should be sent to the Earl of Plymouth, hon. treasurer, 5, Cromwell Road, S.W. There is still a demand for shirts, socks, and underclothing for prisoners of war; for household linen, dressings, and clothing for the hospitals; and for boys' and men's cast-off suits of clothes, boots, and shoes for the better-class refugees. Parcels should be sent to Mrs. Carrington Wilde, Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, S.W.

Mrs. Cayley, 13, Oaklands Road, Bedford, makes an appeal to the parents, relatives, and friends of officers now serving in Mesopotamia. "I shall," she writes, "be very grateful to any of them for a subscription, however small, forwarded to me at the above address in aid of a fund which I am starting for the purchase of comforts and medical requisites to be sent out regularly for the use of all ranks."

The Hon. Abraham I. Elkus, the new American Ambassador to Turkey, left New York for his post, viâ Copenhagen and Berlin, on August 12. He is accompanied by Mrs. Elkus and his three young children. Mr. Elkus is head of one of the oldest firms of solicitors in New York, a graduate of Columbia University, and a regent of the University of the State of New York. Several years ago he received the honorary D.C.L. from Columbia. Mr. Elkus, although a comparatively young man, could have had an embassy three years ago. He has yielded now only to the insistence of President Wilson and his predecessor, the Hon. Henry Morgenthau.

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OBITUARY.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CYPRUS.

(From a Cyprus Correspondent.)

The Greek community was not unprepared for the news of the death of the Archbishop Kyrillos (Cyril), which took place on July 19, at the village of Ayios Dhimitrios, to which he had gone to take the waters. By his death the Orthodox Greek community loses one who has been a very prominent figure for more than a generation, and the foremost champion of the "Hellenic idea" in Cyprus.

Born in 1845, the son of a priest at the village of Prodromos, on Mount Troödos, he was, as a boy, destined for the Church. After some early village teaching he was sent to study at Nicosia, and afterwards to Jerusalem. Returning to Nicosia, he received an appointment in the Greek school, and enjoyed the friendship and confidence of the Archbishop Sophronios. He soon took a vigorous part in local affairs. From the time of the British occupation and the introduction of freedom undreamed of in Turkish times, Kyrillos became one of the leading spirits in the development of Cypriot Hellenism, and later in the agitation for "union with Greece." In 1889 he was elected Bishop of Kyrenia, and in 1892 Bishop of Kition.

On the death of the Archbishop Sophronios, the Greeks became split up into two hostile parties, the one supporting the Bishop of Kition as candidate for the succession, the other his namesake, the Bishop of Kyrenia. This division was maintained with much bitterness for the best part of ten years, led to various lamentable results, and in many ways retarded progress. Finally, in 1908, after Government aid had been invoked, an arrangement was made by which the Bishop of Kition was recognised as Archbishop; though it was not until 1910 that the whole Greek community was brought into line, and accepted the settlement.

During the last six years the Archbishop, while taking in hand various Church reforms, continued to give his support to local Greek "politics." While Bishop, Kyrillos sat for many years in the Legislative Council, from 1889, representing different electoral divisions. A vigorous rhetorician, he enjoyed a large measure of popularity amongst the Greeks of his party, who formed the majority.

The Archbishop was buried at his native village of Prodromos, it being decided, in accordance with medical advice, that his body should not be conveyed to Nicosia, as was desired by Greeks at the capital.

LIEUT.-COL. J. P. V. HAWKSLEY.

It is announced that Lieutenant-Colonel John Plunkett Verney Hawksley, D.S.O., Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action on August 8. The youngest son of the late James Taylor Hawksley, of Caldy Island, Pembrokeshire, and the late Mrs. Hawksley, he was thirty-eight years of age, and passed out of Woolwich into the Royal Artillery in September, 1897. Promotion came to him in September, 1900, and he was captain in July, 1904, and major in October, 1914. For a period of seven years from May, 1905, he was employed with the Egyptian Army. The present war had brought him both honours and promotion. He received the rank of temporary lieutenant-colonel in March of this year, and in addition to the Companionship of the Distinguished Service Order he held the Osmanieh Order (4th Class).

Colonel Hawksley fought right through the South African War, and took part in many operations in the various Colonies. For his services he was mentioned in despatches, and had the Queen's and the King's medals with seven clasps. During his employment with the Egyptian Army Colonel Hawksley took part in the operations in Southern Kordofan, and was decorated with the Sudan medal with clasp.

MR. LANCE THACKERAY, R.B.A.

We regret to announce that Mr. Lance Thackeray, R.B.A., died last Friday at Brighton, the cause of death being anæmia. He first came into public notice as a black-and-white artist with a keen sense of humour, and his sketches were to be found in most of our better-class illustrated journals. Of late however, he turned his attention to more serious work, and found in Egypt a happy hunting ground, whence he returned with a full "bag" of sketches and finished water-colours which gave an excellent idea of both the people and the scenery of the Nile Valley. Egypt evidently appealed to him strongly, for he spent several winters there; and each visit produced its crop of sketches and studies. Some years ago a number of his Egyptian pictures were exhibited at the Fine Art Society's Rooms, New Bond Street, and at Walker's Galleries, and they won high appreciation from critic and collector. His volumes, "The Light Side of Egypt" and "The People of Egypt," published in 1908 and 1910 respectively, were also very favourably received.

Shortly after the outbreak of the war Mr. Thackeray enlisted as a private in the Artists' Rifles, but the strenuous duties of a soldier soon affected his health, which suffered further from an accident, and a few weeks ago he was admitted to the Canadian Military Hospital and was ultimately removed to Brighton, where he died. He will be much missed in art circles in London, particularly at the Sketch Club and the Savage, where he was very popular; and in Cairo, where he was a member of the Turf Club.

We regret to learn from a correspondent that Lieutenant Douglas Stanley Baker, R.E., died in France on July 23, of wounds received the same day while in charge of a party of infantry engaged in constructing trenches in "No Man's Land." Aged 26, he was the son of Mr. G. P. Baker and Mrs. Baker, and was a most promising young officer.

Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick William O'Malley, late of the 71st Highland Light Infantry, who has died at Chester, was born in June, 1836, and served in the Crimean campaign, taking part in the siege of Sebastopol and the expedition to Kertch, receiving the Crimean medal with clasp and the Turkish medal. He also served through the Indian Mutiny.

Major Ernest Hastings Lewis, Hampshire Regiment, who was reported "Missing, believed killed," is now officially presumed killed on August 12, 1915. The only son of Mr. William Jarrett Lewis, of Corstorphine, Ryde, he obtained his commission in the 21st Lancers in 1892, became lieutenant in 1896, and captain in 1899. He served with the 21st Lancers in the Sudan Campaign of 1898, and was present at the battle of Omdurman. He was seconded for service with the West African Frontier Force in 1898, and served in the Ashanti Campaign of 1900, and in Northern Nigeria in 1901 during the operations against the forces of Kontagora, being on the last occasion mentioned in despatches. In 1903 he saw further service in Northern Nigeria, being present at the capture of Kano. He joined the Hampshire Regiment in October, 1913, and went with it, as second in command, to Gallipoli in August of last year. He leaves a widow and three children.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND.

The latest list of subscriptions to the above fund will be found on page 383.

LEGAL.

I DICRAN STEPHEN heretofore known as Dicran Stephen (or Stepan) Iplicjian of 3, Chepstow Street in the City of Manchester, and of "Redlands," Hesketh Road, Southport, in the County of Lancaster, Merchant, being and for many years past a naturalised British subject, hereby give notice that I have on behalf of myself and my Wife, Rose, and my heirs and issue, renounced and abandoned the use of my second surname of Iplicjian, and intend henceforth upon all occasions and at all times to sign and use and be called and known by my first surname of STEPHEN only in lieu of the said surname of Stephen (or Stepan) Iplicjian, and that such intended change of name is formally declared and evidenced by a Deed Poll under my hand and seal dated the 18th day of July, 1916, and enrolled in the Central Office of the Supreme Court of Judicature on the 28th day of July, 1916.

IN TESTIMONY whereof I hereby sign and subscribe myself by such my intended future name.

Dated this 10th day of August, 1916.

DICRAN STEPHEN.

Signed in the presence of
William Raby, Solicitor,
46, Brown Street, Manchester.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

Simpson.—On the 14th inst., at Hoselaw, Roxburghshire, the wife of M. F. Simpson, Sudan Civil Service, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

Mullins—Etherington.—On August 5, by Rev. F. J. Howard, at St. Luke's Church, Reading, Hugh Thomas Mullins, Sudan Civil Service, to Marjory, eldest daughter of Mrs. A. H. Etherington, of Brooklyn, Reading.

DEATH.

Ralli.—On August 12, at New York, Anthony P. Ralli, third son of the late Mr. Pandia J. Ralli, of London, in his sixty-third year.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1916.

THE WAR ON THE EASTERN FRONTS.

With the news from every part of Europe so satisfactory there would seem to be good reason for not taking too seriously the Russian set-back in Southern Armenia. But the tragedies connected with this part of the world are too fresh in the public memory to prevent the abandonment of whole districts to the mercy of a Turkish advance from being viewed with considerable uneasiness. The province of Van was one of the chief centres of the Armenian population. It was from here that in December, 1914, the Ottoman forces started the invasion of Persia, and gave an earnest of what was to follow in the massacre of the Nestorian communities met with on the way. In January the tide turned; the Russians recaptured Tabriz, and Jevdet Bey, Governor of Van, was compelled to fall back on to Turkish territory. Before evacuating Salmas on the frontier between Lake Van and Lake Urmia he ordered the massacre of all the Armenian and Nestorian male inhabitants. This crime was of sinister augury for the people of Van itself. Murders and massacres on a small scale followed in outlying districts, and Jevdet Bey let it be seen that he intended to wreak his vengeance on the Armenians of Van for the military successes of the Russians. A local affray on April 20, 1915, was the signal for the bombardment of their residential quarter; but the Armenians had taken warning of what was in store for them and hurriedly devised measures of defence. As the Turks contented themselves for the most part with artillery fire, the work of reducing the Armenians to submission proceeded slowly. Before it could be accomplished, a Russian column reached the town, and Jevdet Bey was forced to withdraw his troops. The Turkish reply to this successful resistance in Van was the systematic extermination of the Armenians. In the districts immediately bordering upon the province the Christian population was at once massacred; in other parts of the country deportation was practised as a preliminary step. At Bitlis the Armenians were massacred on June 25. Mush was captured early in July; the male inhabitants were put to the sword, and the women and children, after being removed to concentration camps, were disposed of in different ways. Reinforcements enabled the Turks to resume the offensive, and by the beginning of August they were again in Van. The bulk of the population withdrew with the Russian troops; the remainder were massacred when the Turks entered the town. Within less than a month Van was once more in Russian hands, and when the great advance of the Grand Duke Nicholas's army, which began last winter, carried the Russians into Erzeroum and Mush and Bitlis, it seemed as if the final liberation of Armenia was secured.

But again the Russian tide has ebbed. Starting south of Mush and Bitlis, the Turks have gradually thrust back the Russian forces a distance of between thirty and forty miles. Both these towns are now in their possession, and there is no clear indication that our Allies are yet in a position to hold their own in this district. The first effect of their withdrawal is to stay the pursuit of the Turks west of Erzinjan. Encounters west of Trebizond continue, but it may be that the Russians do not intend to advance their line beyond a point which leaves them in control of the road between Erzinjan and the Black Sea. The other effect of the enemy's success is to expose any of the luckless inhabitants who may be unable to escape to the horrors that await them at the hands of the Turks. Many of the refugees who fled to Russian Armenia will have been tempted by the Grand Duke's successful campaign to return to their former homes. Their fate will be a foregone conclusion, if they are found in any of the towns or villages now changing hands for the fourth time during the war. It is to be hoped, however, that the Russian withdrawal has been of a sufficiently deliberate character to enable any such refugees to return to safety. Were it not for the possible fate of the local population, the swaying of the fortunes of war on this front would matter little. Twice a Turkish advance in this region has proved short-lived. The present one may well share the same fate. It breaks the continuity of the Russian advance, but can hardly affect the operations as a whole. Taken in conjunction with the Turkish thrust in Persia it shows that the staying power of the Ottoman Army is still considerable. On the other hand, as it is not likely that the Turks would choose the province of Van for decisive operations while leaving the Erzinjan front exposed, we may conclude that they owe their present successes at Mush and Bitlis to the proximity of these places to railhead of the Baghdad Railway. It has been easier to despatch the troops collected in Syria to this front than to bring them into action where they are most needed. In the same way relief from British pressure in Mesopotamia has released troops from the Baghdad command for service in Persia—another comparatively unimportant theatre of war. In each case the enemy has been able to establish a numerical superiority over the Russians. But such danger as there is has probably been foreseen long enough ago to enable our Allies to correct the balance of strength in Armenia before the Turkish advance becomes an actual menace to the Grand Duke's position at Erzinjan.

If we wish to form a correct estimate of how Turkey stands at the present moment in regard to the war, it is evident that we must look away from the Middle East, where her local recovery has brought her within fifty miles of Erzeroum and halfway to Teheran from the Persian frontier. In official circles in Constantinople it is probable that the situation in Arabia and the Sinai Peninsula is regarded with greater concern than the Russian thrust in Armenia. Any hopes that may have been formed of the ability of the Egyptian expedition to restore Turkish prestige in the Arab world will have been rudely shattered by the débâcle that has attended the enterprise. With casualties amounting to 50 per cent. of the effective force it has been difficult to concoct a plausible tale about the expedition's doings. It remains to be seen what headway can be made against the Arab revolt. In the semi-official German Press it is maintained, on the strength of Turkish assurances, that peace and security have been restored in Medina and the neighbourhood, and that the railway to that town is now intact. But as these statements are accompanied by others which are demonstrably inaccurate, too much reliance need not be placed upon them. The Porte's attention, however, must at this moment be directed mainly towards the Balkans and Galicia, and even if it be not true that several divisions of Turkish troops have been sent to the assistance of the Austrians, we may well believe that the powers that be in Constantinople would wish to be able to spare more in order to check the Russian advance. This has now reached a stage which has completely falsified Austro-German claims to invincibility, and the future of Turkey becomes an uncomfortable subject for contemplation. Until Roumania strikes the effect of General Brusiloff's progress towards the Carpathians will not be felt on the Bosphorus. But the first serious threat to the Turkish lines of communication with Germany will cause, as far as the Porte is concerned, events on every other front to fade into comparative insignificance. This fact must be patent to the Allied Governments, and it may, therefore, be taken for granted, however tantalizing the delay, that the moment of the combined offensive in the Balkans will not be postponed one day longer than the special necessities of the case render inevitable.

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THE TURKISH "COMMITTEE" AND ISLAM.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 26.

The following is a translation of an important article which has just appeared in *Al Mokattam*. It is headed: "A letter addressed to the Mohammedan world, and a demand for the opinion of the Ulema (Theologians)":—

I have mentioned in a series of articles, which were published in *Al Mokattam* some months ago, bearing the signature of "Ghanani," something about the pan-Turkish propaganda in Turkey, stating that the Turks in general and the officers in particular are the strongest factor in the formation of the policy of the Ottoman Government, and that the energy of this party, which is all in all there, was directed to Turkifying the nationalities of which the Empire is composed by any means available. I now add that because they realise that the Mohammedan religion is based on the Arab nationality, the present Turkish Government also intend to modify that faith in such a way as to harmonise with their own national traditions.

A young Turkish graduate of a Constantinople high school once told me (not knowing that I was an Arab) that the mention of the name of Mohammed within the mosque and on their minarets is the most important advertisement for the Arab races in the Moslem communities and throughout the world. "It has therefore become," said he, "very difficult for us (the Turks) to enlarge the sphere of our influence or establish our national ideals until we have modified the Moslem religion. This should be done by degrees, ending with its absolute abandonment." He further said that the traditions of the Ottoman Government are purely Islamic or Arabic, and that in order to trace and understand these traditions it is necessary to trace them in the Arabic language and Arabic literature, which is one of the factors that tend to give the Turkish nationality an Arabic tinge; and "so long as we are brought up as Mohammedans, the Arabs will continue to be our moral masters, which mastership we are all convinced is the only deterrent to our progress. We have therefore decided to be Turks before every other thing, and to attain this end we must begin with the modification of the Mohammedan religion." This statement is typical of what we have been hearing of late years in Constantinople and the provinces.

As a matter of fact, the committee had begun to put this policy into force. They sent their envoys to Asia Minor and delegated the preachers to initiate the public into their new mode of thought by means of sermons in the mosques of Constantinople. The foremost exponent of this movement was the notorious Obeid Alla, who launched the first of his sermons in Ramadan, 1331, in the Mosque of Aya, Sophia, poisoning the public mind, instead of directing it in the right way according to the dictates of his religion.

This campaign against Islam was further enhanced by publications and pamphlets, which were freely distributed in Constantinople and Asia Minor. The work entitled "Kum Gedid," which was published by the Shems Printing Press in Constantinople in 1331, in 94 pages, and of which I possess a copy, is typical of these publications. This, if circumstances permit, I propose to photograph and publish for the information of the Mohammedan world, but I now quote some passages. In this connection I ask for God's mercy for the souls of Emir Aref El Shihabi and Abdel Ghani El Areisi, who were lately hanged by Jemal Pasha because of their zeal—the outcome of deep-rooted faith and piety—in their attacks against this book and the infidel teachings contained therein. In publishing these facts I feel I am doing my duty, otherwise I should be sinning against truth and religion, as in keeping these dark lies the possibility of danger to Islam, and I should be guilty before God in the hereafter.

I desire to put before my Moslem brethren the cause which made me take this view of the Committee, so that they may be in a position to understand the various points at issue; because I believe that the difference of opinion between those who have despaired of them and those who still hope to reform them is due to their being thoroughly understood by the former and not by the latter.

The energetic and wily Germans have been parading for some years the idea of "Berlin to Baghdad," and convincing Anwar [Enver] and his clique that they intend to introduce Turkey into the Germanic Union. But, realising that Moslems would find this idea highly repugnant, as it means the placing of Islam under the power of a non-Mohammedan Government with absolute control over the resources of the Empire, they prevailed upon the Committee leaders (whose religion was benumbed by German education) to get rid of Islam, which they believed to be a hindrance. They thought of attacking the tenets of Islam, beginning with the abolishing of mosques and the seizure of the revenue of their Wakfs, utilising it in their novel enterprises such as "Dar Badaai" (Hall of Fine Arts), which was built in Constantinople to be a dancing and music school, and such as "Turan Bera Khana si" (Turan's Brasserie) and "Ashiai Askaria Tigaretkhana si" (Army and Navy Stores).

The reader may think I am exaggerating when I state that the Committee have actually abolished the mosques utilising their Wakfs to the benefit of dancing halls, coffee houses, etc. To such a reader I say that the idea of abolishing the mosques was made public. I quote hereunder some passages of the sermon delivered by Sheikh Obeid Alla in Ramadan, 1331, and which was inserted by the Government in the book entitled "Kum Gedid":—

The prophet used to prevent the people building mosques in proximity to each other. He used to think that one mosque would be enough for several villages, with the idea of preserving unity amongst the Moslem community. It would be better therefore to abolish all the "takias" and all mosques not built by the Sultans, and to utilise their funds for military expenditure.

The theory of abolishing mosques and takias was translated into action by Government, who demolished the takia at "Baghdji Kabusi" and built in its place a hotel called "Bir Nomrolo Awkaf Khani" (Wakfs Hotel No. 1).

I now wish to explain to the reader why the book in question was entitled "Kum Gedid."

The Committee call the libraries which contain Islamic books, and which are requested, the books of "Kum Ateik," because they contain the tenets of Islam and Arabic literature, etc. These, in their opinion, are old and unworthy conceptions which should be substituted by the new thoughts and conceptions of the "Kum Gedid"; and if we inquire what are their beliefs and new conceptions, and in what they differ from our beliefs and conceptions, which are stigmatised as "old," we shall find the reply in a passage in "Kum Gedid," pages 51 and 52, quoting Sheikh Obeid Alla's sermon in the Aya Sophia Mosque.

The "Kum Gedid" do not repudiate the rites of fasting, prayer, pilgrimage, almsgiving and the confession of faith, they adhere to them, but they do not consider them to be essential. The essential points, according to "Kum Gedid," are:—I. Reason; II. The confession of faith; III. Good character; IV. Jehad and waging of war, by giving life and substance; V. Unity and concord under the banner of the great Turkish Sultanate to obtain the necessities of war.

The Committee's hatred of the Arabs made them hate Islam, which they designate as Arabic. It made them further hate the four pious Khalifs—Abu Bekr, Omar, Osman, Ali (who are the glory of Islam), because they were Arabs.

In page 89 of "Kum Gedid" we find the following passage quoted from Sheikh Obeid Alla's sermon in Aya Sophia Mosque:—

What folly! What stupidity! You write the names of the Arab Khalifs in your mosques, and do not mention with due respect a name of one of your Turkish Khalifs who were made sacred in the Hadiths of the Prophet. When the name of the Turkish Khalif is mentioned the preacher descends a step down the pulpit in order to minimise his importance and degrade him; you say your midday prayer; all these formalities were introduced by the Arabs with a view to humiliate you. You did not stop at that; you went further to neglect your sacred people, to sanctify foreign Sheikhs such as Abdel Gader El Gilani and El Sayed El Badawi, etc. You maintain that Arabic is the language of the inhabitants of Heaven (Paradise), that it is the tongue of Munkir and Nakir (the angels of death) and other angels, and that it is the language of God the Almighty Himself. You also say that Syria is the land of Resurrection. These sayings were invented by the Arabs for your deception. They made you believe that a man will rise from their midst called El Mahdi and such other tales.

On page 88:—

I am astounded because of the dulness of your minds and the falsity of your beliefs. Where was El Khudr[1] before he visited this city (Constantinople)? This mosque is the heritage of the Turkish conqueror.[2] Why did El Khudr not come here before

[1] A legendary Mohammedan, sometimes identified with Elijah.
[2] Sultan Mohammed the Second.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
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the Turkish conquest and turn its front towards El Kaaba[8]? He apparently waited until the conquering Sultan came, to follow in his wake. You fail to sanctify the Turkish conqueror (Peace be upon him) and venerate an imaginary person you call El Khudr.

Sheikh Obeid Alla was not content with applying the phrase "God bless him and preserve him" to the conqueror, but he equally applies it (page 71) to members of the Union and Progress party, such as "Rida, Asad, Gaweid, Shukri, Anwar."

Sheikh Obeid Alla dared to deliver his sermon in the Mosque of Aya Sophia because he was under the protection of an armed Turkish police force. A Sheikh of the mosque expressed a desire once to repudiate some infidel statements made by him, but he found himself in the hands of a policeman. The Sheikh tried to explain to the policeman that he had no desire to ask Sheikh Obeid Alla to a duel, and that he simply meant to discuss a religious point with him; but the policeman informed him that he had orders to silence by force anyone attempting to object to any of Sheikh Obeid Alla's statements.

The above is only an insignificant part of what I know of the Unionists. This I put before the Moslems that I may not be guilty of silence. It is, then, for everyone to form his own ideas about them. It is for each one to be either for or against the truth as his conscience and faith dictate to him.

In the meantime I wish to have the Fetva of the Grand Mufti, the Sheikh of El-Azhar, and all those who are entrusted with Mohammedan learning, about a Government that defends with its police a wicked Sheikh who declares in the biggest of mosques that prayer, fasting, almsgiving, pilgrimage, and the Confession of Faith are not essential in religion. What do they think of a Government that demolishes the mosques of God in order to erect in their place hotels to spend their resources on, and "Dar El Badaai" for teaching of dancing and music? What do they think of a nation in whose mosques it is proclaimed that it is a folly and ignorance to mention the names of Abu Bekr, Omar, Osman and Ali, whom they classify, together with the other Moslem Ulema and Moslem Saints, among the foreigners? And what do they think of the use of the formula "God bless him and preserve him" for persons like Gaweid and others, who are known, beyond all doubt, to have decided to alter and modify the Koran and to lead the people by degrees into infidelity and paganism because such are Turkish and because Islam is Arabic?

Please give me your Fetva.

THE DARDANELLES COMMISSION.

An informal meeting of the members of the Dardanelles Commission was held on Tuesday. As the Special Commissions (Dardanelles and Mesopotamia) Act has not yet received the Royal assent, no decisions were taken as to the procedure or selection of witnesses. It is probable that the earliest date upon which the first public meeting of the Commission can be held will be Tuesday, September 12.

Communications on matters relating to the Commission should be addressed to the Secretary, Mr. Grimwood Mears, at 2, Hare Court, Temple, E.C., and not to individual members of the Commission.

Lecturing on "Balkan Politics" at the Cambridge Summer meeting on August 7, M. P. Miliukoff, of the Russian Duma, said that what Professor Freeman, the English historian, wrote in 1878 was true to-day: Complete separation of Turkey, and the transfer of the power of the Turks to other hands, was the only solution of the difficulty in the Balkans. Who was to profit by the separation of Turkey? Mr. Gladstone said the Balkans were to be given to the Balkan nations. Russia claimed a strip of land along the Straits, but this upset Austrian influence and completely destroyed the German Berlin-Baghdad scheme. The Balkan nations wanted two kinds of help from the Entente Powers. The first, which succeeded, was to let them alone and keep out Austria while they were fighting to overpower Turkey. The second failed in the attempt to reconstruct the Balkan nations on ethnological equalisations. The Turco-Italian War of 1911 made it certain that Turkish influence in Europe was on the wane, and the Albanian revolt in 1912 further showed how weak Turkey really was. The lecturer emphasised his opinion that there would have been no war in July, 1914, on the pretext that Serbian influence in the Balkans was a menace to peace, had the previous difficulties been successfully overcome.

[8] There is apparently a belief that El Khudr had turned the front of Aya Sophia towards Mecca.

*** When communicating with Advertisers, Readers will greatly oblige by mentioning

"THE NEAR EAST."

PIRÆUS THE PORT OF ATHENS.

AN AMERICAN'S IMPRESSIONS.

As we came into the port of Piræus we were immediately surrounded by large numbers of small rowboats. There are no wharves in this harbour, and passengers, and goods as well, have to be transported from the ships by boat. The Transatlantic and local steamers back up towards a single long quay on either side of the bay. Long hawsers are put out from the stern of each ship, and anchors are dropped in deep water. Thus the ships lie, with their bows pointing out from shore, very much as they would if there were docks, and the rows of steamers stand here and lift their masts against the bare hills of the surrounding country.

The principal street of the town runs along the quay, and the huge paving stones—flat and 2 ft. square—mingle with the masonry of the sea wall. The quay and the waters form one side of this strange street; the other side is much more substantial, much more interesting, and even much more dirty. Conceive a street, a sidewalk, if you please, where every building has a roof over the footway, where every roof has a canvas awning stretched to the curb to protect pedestrians from the sun. Walk, then, along this enclosed footway. It will be difficult to get along very fast, for there is not much space left for walking. On the one side there are so many tables cluttering up the walk, tables at which sit coffee-drinkers and stronger-than-coffee drinkers of every Levantine nationality, and on the other side the goods of retail merchants crowd out of the windowless, open shop-fronts to obstruct the passage and perhaps to subject delayed passers-by to the solicitations of salesmen.

Then there is one other even more interesting hindrance to rapid progress—the crowds of people. Even at the hottest hours of the day, when all Athens is at *siesta* behind closed shutters, the inhabitants of Piræus still busily labour on, conducting the affairs of maritime Greece. They seem to be always swarming in the streets, even under the awful glare of a noonday sun and in incredible temperatures. Turks with turbans, Greek priests with strange tall, black hats, importunate vendors, insistent beggars, rascally money-changers, many ragged poor, whose bare feet seem quite inured to the intense heat of the blistering pavement—all these people pass in review and continue to hurry hither and thither all day. For Piræus is a seaport; the world's work must be done; commerce must go on; ships and shipments must move. It is a seaport town, and that definition has a similar meaning in every country in the world.

Piræus is a dirty city, but a busy one. Into it there come peoples of many nations, with strange costumes, who are all of the lowest classes. Yet he who finds the touch of *hoi polloi* unattractive may escape very easily. He may board a curious little awkward tramcar bearing the huge number "20." This eccentric, bobbing affair will carry him around two small headlands, revealing an ancient harbour for battle galleys and a wonderful view of blue Ægean, azure sky, yellow hills, and pleasant villas. It will carry him around these small headlands, give a sight of the Greek warships clustered in the harbour, and lead on to Phaleron and so to Athens—which is another story.

ELBRIDGE COLBY.

PASSPORTS FOR PERSIANS.

The Consul-General of Persia has been requested by the Persian Legation to remind Persian subjects resident in this country that under Persian law it is necessary for them to be provided with a Persian *passeport de séjour* during their residence abroad, renewable annually, and any subjects of Persia who are without such a document at present, or whose *passeport de séjour* is out of date, should apply to the Persian Consulate-General, 82, Victoria Street, Westminster, between ten o'clock and noon or between two o'clock and four o'clock (Saturdays excepted).

A Hague telegram states that the Turkish Legation there contradicts reports of alleged negotiations with the former American Ambassador in Constantinople, Mr. Morgenthau, regarding the sale of Palestine to the Zionists.

A large number of Bulgarian prisoners captured in the recent engagements on the Salonika front have passed through Toulon on their way to a concentration camp in the South of France.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In the "Balkanzug."

On Friday *The Times* published an impression of a traveller who recently made the journey from Berlin to Constantinople by the *Balkanzug*, the express of which we have heard and read so much. From this article, which is entitled "In the Balkan Express," we take the following passages:—

Running through Serbia the most impressive signs of the German occupation were the encampments of the troops alongside the permanent way. There are huge notices up at all the stations warning the inhabitants to keep away from the railway. No one is allowed on the platforms because the whole country is still infected with typhus, and there has to be the most rigorous supervision for this reason. All along the line may be seen the trenches and the rusty barbed wire entanglements that tell of the fighting months ago. At each little fortified encampment German soldiers have planted vegetable gardens over which may be read the legend, "Kriegsacker" ("War Garden"). There were no signs of their having planted any wheat or grain.

Through Serbia nearly all the bridges of any size had been destroyed, at least partially. Often whole spans had been blown out. In many cases the Germans had replaced these, moving them bodily with great pains to their old positions. In some of the other bridges, where the girders and way were so badly damaged as to defy repair, temporary bridges on wooden trestles had been built. These structures may serve during the summer season, but they could not stand even a moderate flood. The work, therefore, still goes on, and in time the old bridges will be reconstructed.

Germany's Dark Outlook.

In an article entitled "The Military Unity of the Allies," the *Spectator* (August 12) welcomes the reappearance in the field of the Serbian Army, "reequipped and in great spirits."

We know what old scores those untiring and skilful soldiers have to work off, and we may be sure that they intend that the reckoning shall be paid. The "Middle-Europe" scheme which German philosophers support with much grandiose talk about the "geo-political" destiny of their country seems likely to shrivel back into the brains from which it emerged. On the whole, we are inclined to think that the break will come in the collapse or declension of Austria, or of Turkey, or of Bulgaria. . . . If one of Germany's allies were to fall away from sheer inability to continue the struggle, if not of her own volition, others would probably soon follow. The desire to desert a ship in grave peril is very infectious.

The writer admits that there is no visible sign of failing in the Germans. "Their defence is as stubborn and as courageous as ever."

We must prepare ourselves for many further tremendous struggles against the Germans, and for winning ground by painful inches. They will fight at the last with the desperation proverbial in those who defend their homes. Their rulers will not dare to yield. Morally, politically, militarily, they have burnt their boats. Whether in that desperate crisis the heart of the people will be found still beating in sympathy with that of the Hohenzollern dynasty is one of the most intensely interesting secrets which the course of the future has ever kept from an expectant world. There may be a psychological reaction, not military in form or origin, but gradually communicable to the army. Docility among the people, too long practised, may flare out in a surprising revulsion. Whatever happens, the end is certain. If British and French soldiers could take the labyrinthine system of fortified villages on the Somme, they can eventually take anything. Our strength grows and German strength dwindles. Only unity was needed in the combined effort of the Allies, and that is being daily displayed to admiration.

The Turkish Failure in Syria.

In his notes on "Foreign Affairs" in the *New Age*, Mr. S. Verdad puts forward the following theory regarding the latest Turkish attack on Egypt:—

For several weeks there have been vague indications in the Austrian and even in the Bulgarian Press that another grand Turkish attack on Egypt was being prepared. This announcement seemed incredible; for it ought to have been well known to the German General Staff—the supreme arbiters in these matters—that no attack on the British lines could possibly succeed, especially when carried out with so small a force as 14,000 men. The advance was ordered, nevertheless, and its object was fairly clear. It was hoped, by a surprise descent, to keep the British forces occupied for at least a few weeks, and to secure the removal of troops from Salonika as reinforcements for the Egyptian garrison. Then a Bulgarian attack on Roumania, possibly in conjunction with an Austro-Hungarian attack from the opposite direction, could have been undertaken without fear of interference from the Anglo-French troops at Salonika. It was an ingenious enough scheme; for it is just possible that this manœuvre, if it could have been carried out, would have left Roumania helpless. The recent Bulgarian incursions on the Roumanian border seem to have been "feelers," successful in their immediate aims. But this plan depended entirely upon the initial success of the Turkish advance; and the Turks, instead of keeping the British occupied for a few weeks, have had to fall back, with heavy losses in men and equipment, at the end of two or three days. The Balkan situation becomes correspondingly intensified; for no local campaign can now be thought of which is likely to result in the removal of British soldiers from Salonika.

The increasing strength of the Allies and the waning power of Germany, Mr. Verdad adds, makes it impossible for the Germans, planning for themselves as well as their Allies, any longer to draw up vast schemes of invasion. They can, in fact, barely try to hold their present lines.

The result is that we have had moves designed with a view to political effect, such as the Austrian offensive in May, or purely gambling moves, such as the Turkish advance on Egypt. No commander would, if he could avoid it, risk his army on a mere toss-up. It was a toss-up whether the Turkish offensive succeeded in its immediate object or not—there was certainly no ultimate object to be gained by it. But it did not succeed; and in consequence the gambler has not merely lost several Turkish battalions, but probably Roumania as well.

The Value of Salonika.

The *Evening Standard* (August 12) pays a tribute to France's foresight and determination in regard to action at Salonika. It says:—

The more closely we contemplate the position in the Near East, the more appreciative we must be of the piercing vision and moral courage of France last autumn. Hard pushed as she was, she met the Balkan menace with unhesitating firmness. It was really our business more than France's, but the British Cabinet was either unnerved by the failure of its diplomacy in the Balkans, or did not fully realise what was at stake. Only the prompt and resolute action of the French Government saved the Allies from great calamities.

The Salonika expedition prevented the Greek Court party from carrying out their full programme; embarrassed, if it could not frustrate, the German designs; and gave us a base for operations which, it may be confidently hoped, will ruin for ever those plans for a Near Eastern hegemony which have been pursued at great cost by Germany ever since the famous visit of the Kaiser to Abdul Hamid.

The offensive in the Balkans is not the least important sign of the turning of the tide against the Central Empires and their dupes and accomplices.

The "Spinal Cord."

In an article, entitled "Salonika," in the *Outlook* (of August 5) M. Réne Pinon, the Foreign Editor of *La Revue des Deux Mondes*, expresses the opinion that German hopes of dominating the world will meet their death blow in the Balkans. He concludes his article as follows:—

The Germans hope to realise their ambition of universal domination by hegemony in the Balkans and by a protectorate over Turkey. The spinal cord from Hamburg to Baghdad will be the axis of their power. From that line they will threaten Egypt and India, close the Straits to Russia, and establish themselves as masters in the Eastern Mediterranean. To ward off this peril, which threatens all the Powers, it is necessary and sufficient to cut at any point the spinal cord. No operation will be possible against Egypt or India or Persia, once we shall have obtained this result. It is, then, a necessity to put the Anglo-French-Serbian Army at Salonika in a position to take the offensive as soon as the commander shall judge the moment opportune. The more numerous and the more solid this army, the more it will wield attractive power on the neutrals. Movement and success—not words—will decide the Rumanians to realise by force of arms their national ideal in alliance with us. And who knows whether the Greeks themselves, when we are engaged in a decisive struggle against their Bulgar enemies, will not decide to refuse to let us labour for them without them? It is somewhere in the fields of Macedonia or in Thrace that the Serbs will find revenge for their defeat in 1915, and that the German hopes of domination in the Balkans and over the world will crumble away.

Mesopotamia: "The Prime Necessity."

In the August number of *United Empire* considerable attention is given in the Editorial Notes and Comments to the operations in Mesopotamia and the work that lies before the Commission of Inquiry. The following extracts will be read with interest:—

The statement once hazarded by Mr. Asquith, in regard to the Mesopotamian Expedition, that he did not think there had been in the whole course of the war a series of operations more carefully contrived, more brilliantly conducted, and having a better prospect of success, has proved an unfortunate boast. To-day no campaign, no episode in the war has given rise to such profound dissatisfaction and to such grave misgivings for the future. . . . The main point at issue in regard to the Mesopotamian campaign between the British public and the Government is the question of getting things done. When the inadequacy of the equipment of the Mesopotamian force was revealed, common prudence would have suggested supervision of any attempts made by the authorities responsible for the original equipment to improve upon their first effort. The British Government, however, appears to have accepted official assurances from India, without subjecting them to severe

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scrutiny, and to have passed them on to Parliament with such additions as their own optimism prompted. Consequently there has been a repetition of the conditions existing a year ago, when, in the face of a demonstrable lack of shells at the front, the Prime Minister assured the nation that it was not true that the Army was in the least handicapped by a shortage of munitions. The public tolerated such a state of affairs a year ago, but under the stress of two years' war has now left the Government behind it.

The hope is expressed that by the time the Commission of Inquiry begins its labours the mistakes in Mesopotamia will be as much a thing of the past as they are in the case of the Gallipoli enterprise. The writer adds:—

Responsibility for the military operations now rests with Sir William Robertson, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, and the new Secretary of State for War has been able to announce that already a very considerable improvement in conditions in Mesopotamia has taken place. No less reassuring, he was able to report that a large number of river craft was being constructed. Such a step would hardly be taken unless the Government intended to proceed with the campaign, in order to reverse the verdict of failure which so far can only be passed upon it. That is the prime necessity of the present time, for British prestige has been seriously impaired in the Middle East by the course of events. It is to be hoped that the Commission of Inquiry will not lose sight of the fact that its findings are intended to further this aim, as well as to allocate responsibility for past mistakes.

Dr. Dillon on Greece.

The article on "Greece," which takes first place in the August *Contemporary Review*, and is contributed by Dr. E. J. Dillon, is one which should on no account be missed. The writer opens with the statement:—

The Balkan States are living monuments of the solicitude of the Entente Powers for the rights of nationalities. And of all the Balkan States Greece, which is the most anarchic, is also the one that owes most to France, Britain, and Russia. Created by the emotional fervour of the early nineteenth century, which was nourished by classical studies, it became a sort of spoiled child, whose antics were not taken seriously by western statesmen. The resurrection of Greece was the product of Europe's enthusiasm of humanity, quickened by intellectual ideas. But neither the ideas nor the enthusiasm, which took their rise in the art and literature of the ancient Greeks, have been sustained by the words or deeds of their latter-day descendants.

And a little later, after pointing out that the protecting Powers, whose influence kept the Greek kingdom alive "saw themselves obliged at whiles to defend it, not merely against its enemies, but sometimes against its own self," he remarks that the modern Greeks, "with a passion for politics . . . evince a constitutional antipathy to statesmanship and a marked leaning to reckless adventure." The Teutonic Powers, he proceeds to show, have ever been hostile to Greece. They—

have done what lay in them to strangle the nation at its birth, to enslave it during the first years of its existence, to crush it in war, to whittle down its territory, and humiliate it at the conclusion of peace.

And the evidence on which this summing-up is based is given in some detail. Yet, says Dr. Dillon:—

It is to these empires that Cabinets usurping the claim to speak and act in the name of the Greek people have been perfidiously endeavouring to betray the protecting Powers. And the present King, who is not a born Teuton, openly honours them with his confidence and approves their crooked policy.

The relations between King Constantine and M. Venizelos are closely examined, and the former's conduct and policy are subjected to a searching examination, which reveals them in anything but a favourable light. Unfortunately, this portion of the article does not lend itself to quotation, which would not do it justice; but we strongly advise our readers to consult the original. Dr. Dillon also brings out very clearly the fact that France, Britain, and Russia have an absolute right, secured by treaty, not only "to land troops in Greece for the protection of its integrity against Turkey or Turkey's allies," but also to see that the Constitution is respected, and that the people are "not subjected to the whims of an eccentric or autocratic monarch, as they were under the misrule of the German Otho." In the circumstances, indignant talk about France and Britain having violated Greek territory in the same way as Germany violated the neutrality of Belgium and Luxemburg is, indeed, the "merest cant." Finally, Dr. Dillon gives some very interesting particulars, which he received from a trustworthy source in Macedonia on July 13, regarding the treacherous surrender of Fort Rupel to the Bulgars. He concludes by asking:—"Can Greece be other than a south-eastern forepost of the Teutons, a confederate of the Bulgars, and a menace to the Allied forces at Salonika, so long as the Germanising agencies and their chief are allowed free scope?" Anyone who has any doubt about the answer would do well to study the article carefully.

Austria's Great Mistake.

The *World* of August 15 contains an article ("Austria Must be Dismembered") written by M. Josef Forman, president of the Czech Information Society. The author writes:—

It is obvious to a careful observer of Austro-German politics that the greatest mistake Austria ever made was that, in spite of the majority of her population being Slav, she has chosen to be German in her politics and government. Probably, true to her catholic mediæval traditions, she hoped to centralise all her different subject nationalities under one Government, with one language, for she realised that unity is strength. Hence her device, "Viribus Unitis." But adopting the German language as the instrument of this centralisation, she forgot that she would be obliged, sooner or later, to adopt Germany's policy and become, more or less, her vassal, should her attempt at centralisation fail. Her attempt did fail. She has not been able to get rid of her internal troubles owing to her cruel policy of Germanisation, and she has become almost a colony of the united, strong Germany.

The defeat of Austria, he believes, would put an end to Germany's resistance, but it "would not be of great value to the future peace of Europe should the Allies not insist on Austria's dismemberment and the freeing of the Slav, Italian, and Roumanian population, who are still suffering under her yoke. It would be a fatal mistake to think that this war is going to be settled—and settled satisfactorily—anywhere else than in the very heart of Europe."

It would be no difficult task, he goes on, to break up Austria.

Out of the 50,000,000 of Austro-Hungarian population, 11,000,000 are Germans, 9,000,000 are Magyars. The rest are Slavs—Czechs, Poles, Yougoslavs (Serbs), Roumanians—and Italians, who are tired to death of the Austrian rule and are kept silent only through cruelty and oppression. . . They desire nothing better than to break from Austria at the first opportunity given to them and form independent kingdoms of Bohemia, Poland, and Yougoslavia (with Serbia). These small States could easily exist, from the economical point of view—like Switzerland—and, besides, could be of great political importance to the Allies in keeping the balance in Central Europe between the East and West. Hungary would share the fate of these small States, and she would be compelled to abandon her intrigue with Germany, who uses her as a railroad towards the East.

As to the fear that the liberation of the Slav States would strengthen the position of Russia, the writer regards it as "quite an idle nightmare, for neither Czechs nor Poles nor Yougoslavs, though great friends of the Russian nation, have any wish to be under the rule of the Russian Government," and in his opinion "it is certainly not the intention of Russia to do anything else but help the friendly population of Austria-Hungary to a political and economic freedom and future." He concludes his article by re-stating an argument now very familiar to our readers:—

The kingdoms of Bohemia, Poland, and Yougoslavia forming buffer-States could render invaluable services to the Allied interests, not only in Central Europe, but also in the East, by checking Germany's path towards the Balkans.

These buffer-States would mean the end of the Pan-Germanic dream, Berlin-Bagdad, and the collapse of Germany's attempt to dominate the world.

Articles to Note.

"The Hopelessness of Germany's Position," by "Politicus," in the *Fortnightly Review* (August).

"The Attempt on Egypt," from "A Neutral Correspondent," in *The Times* (August 12).

"Gazelle Coursing in Irak Arabi," by L. de P., in the *Field* (August 12).

"Coming Events in the Near East," by E. Ashmead-Bartlett, in the *Daily Telegraph* (August 12 and August 15).

"The Railway Lines of Syria and Palestine," by Lewis R. Freeman, in the *Railway Gazette* (August 11).

"A Tour in the Balkan Countries," by Professor E. H. Parker, in *Chambers's Journal*.

"Kultur in Constantinople," in the *Tablet* (August 12).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Elsewhere in this issue is published a report of the speech delivered by the president at the opening of the Alexandria Bourse, and in the last few days, I see, from a special cable to *The Times*, that decrees that came into force on August 16 have been promulgated approving the provisional introduction of new regulations governing the future conduct of business on the Bourse. These were not unexpected, for in the past serious disputes have been not unknown; indeed, in the speech to which I refer, the president deemed it necessary to make an appeal to members "to avoid conflicts, to respect the rules and regulations of the Bourse, and to preserve a loyal and fraternal solidarity." It has also been enacted that "all transactions in futures in cotton must be subject to a tax of one millième per cantar (about ¼d. per 100 lb.), and similar transactions in cottonseed to a tax of ¼ of a millième per ardeb."

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I am glad to see that the Egyptian Delta Light Railways have been able to wind up their year satisfactorily, and, although the management has decided to withhold a dividend, and to carry forward the whole of the available surplus of £65,200, this is capable of reasonable explanation. The decision was reached because of the financial uncertainty of the future and the abnormal cost of coal and stores, adverse factors which may still further be increased, and which must therefore be guarded against. I observe that the gross receipts are only some £2,000 odd less than those of the preceding year, and that, in spite of the added charges for fuel, the operating expense ratio has risen from 72.21 to 73.70 per cent. only. As the very high price of coal caused locomotive running to jump from £47,500 to £55,900, this is, on the whole, an excellent working result.

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As our City Correspondent points out in his letter, the absence of a dividend may cause some disappointment in certain quarters, and hold back uninformed investors; but I think it should be emphasised that the Egyptian Delta Railways are in a sound position, that the management has risen above the circumstances of war very admirably; and that the general prosperity of the country is such as to inspire the greatest confidence in the concern. More than that cannot be said.

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It will have been observed that included in the list of securities which the Treasury are prepared to accept upon deposit, under the arrangements designed to regulate foreign exchanges, are the following Egyptian stocks:—Government 3 per cent. Guaranteed Loan, Government 3½ per cent. Preference Bonds, Government 4 per cent. Unified Bonds. As will be seen from the following paragraph, the terms which are offered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer are not open to the criticism that they are unreasonable. The great point to remember is that their temporary transfer will assist the Government to find the sinews of war or, I should say, to strengthen the sinews. The appeal is, I understand, being responded to in respect of most of the securities on the general list.

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I quote the following from the printed conditions upon which the securities will be accepted:—"The interest and dividends on all deposited securities, together with additional payment at the rate of one-half of one per cent. per annum, will be paid to the holder for the time being on the Treasury Register, by warrant, as soon as they have been received by the Treasury. Non-sterling dividends will be paid in sterling at the exchange of the day on which the Treasury books are closed for the purpose of preparing the warrants. For convenience of payment, in cases where interest or dividends are payable half-yearly, a full half-year's additional payment (viz., ¼ per cent.) will be added to the first dividend payment, and on the termination of the loan the amount due from the actual date of deposit to the date of return will be calculated, and any overpayment or underpayment will be adjusted when the return is effected. A similar procedure, *mutatis mutandis*, will be applied in cases of quarterly or other periodical payments of interest or dividends."

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One of the most deserving of the charities produced by the war is the fund raised to assist British refugees from Turkey. The honorary treasurers tell me that the need of additional monetary help is great and that the smallest amounts will be welcomed. In the list published in THE NEAR EAST last week I notice a number of names well known in commercial circles and among them many friends of the Near East. It is satisfactory to know that victims of the war are not allowed to fend for themselves, altogether. Those who have been turned out by the enemy have been very badly hit. Their businesses have been shut up, their homes broken, and, in a few cases, I am told, they are without means almost to the point of distress. No sounder cause could be commended to the kindly natures of those who are better placed.

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A correspondent writes to ask what has become of the official investigation which was begun some time ago into the question, Coal or no Coal in Egypt? He will find his answer in the letter from our Cairo Correspondent. Mr. Wells's report will be a big disappointment to some people, but probably the majority have all along anticipated this result of the investigations. For though previous borings had not been sufficient to prove conclusively that coal did not exist, the results achieved by them all pointed in that direction. There is still hope, however, that (after the war) the Sinai district may prove to be capable of providing lignite, and, failing better quality fuel, that will be welcome enough in Egypt. So let us go on hoping.

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When the news reached India that another attempt was to be made to settle the question a good deal of mild excitement was caused in colliery circles in that country; but the geological folk out there—and they are a fairly able lot—did not treat the matter very seriously. Indian colliery owners hope to find a market in the Eastern Mediterranean after the war has terminated, and, naturally enough, a discovery of coal, of real commercial utility, would not have been pleasing news to them at all. Such an event would be a godsend to Egypt, it goes without saying, for the present dependence of the country on external sources of supply would disappear. The present prices are high enough to be prohibitive to the small consumer, despite the helpful measures designed recently by the Government in the interests of agriculturists and others. If coal were available in the country, not only would agricultural and irrigation interests benefit, but present industries could be extended and new industries established. But the war has left Egypt very badly off indeed for fuel generally. The Roumanian supply of oil has been stopped by the closing of the Dardanelles, the Egyptian oil-wells have not developed as favourably as was anticipated, and reliance has now to be placed on the United States and the Far East. And there is such a thing as a freight problem!

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The Bulgarians have begun to boast of the extent to which they have exploited Serbian industries, which will make it all the easier to exact reparation when the day of reckoning comes, and for that we shall not have long to wait. The Bulgarian brigands realise this as thoroughly as anybody, and if a condemned felon has any pleasure in contemplating his crime in his last days of life, then the lot of the Bulgars may be as happy as they deserve it to be. We have the evidence of the robbery practised in the Bulgarian Press, extracts from which we print elsewhere in this issue. The jubilation of which there are indications will be very short-lived, and the account to be paid will be formidable. Bulgaria's balance-sheet will be a pretty sight when it is made up, and the country will be in very similar place to the man who had to sell his cart to buy food for his horse.

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The officials of the Sudan Government are to be congratulated on the satisfactory state of the country's finances. This is mainly due to careful administrative economy, with the result that, although revenue in 1915 was a shade below the estimate, there was, nevertheless, an unexpected surplus of £E31.293. This is excellent, and however much we may be opposed in normal times to a too stringent policy of economy in a new country of immense possibilities, we must all agree that, considering the war, those responsible for the administration of the Sudan have done remarkably well. A further satisfactory feature of the situation is that in the estimates for the current year Bernard Pasha has been able to budget for an increase in revenue, which brings it to within £E11.000 of the last pre-war budget. I do not think that, when all circumstances are considered, better results could have been obtained. To mark time, pending the resumption of public works on a big scale, must be and is the watchword of the Sudan Government, and it is doing so admirably. Incidentally it may be pointed out that owing to the conquest of Darfur, a new political and economic factor in the life of the Sudan has to be envisaged, and though it is too early yet to speculate on its value we can rest assured that the Anglo-Sudanese officials on the spot will take full advantage of the possibilities of the new territory.

COMMENTATOR.

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The British Consular System.

Need of an Imperial Establishment to Assist in the Trade Development of the Empire.

It is a matter for regret that more attention is not paid to the defects in the British Consular system which, as all the facts that have transpired since the war have indicated, is lamentably deficient in scope and efficiency. The subject was lightly touched upon last week in THE NEAR EAST, when some instances were given of American and German methods as contrasted with our own. It may be as well to say at once that we cannot afford to employ, generally, German methods of trade. They are too indescribably shady to be adopted by British firms, or by the British Government; but that is no reason why we should not imitate the thoroughness and unflagging energy which have helped to build up German trade.

It may be paradoxical to say so, but it is well for us that the German has been so unscrupulous in his dealings. If he had been able after the war to approach the commercial world with clean hands, with only the shadow of military defeat hanging over him, he would, from the point of view of trade, have had nothing to live down. In neutral countries, as a trader, he would have had a case of undiminished strength to present. "I served you well before the war," he might have said; "give me a chance now." And he would have got his chance.

German Industries.

And the German will get his chance again if Great Britain and her merchants do not stand in the way. There is a class in this country that steadfastly refuses to believe that German factories and German exporters are busily preparing for a great commercial struggle after the clash of arms has ceased. As a matter of fact, all the indications point the other way. True, the German industrial system is reeling under the blow which the war has dealt its masters: certain industries have become non-productive: German workers have been more than decimated, and other things have occurred which must, inevitably, have interfered with her efficiency; but German industries have not been crushed, all her factories have not been closed, and all her trans-frontier traffic has not ceased. Wherever it was possible to do so factories have continued to work, and, goods that cannot be sold are stocked carefully until such time as the markets of the world are once more available. Reports issued recently by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the United States Government disclose the fact that in various parts of the German Empire industry is not so inactive as some of us would like to believe.

This brings us once more to the old question of our trade organization at home and abroad. At the moment, we are more interested in the latter. Practically speaking, the Consular service is supposed to serve us in this respect; but at the present time, British consular affairs, so far as they concern trade and commerce, are run as a sort of side line of the Board of Trade. If there is to be an improvement in our oversea trade propaganda that has got to be changed. Great Britain must establish an Imperial Consular Service which should be controlled from a Central Bureau in London. When this has been done the appointment of consuls must be proceeded with. Consuls must be British subjects; there is no room for the foreigner, whether he be a friendly, or a neutral, or an alien enemy. Again, the British consul must be a whole-time man. We have already lost too much because the British consul has had too many jobs on hand. He must be trained, too, for a definite career in the Consular Service.

An Expert Staff.

In London, the Consular Bureau should be staffed by experts. The service abroad should be divided into groups: thus the Balkans group would comprise all the Balkan States, with its headquarters, say, at Bucharest, where the Consul-General for the Balkans would reign. Each country would have its Consul, who would be responsible for the proper staffing and equipment of his territory. It ought to be possible for a British commercial traveller to walk into the British Consul's office at, let us say, Chios, and within a reasonable time be able to secure the most minute information about the smallest trader on the island. Nothing short of that will satisfy our trade requirements, and British merchants at home and abroad ought to insist that this standard should be attained. The relations that exist between some Consuls and traders would suggest that the former are powers to be conciliated; actually the reverse is the fact. The Consul is a public servant, and the measure of his real worth is the extent of the service he renders to his country's trade and the men who are out to push it. This point of view cannot be emphasised too strongly, and, needless to say, if the Consul is not a British subject, and a pretty enthusiastic one, we shall fall short of the possible.

People who have become accustomed to the bad old British way of doing things will object that no man could possibly do all we claim he should do. The answer to that is simple: "The German does so, and more." Discussing this subject last week, we described the activities of a German Consul in Morocco, and our readers will recall the completeness of the records of his office. How heavily a German commercial traveller would have scored over a British rival if ready-to-hand information, or the absence of it, made all the difference between booking an order and missing it!

Recruiting.

In London the Central Consular Bureau would discharge many functions. It would appoint the officers abroad. That is a very slipshod business at present. How often does it happen that an official who has gained priceless experience in one country is transferred to another? That should be impossible except in the most unusual circumstances. The objection that will be raised, of course, is that an officer must be promoted sometimes. As a matter of fact that is no reason at all. Promotion should be graded after a certain position has been reached, and before that happens salaries would be progressive year by year. That system works in ordinary commercial life, and there is no reason why it should not be adopted in an Imperial service. One-half of the salary grievances would not exist if it were adopted. Another function of the Bureau would be to recruit men for the service. In that matter some difficulty might be expected. But the difficulty would not be insurmountable, if a service which offers to young men with brains and ambitions definite careers were to be established. It ought to be possible to recruit among two classes, first among young fellows of about seventeen or eighteen years of age who are about to leave school, and second among an older class who have already gained some training in commercial affairs, in the service of firms of repute and standing.

Private Examples.

In this important matter it would be possible to profit from the experience of some of our great merchant houses. We have in mind many honoured names and the methods they adopt in the staffing of their overseas offices. One firm in particular has branch offices in many of the largest trade centres in India. Their staff in that country numbers many hundreds, and is recruited almost with automatic regularity. They draw upon their staff in London as they want new assistants "out East," and the result is that when the new youngster arrives in the country he is not new to the ways of his firm, and when he has gained experience and knowledge of the country he is able to assume really important responsibilities. It is worth incidental mention that as a result of this excellent system the number of really young Europeans in positions of responsibility, discharging their duties with credit to themselves and with profit to their principals, is one of the most remarkable features of commercial life in India. Much the same is to be said of Egypt, which is another country in which British firms recruit their staffs from among promising members of London establishments. Here, then, is a ready-made system for the recruitment of an Imperial Consular service. As vacancies occurred abroad they would be filled from headquarters. At headquarters there would be a section that would deal with consular affairs of the Balkans, and if the Consul-General at Bucharest wanted a new man that section would supply him. He would already know a good deal about the Balkans, and all else being equal it would not be long before he would be capable of controlling a small Consular station. That, roughly, would be the system of staffing the headquarters office and the Consular offices abroad.

Value of "Esprit de Corps."

There is another advantage that must not be lost sight of in this connection. Given such a service as that outlined, it would soon have its *esprit de corps*, which is always a healthy and vigorous stimulant to fine work and high *moral* in any service in which it exists. The British Empire, more than any other in the world, furnishes proof of this fact, and in no country under the British flag is the proof not to be found.

What is, perhaps, the most important question of all is that of the *personnel* of the Bureau. It must be an official institution untrammelled by musty prejudices. It must be directed by a mind that is capable of taking a perfect perspective, of supreme initiative, and of creating sound traditions. More than that, it must be able to arouse enthusiasm and to command loyalty. It must possess the implicit confidence of British commerce and the respect of all the foreign elements with which it is likely to come in contact. To secure men of this mental and business calibre it would be necessary to search outside the pale of Government offices. When found, he would be permitted to select his own lieutenants, to fill in the details of his own scheme, and to be given as free a hand as the circumstances permit. The development of the service could not be completed in a year, perhaps not in a decade; but that it must be established—if we are to make a respectable bid for a worthy place in the sun—is as obvious as was our regrettable position as a commercial back number when the war came to disclose to us the naked truth.

"AFTER THE WAR."

After the termination of the war, and when shipping facilities have become more normal than they are at the present time, we may reasonably hope that a largely increased trade will be developed among the Allied nations and their dependencies throughout the world, says the Sudan Chamber of Commerce *Journal*. One country which suggests possibilities for reciprocal trade with the Sudan is Russia, owing mainly to its close proximity, and to cheap freights which should in normal times be available between Sudan and Black Sea ports. We understand it is proposed to develop the Russian industries with Government grants, and in connection with the investment of British capital it is anticipated that a large demand will be created for raw products such as cotton, gum, senna, beeswax, etc.

As regards exports from Russia to the Sudan of manufactured articles, we are not well informed as to exactly what form such articles would take, but we are led to believe that the Russian handicraft goods manufactured in the villages and remote parts of Siberia would find a ready market in the Sudan, being remarkably cheap to purchase, and, in view of possible low freights, should be easily marketable at a reasonable profit by the Sudan trader.

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United Kingdom.

By an Order-in-Council, dated August 8, 1916, the text of which is published in the Board of Trade *Journal* of August 10, 1916, the following additions to and removals from have been made in the statutory list of firms in foreign countries with whom trading is prohibited:—

ADDITIONS: Callimasiotis, Dimitrios, Piræus; Damalas, Pavlos (Paul), Piræus; Hamparzum, Aram (Aram Hampartohoumian), Athens; Kloebe, Karl and Co., Athens; Kloebe, Friedrich (Karl Kloebe and Co.), Athens; Kloebe, Karl (Karl Kloebe and Co.), Athens; Moretti, Louis, Zante; Müller, Carl Ferdinand, Rue Apollo 37, Athens; Palaiologos, George, Patras; Procopiou, Patras; Schachtel and Jacobson, Salonika, and Schenker and Co., Salonika.

REMOVAL: Spiliotopoulos, C., Patras.

To be Wound Up.

In a recent *London Gazette* it was announced that orders have been made by the Board of Trade requiring the undermentioned business to be wound up:—

Pfisterer and Schafer, 10, New Street, Bishopsgate, London, importers (Oriental carpets, etc.).

BULGARIAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, July 29.

From May 25 to June 30 the following exports were recorded at the Sofia railway Custom-house:—Tobacco, 1,875,000 fr.; wool, 320,000 fr.; skins, 940,000 fr.; eggs, 240,000 fr.; meat (pork), 350,000 fr.; lard, 150,000 fr.

During the same period there were exported viâ the port of Rustchuk, tobacco, 537,000 fr.; miscellaneous goods, 435,000 fr.

The Industrial Union has proposed to the Ministry of War that the labour employed upon the production of various articles should be regulated in view of the continued mobilization. The Ministry has admitted the principle, but has requested a report regarding the method which the Union proposes should be adopted with a view to carrying out its suggestion.

The Government has made the necessary financial arrangements for the construction of a new bridge across the River Danube. It will span the river near Baziosh, and is designed to relieve the railway of some of the abnormal traffic. Materials needed for the construction of the bridge pontoons have arrived at Rahova.

MAIKOP PREMIER OIL SYNDICATE.

Meetings of holders of debenture stock, royalty holders, creditors, and shareholders of the Maikop Premier Oil Syndicate have been called for August 18 (to-day) to consider the scheme of arrangement, which provides for the formation of a new company, with a capital of £150,000 in 10s. shares. Shareholders in the old company will receive one 10s. share, credited 8s. paid, for each share now held. As regards debenture stock, principal and interest accrued from date of last payment, June 22, 1914, are to be paid 50 per cent. in fully-paid debenture stock and 50 per cent. in fully-paid shares. Creditors are to be settled with on the same basis as debenture-holders.

The Anglo-Maikop Corporation and the 5 per cent. royalty holders will receive full satisfaction of their rights in 85,000 shares; to the Anglo-Maikop Corporation 6,800 shares credited as fully-paid and 61,200 shares credited as 8s. paid; and to royalty holders 1,700 shares credited as fully-paid and 15,300 shares credited as 8s. paid. The company will create new non-convertible debenture stock for £30,000 carrying 6 per cent. from July 1, 1917, repayable at par fifteen years from date of issue, or by annual drawings or purchase at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum after the expiration of five years. The Anglo-Maikop Corporation will transfer to the new company Auction plot No. 13 against refund of expenses in connection therewith, and will provide London office and Russian organisation at half the ordinary charges until 5 per cent. is paid on the shares of the new company.—*Financial News.*

EGYPT'S COTTON AREA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, August 2.

The estimate of the area under cotton this year recently made by the Department of Direct Taxes of the Ministry of Finance seems to have created somewhat of a stir in Alexandria, where, instead of 1,655,000 feddans, nigh on 2,000,000 feddans was the figure expected. Seeing that last year the area was 1,100,000 feddans, and the highest figure before the war was 1,755,000 feddans, it is difficult to understand how the commercial community could have placed its expectations so high.

It is possible that those who query the figures in question, whilst devoting themselves to the attraction offered by the improved cotton market, omitted to take account, firstly, of the high prices now commanded by cereals and other agricultural products, which require less expenditure than cotton; secondly, of the greater water requirements of the latter and the high cost of coal for the water lifting installations; and thirdly, of the difficulty which the smaller fellaheen experienced in the autumn of 1914 to dispose of their holdings and of the low prices obtained then—this latter experience will undoubtedly remain uppermost in the mind of the small cultivator until the end of the war, be the cotton market ever so stable and high. At any rate the Finance figures have in the past unvariably proved correct to within a negligible percentage, and there is no reason to doubt their accuracy this year.

TRADE OPENINGS.

The British Consul at Laraiche, Morocco, (Mr. E. H. Mulock), reports that a Spanish firm there, stated to have considerable experience of British trade, wishes to communicate with United Kingdom manufacturers of cement and ships' tackle, with a view to obtaining agencies therefor. Manufacturers of the goods mentioned, and exporters of U.K. goods, desirous of being represented at Laraiche, may obtain the name and address of the firm referred to on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., quoting the reference number 255.

PROHIBITED EXPORTS.

A supplement to the *Board of Trade Journal*, of August 17, contains complete lists of those articles which, according to the latest information received by the Board of Trade, are prohibited to be exported respectively from the United Kingdom, Denmark, France (and Algeria), Greece, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. The supplement may be obtained from the usual sale agents for Government publications, price 4d., post free.

Tobacco Restrictions.

Speaking at the annual meeting of Godfrey Phillips, Limited, on August 16, Mr. Joseph Phillips, the chairman, said, regarding the prohibition of the exportation of tobacco, that the wisdom and advisability of prohibiting the raw leaf was undeniable, but in preventing British merchants from sending manufactured tobacco into Holland the Government would seem to be making a present to the Germans of a trade which England was well able to do, bearing in mind that the chief article imported into Holland was the cigarette, made of Macedonian tobacco, generally termed "Turkish," which our enemies, in view of their present hold on the Balkans, were easily able to import, manufacture, and send into Holland.

GREEK TOBACCO CROP.

According to special reports received from Greece, the Greek tobacco crop is poor this year, and may be 20 or 30 per cent. less than last year, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. This is believed to be mainly due to the recent troubles and mobilisation in that country, and to the fact that the tobacco fields in Greek Macedonia could not be planted this year owing to the war.

The tobacco stock in the Customs Stores at Alexandria now amounts to about 125,000 packages. This time last year, the stock amounted to about 140,000 packages.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND.

The following is a further list of subscriptions to the above Fund received up to August 12. The previous list was published in our issue of August 11. We remind our readers that the Committee appeals for further support, and that the cause is an eminently deserving one. Subscriptions may be forwarded to the Hon. Treasurers (Mr. A. Baker and Mr. G. Middleton Edwards) at 5, Giltspur Street, London, E.C.:—

	£	s.	d.
W. G. White, Esq.	0	10	6
Messrs. Gordon, McDonald and Co.	2	2	0
George Evans, Esq.	10	0	0
D. Yellowlees, Esq., M.D.	5	0	0
Miss Ellis	1	1	0
E. C. Loizo, Esq.	0	10	6
Messrs. the Levant Mineral Co., Ltd.	10	10	0
Messrs. Storey Bros. and Co., Ltd.	10	10	0
Mrs. H. S. Fleming	5	0	0
Messrs. J. and R. Smith (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.)	20	0	0
G. V. Morgan, Esq	5	0	0
F. H. Freeth, Esq.	1	0	0
Messrs. Jos. Leete and Sons, Ltd.	2	2	0
Claude Varipati, Esq. (per Sydney La Fontaine, Esq.)	10	0	0
R. G. MacMillan, Esq.	1	1	0
The Rev. H. J. White, M.A., D.D.	1	0	0
Hugh Bayley, Esq.	1	1	0
Reginald Barber, Esq.	1	0	0
The Rev. E. F. Bowling	1	1	0
Sir C. J. Lyall	10	0	0
Mrs. Roby Thorpe	5	0	0
Mrs. Truell	2	0	0
George Kidston, Esq.	10	0	0
S. Bloomberg, Esq.	0	10	6
Miss M. Penfold	0	5	0
Anonymous	0	0	6
W. Cecil Bosanquet, Esq., M.D.	2	2	0
Thos. Baddeley, Esq	0	10	6
A. C. Ainger, Esq.	1	0	0
Charles E. Blakiston, Esq.	0	5	0
Messrs. Malcomess, Suhr and Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
W. A. Thompson, Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs. Coubro and Scrutton	1	0	0
A. B. Lambert, Esq.	5	5	0
Messrs. L. Hirst and Son	1	1	0
Messrs. N. Mayer and Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
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A Levy, Esq.	1	1	0
H. Brittan Evans, Esq.	2	2	0
A. B. Martin, Esq.	1	1	0
R. E. Gundry, Esq.	0	5	0
Mrs. M. Alcock	0	10	0
Herbert A. Leake, Esq.	5	0	0
Edward Bond, Esq.	2	2	0
Messrs. the British Paper Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
Miss Eleanor Ainger	0	10	0
Miss Ainger	0	10	0
Adolf Weil, Esq.	2	2	0
Mrs. Russell Martineau	1	0	0
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R. W.	1	0	0
Sir Henry Vansittart Neale, K.C.B.	2	0	0
Messrs. Brown and Polson	20	0	0
Charles H. Merz, Esq.	2	2	0
Messrs. the Imperial Bank of Persia	5	5	0
Howard S. Button, Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs. the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China	50	0	0
Albert Enriquez, Esq.	2	2	0
Mrs. E. Hume	1	0	0
Messrs. the Sheffield Corporation Tramways	25	0	0
H. W. Dillon, Esq.	5	0	0
Messrs. H. M. Cardew	0	10	0

Mr. R. B. Stoker, Chairman of the Manchester Liners, Limited, and President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, has joined the board of directors of the Manchester Ship Canal.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England

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PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, August 17.

Currants.

The market has been fairly active this week, with business done at steady prices. Transactions also have taken place in new crop at very high prices, supported by advices from Greece that the market there is very strong. It is, therefore, certain that prices may still advance.

Sultanas.

There is only a moderate demand, with small business passing in Afghan fruit, while other kinds are more or less neglected.

Dates.

With a better demand, a fair amount of business has been done this week in spot parcels, as well as in new crop to arrive, at steady rates.

Figs.

The market has been quiet, but prices are well maintained.

Seeds.

Linseed is very firm and dearer, with a good demand, but scarce sellers. London-Calcutta, spot and afloat, is quoted at 77s.; July-Aug. was sold at 77s., and Aug.-Sept. at 77s. 6d.; Sept.-Oct., 78s. 3d. Bombay to London, small grain, Aug.-Sept., 77s. 9d., and ordinary ditto, 79s. La Plata to Hull, spot, 79s. 6d. Rapeseed is firm, and more or less against buyers: Toria, Aug.-Sept., 65s. Cotton-seed is steady: London-Egyptian, Sept., £12 15s., and Oct., £12 10s. Hull, spot, £12 10s.; prompt, £12 15s.; and Oct., £12 10s. Rangoon beans are firm, with a good business done, including Sept.-Oct. at £20 15s., and Oct.-Nov. and Nov.-Dec. at £21 c.i.f.

Oils.

Linseed oil is firm, with large business done: Spot, pipes, £38; spot, barrels, £38 15s.; Aug., £39; Sept.-Dec., £39 15s.; and Jan.-April, £40 5s. Rape oil is firm: Refined English, in barrels, spot, £46 to £48. Cotton oil is rather dull: Crude, pipes, spot, £38 15s.; refined, pale, pipes, £43 5s., and sweet, barrels, £52 to £53 10s. Olive oil is very firm on spot, good Spanish or Levant quoted at £59 per ton ex store.

Oilcakes.

Cotton cakes: Egyptians, in store, are in a very limited quantity, and no offers are made for forward positions. Available, in store, are offered at £9 15s. to £9 17s. 6d., whilst English makes are without change at £10 5s. Linseed cakes are unaltered in value, and prices are well maintained in spite of the comparatively small demand. Best London made are quoted at £13 to £13 5s. per ton, and fine seedy Calcutta at £13 5s. to £13 10s.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The *Soudan Times* has had to reduce its size to four pages, two printed in English and two in Arabic, owing to shortage of paper.

A notice issued by the Government of Malta on August 4 states that the island of Corfu is no longer regarded as infected with cholera.

The Nile flood is reported to be above the normal, and the provincial irrigation officials have been instructed to take every precaution to prevent the bursting of the dykes.

According to an Amsterdam telegram a sum amounting to 5,100,000 lei (£204,000) has been embezzled by a Bourse accountant at the cost of the Roumanian Post Office.

It is semi-officially stated in Austria that bread will be composed partly of maize-meal and other substitutes after the new crops of wheat and rye are available.

A telegram has been received from Bushire by the Imperial Bank of Persia, dated August 11, stating that the staff of the Shiraz branch of the bank, who have been held prisoners for some months, have been released and have arrived at Bushire.

Prominent Industries of India

The Announcements below are published to acquaint our readers with the opportunity India affords the keen purchaser.

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Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
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Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
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Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.
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Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
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DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
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Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c.. &c.
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SHIPPING NOTES.

The American steamer Northlands, with her cargo, has been detained at Malta.

The Danish steamer Ivar was sunk by a submarine on August 13 off Genoa. The crew were saved. The Ivar was of 2,139 tons.

The French sailing vessel St. Gaetan, the Italian sailing vessel Dina, and the Italian steamer Nereus are reported to have been sunk. The Nereus was of 3,980 tons, built in 1901, and owned at Genoa.

The British steamer Antiope (2973 tons), built in 1906, and owned by the Egypt and Levant Steamship Company (Limited), was sunk on August 9. The chief officer and twelve men were landed at Barcelona by a Greek steamer.

Negotiations are now proceeding, *The Times* understands, for the acquisition of the Prince Line (Limited) by the Furness Withy Company, and that, while the business of the Prince Line is regarded in shipping circles as a somewhat complicated one, there is good reason to believe the negotiations will be satisfactorily concluded.

A recent message from Marseilles states that the crew of the Japanese steamer Tenmei Maru (3360 tons), which was sunk in the Mediterranean by a submarine flying no national flag, has been landed. The submarine fired on the steamer without warning, and on the boats to which the crew of 46 had taken. The Tenmei Maru was built in 1889 as the Nadir, and owned at Ushioye.

The Greek liner Eleutherea, while on a voyage from Salonika to Volo, with 1,200 passengers on board, chiefly demobilised men of the Greek Army, caught fire on August 11, near Platan, opposite the island of Skiathos. Owing to the vessel having a cargo of petroleum (American) the flames spread with extreme rapidity, and eventually the boilers blew up, killing forty persons and injuring a considerable number. The captain succeeded in running the ship aground.

The arrival at Malta recently, on board an Italian steamer from Tripoli, of seven Englishmen (including the second mate, the second and fourth engineers), one Swede, and one Greek, belonging to the British steamer Coquette, has occasioned great satisfaction. The Coquette was sunk by a submarine seven months ago. Seventeen of the crew, after being adrift six days, reached the Libyan coast, where they were attacked on January 2 by Bedouins, who, after killing four of the crew, captured the rest. The men relate that after being taken prisoners they were sent to Jedabea. They walked a small part of the journey, doing the remainder on camels. During their seven months' captivity under Sayed Idris, chief of the Senussi, they were treated as well as could be expectd. Rations chiefly consisted of rice and oil, but their captors had the same. For some four weeks rice ran short, and they were given dates and occasionally some goat's meat. Nuri Bey often visited the Englishmen, and occasionally gave them money, tobacco, and tea as a present from the Turkish Government. The Englishmen believe they owe their release mainly to the efforts and influence of Nuri Bey. One of the crew died immediately after reaching Jedabea from wounds which he had received.

TRADE WITH PERSIA.

As indicated in previous issues of THE NEAR EAST, the Americans are paying particular attention to the trade possibilities of Persia, and are being rendered very valuable services by their Consuls. Recently, it appears, the Commercial Attaché of the United States Embassy at Petrograd paid a brief visit to Persia, and was greatly impressed by "the extremely important influence of the parcel post as a means to trade with Persia."

In his report to Washington the Attaché (Mr. Henry D. Baker) writes:—

"Since the war started, the parcel post has afforded almost the only means by which a large variety of articles enter this country. The British Consul at Tabriz estimates that at least half of the imports into the northern part of Persia from Great Britain now enter this country by parcel post in transit through Russia. Most of the cotton-piece goods coming from Manchester are sent to this part of Persia by parcel post. It appears to be the practice to ship such goods in bulk to Norway, whence they are reshipped in smaller packages to Persia.

"As England, like the United States, had no treaty arrangements whereby parcels could be shipped to Persia in transit through Russia, it was a growing practice of British firms previous to the war to send their goods in bulk to Germany, where they were broken up and forwarded by parcel post to Persia. Now, however, Norway is used for this purpose. For many years the parcel post had been growing in favour with British merchants as a means of sending goods to Persia. All other means of communication between Europe and Northern and Central Persia *viâ* Russia are handicapped by the fact that no through bill of lading can be obtained for goods passing through Russia; moreover, everything is subject to the ordinary import duty for goods entering Russia, and, in addition, the Persian customs duties have to be paid. The parcel post, however, enjoys special treatment, packages in transit being exempt from the usual customs duty in Russia. The Imperial Bank of Persia collects payment for goods sent by parcel post.

"The only means besides the parcel post of sending goods to the northern and most populous district of Persia has been the long caravan route from Trebizond, in Turkey, where duties were not collected on goods in transit to Persia. The cost of shipping piece-goods was lower *viâ* Trebizond than by parcel post; nevertheless, as there has been an enormous saving of time in the parcel-post route over the slow caravan route from Trebizond, the former method is now considered the more economical, since it allows a far more rapid turnover of the goods sold.

"American firms have not sent goods to Persia by parcel post. While the United States has no treaty arrangements for a direct parcel-post service with Persia, goods might be sent directly, as they are by British firms. The United States might greatly extend its trade with Persia by arranging with Persia and with Russia for parcel-post service, allowing goods to go through Russia without paying customs duties except on arrival in Persia."

British traders with Persia will do well to take into account this further indication of increased activity of American merchants.

The Russian steamer Kovda and the Italian sailing vessels Lorenzo Donato and Sant' Antonio have been sunk.

M. Paul Bignon, member of the French Chamber of Deputies, has proceeded to Rome to examine jointly with representatives of the Italian Government the questions of freights in the Mediterranean basin.

THE ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

The reopening of the Alexandria Bourse has already been referred to in THE NEAR EAST. From the *Egyptian Mail* we take the following report of the speech delivered on the occasion by the President, Mr. Salines:—

"To-day for us is an historical date, and as such will remain in the annals of our Bourse. Thanks to the liberty which we enjoy in this blessed country, in which Sultan Hussein I. is prodigal in his magnanimity, I am permitted to announce the reopening of our Bourse, and to ask you to join with me in cheers for the Sultan.

"This opening, without any restrictions, is unique in the history of the Bourses and is of good augury for the future. In our joy let us not forget that a great part of our happiness is due to England, who protects and defends us under the mantle of her civilisation. Long live England! Let us not forget also our beloved colleagues, now absent. Our thoughts and our hearts turn towards those who, far away, are at war for the defence of their country and for those who are oppressed. Our colleagues, happy to be able to take part in so noble a war, will certainly contribute to the consummation of victory. Another cheer for all our colleagues among the Allies who have sons at the war.

"At the outbreak of war your wise decision, which was taken unanimously, on July 30, 1914, to close this Bourse and to suspend official quotations *sine die* gained the approbation and applause of general opinion. Everyone, however, was left at liberty to use his own judgment in concluding a transaction pending the opportune moment for the reopening of the Bourse. This wise measure saved our country from a grave financial disaster. I say 'our country,' because we are nearly all natives of Egypt and consider it as our second country. Our sole efforts are directed towards improving the credit and upraising the moral and financial position of Egypt. To this factor are added the good management of the Government and the wise decisions taken by the eminent magistrates of the Mixed Courts in order to avoid financial litigation at such a disastrous moment and during the suspension of the Bourse.

"Since the war is not yet over, and there may still be difficult moments ahead, we hope in the general interests of Egypt and for the sake of its own credit, that all financial conflicts will be avoided, otherwise we shall experience a depreciation in values and disaster. Now that the Bourse is officially open, I appeal to all of you to respect its rules and regulations and to preserve a loyal and fraternal solidarity. At the same time I wish you all happiness and prosperity."

SITUATION IN SYRIA.

A Syrian in the United States has written to the *Miraat el Gharb*—a Syrian newspaper of New York—as follows:—"I have just received an English letter from home (the Lebanon) which I send herewith. The envelope in which it came appeared to be comparatively thick, and on examining it I discovered a small piece of paper gummed to it with the following words written in Arabic: "Half of the inhabitants of Souk el Gharb (a small town in the Lebanon situated at a short distance from the Beyrout-Damascus railway line, near Aleih) have succumbed to famine. We may die before this letter reaches you. Starving to death. Martial law.'"—*Mokattam*.

According to a Bucharest telegram received in Amsterdam via Berlin an agreement has been concluded between the Roumanian State Railway Administration and the German Steel Union for the supply of from 25,000 to 30,000 tons of rails for the construction of a more direct railway between Crajova and Bucharest.

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Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

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O. B. 117. Telg.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 738.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY.
P. O. B. 1095. Telg.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2066.

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(AN ANGLO-SWISS FIRM.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfried.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

German Industries.

Some interesting facts are included in a report recently submitted to the Commercial Bureau of the United States Government by the American Consul-General at Frankfort-on-the-Main. Mr. Harris describes the conditions in the machinery industry, and says enough to arouse interest among British manufacturers. He shows that, while suffering heavily, German industry is not at a standstill. He writes :—

In the machinery industry, large orders from the military and naval authorities made up for the orders which failed to come from foreign countries, and under the changed conditions the employees were kept busy. The purchase of raw materials was attended with difficulties which delayed deliveries of manufactured goods. The considerable rise in the original cost of raw materials and in wages increased the price of manufactured articles. The punctual payment of war orders made money easy. Besides articles for war purposes, during the year a number of grain mills, oil mills, storehouses, transport and pneumatic plants, pneumatic elevators, cement mills, hydraulic presses, and machinery of different kinds were supplied. Potash-nitrogen plants were erected especially for military purposes. The taking over by the Government of the most important metals used in the manufacture of optical instruments had an unfavourable effect for a time on this industry. It was also difficult to obtain skilled workmen for new technical instruments for which a demand arose. The readiness of the hands to work overtime, however, enabled the industry to meet large military orders for instruments. The business has increased so that a new factory will be erected in a suburb of Brunswick. The bicycle industry was unfavourably affected during the first months of the war, but afterwards improved under military orders for goods. Early losses were thus in a great measure made good. The steady rise in raw material and the want of skilled hands caused an advance in the price of manufactured products.

Minerals.

The report continues :—According to the reports of the German Iron and Steel Association, the production of raw iron in Germany, including Luxemburg, in 1914 was 14,384,000 metric tons, and in 1915 only 11,783,000 metric tons. Of this amount, about 30 per cent. was produced in Lorraine. The total production in 1912 was 17,868,909 metric tons. The output of coal in this district during 1915 appears to have been between 50 and 70 per cent. of the normal production. Industrial demands for coal were less than normal. Both the exportation and private household use of coal were restricted. The potash mines of this district (Kehl) have remained closed since the beginning of the war. The petroleum mines of Alsace, although of relatively little importance in times of peace, have acquired an enhanced value now and have been worked with as much activity as possible.

New Use of Sprayers.

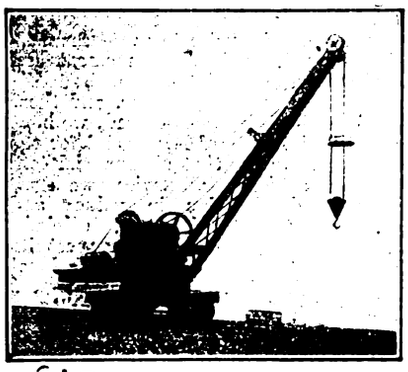
Sprayers of all kinds are used in the Near East for vines, fruit trees, etc., but for some months in the year, when spraying is not needed, they remain idle, which is unprofitable to the fruit grower. It will interest them, therefore, to learn that a new use has been found for sprayers, which may be adopted in the East with quite satisfactory results. They are used for spraying pigs, sheep, cattle, etc., with insecticides and to keep off flies. The spraying is generally done with a hand sprayer, such as is used by gardeners on plants. The animals have to be shut close in a pen for the operation, though, as a rule, they like it, and, it is said, give very little trouble under it. Spraying animals in summer-time will not only prevent disease, but will also improve the condition and quality of their skin, wool, etc.

A Petrol Economiser.

In view of the restrictions placed on the supply of petrol, an economiser which has recently been introduced will attract the attention of owners and users of motor vehicles. This economiser is simple and cheap, and, it is claimed, will save petrol to the extent of 20 to 30 per cent., aiding vaporisation and starting, giving increased power, and improving the slow-running of an engine. It consists of a cup fitted round the top of the jet. Depending from the cup is a roll of gauze encircling the jet. The cup is termed the vacuum cone, and the fine gauze, it is claimed, will retain and vaporise surplus petrol, and will check the waste caused by "blowing back." The device can be used only with carburetters having a vertical choke tube.

Orchard Ploughs.

In most of the fruit-growing districts in the East the clean-weeding system has been adopted, the ground being frequently ploughed between the rows of trees. American and Austrian or German orchard ploughs are generally used, probably for the simple reason that British cannot be procured. With the present scarcity of labour, and the increasing cultivation of orchards by the new system, there is a large demand for small and medium-size ploughs, especially in the Near East, on the Eastern Mediterranean coast, the Ægean Islands, etc. At present the implements come only from America, but if British manufacturers are able to come into the market at once orders may be secured for the coming season. As we have pointed out in previous notes in this column, owing to the war *bonâ-fide* buyers do not expect to obtain goods on credit, although they may ask for it. Agricultural implement manufacturers have an opportunity of getting a footing in the areas mentioned.



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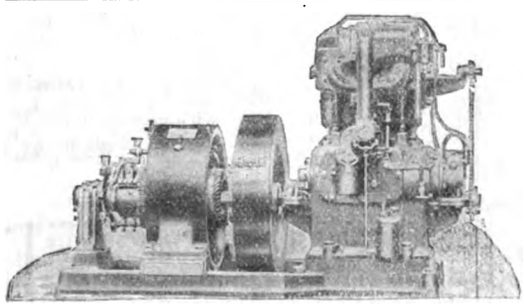
Designed for Paraffin, Petrol, Alcohol, Town, or Producer Gas, &c.



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TURKEY. EDWARDS & SONS, Dilsiz Zade Han, Stamboul. Constantinople.

EGYPT. W. H. ALLEN, SON & CO., Ltd., Cairo.

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COMPANY MEETING.

Baku Russian Petroleum.

Mr. Herbert Allen, presiding at the annual general meeting, on August 15, of the Baku Russian Petroleum Co., Limited, said those who had read the directors' report or taken the trouble to analyse the accounts would be struck by the remarkable transformation which was effected in the financial position of the company between the beginning and the end of last year. They started with about £5,000 cash in hand, and finished up with £65,000—a fact which he hoped would effectually allay the misgivings of a few shareholders who took such a despondent view of the situation a year ago, forgetting, apparently, that the company's troubles at that time were due entirely to well-defined causes of a temporary nature.

Concurrently with increasing their cash balances to the extent just stated, they had met the entire capital expenditure of £24,840 out of current income, besides which they made an appreciable impression on the Baku liabilities, not the least of which was a reduction of £12,049 in the £50,000 Government loan. Altogether during the year their liquid assets were increased by £51,695, and their current liabilities by only £8,833, which meant that there was a net reduction in the liabilities of £42,862. Since the date of the accounts a further inroad had been made in the local liabilities, and the remaining £9,000 of the Government loan had been paid off. The profit and loss account was interesting for the illustration it afforded of the recuperative powers of the company, the trading profit having recovered from £27,000 in 1914 to £72,000 in 1915, and the total gross profit from £5,621 to £87,985. They had charged against profit and loss everything in the way of loss and depreciation on the investments, and the current year's accounts were started with a practically clean sheet. On their financial operations in London, as distinguished from their oil business in Baku, they had made a clear net profit from start to finish, after allowing for the losses and depreciation already mentioned, of £53,633.

In preparing the accounts they had taken the Baku profits at the conventional rate of 2s. 1½d. per rouble, and debited profit and loss account with loss on all moneys actually remitted. He did not think it would be correct to show a loss on moneys which stil remained in Russia, which might so remain until they could be remitted without loss, or which might never be remitted at all. That was where he thought those companies might be wrong who converted their entire profits, whether remitted or not, at the current exchange of 1s. 3d. per rouble.

They had recently effected an arrangement with the debenture holders suspending further sinking fund payments until January, 1918, by which time it was hoped there might be some recovery in the sterling value of the rouble. In the meantime the moneys would be deposited in Russian banks, earmarked for the debenture holders, and when released would reduce the debenture debt to about £65,000. It had already been reduced from £131,000 to £93,700 by the operation of the sinking fund. It was hoped the arrangement with the debenture holders would result in a large saving to the company.

The company was doing very little work on the Bibi-Eibat plots which were leased from the Government. For years a prospect of reduced royalties had been held out to them, and they had spent a lot of money on those plots in consequence, but the royalty question had recently been shelved, and they were not going to lay out more money merely to benefit the national exchequer. For years Baku producers had struggled with unremunerative prices, and when at last they began to see a little margin over expenses, and consequently might be disposed to extend their operations, their enterprise was stopped with a snap.

Another blow to the development of the industry was the decree of the Government fixing a maximum price of 45 copecks per pood for crude oil, of which the Government itself was one of the largest buyers. There were many properties that could not be worked at 45 copecks, and to this extent a valuable commodity would be lost to the country. On other properties, where at one time 10 to 15 copecks would have been considered a reasonable working cost, it was now 20 to 30 copecks.

It was scarcely surprising under all the circumstances, and with the knowledge that the hand of the Russian Government was so frequently against the industry, that new boring for oil in the Baku district was lower than it had been for twenty years. The high selling price of crude was the sole favourable condition under which their business was conducted last year. On most of their plots the company had substituted electrical energy for steam power with very satisfactory results financially.

With regard to the future it was extremely difficult to offer any reliable forecast; much depended on the labour situation, the supply of materials and stores, and on the question of exchange; not so much the rate of exchange as whether they would be allowed to remit money from Russia at all. The Petrograd exchange on London was nominally no worse now than it was a year ago, but in practice it was much more difficult to effect remittances now than at any previous period since the war commenced, and the quoted rate, if not actually illusory, was quite one-sided. For the first seven months of the current year their trading at Baku had been better than for the corresponding period last year, and if present appearances went for anything they might perhaps at the end of the year have the best balance-sheet yet presented to the shareholders.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

COMPANY REPORT.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.

The report of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways Company for the year ended March 31 states that the Helouan Railway with its dependencies was handed over to the Government of Egypt on December 1, 1915, and the deed in connection therewith was signed on March 5, 1916. The remainder of the Cairo Quarry lines was lifted during the year and the whole of the loss thereon adjusted against construction reserve as provided for in the modified concession from the Government. No construction work on proposed extensions has been carried out, and all work, except that of an absolutely necessary nature, has been suspended during the year. Considerable assistance has been rendered by the company to the military authorities by supplying engines, rolling stock and permanent way materials and also in constructing strategic light railways. The gross receipts amounted to £192,801, as compared with £195,032 for the previous year. The number of passengers carried during the year was 5,183,915, as compared with 5,604,766 in the previous year. The gross receipts under this head were £116,413, a decrease of £5,023. The gross receipts from goods traffic were £70,510, an increase of £2,749, the tonnage lifted being 551,756 tons, a decrease of 47,480 tons. The working expenses amounted to £142,109, as compared with £141,068. The balance carried to net revenue account is £69,408, which, with interest and dividends earned, amounting to £3,561, with the net profits from working the Helouan line, £2,070, and with the balance brought forward of £32,295, gives a total of £107,335. After providing for interest on Debentures and all fixed charges, a balance of £65,228 remains, but in view of the unprecedented conditions prevailing in Egypt and which are bound to continue for some considerable time, the abnormal price of coal, stores, and materials, and the financial uncertainty of the future, the directors have decided that they are unable to recommend the payment of a dividend for the year under review.

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COMPANY NOTES.

New Company.

The Persian Mining Syndicate, Limited.—Registered August 9, by Ashurst, Morris, Crisp and Co., 17, Throgmorton Avenue, E.C. Capital, £50,000, in £1 shares. Objects: To acquire any concessions, grants, decrees, options, rights, powers, privileges, or interests in Persia or elsewhere; to carry on the business of miners, refiners, treaters, smelters and transporters of minerals of all kinds, etc., and to adopt an agreement with C. Greenway. The signatories are:—R. M. Harris, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., incorporated accountant; A. Jay, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., chartered secretary. Private company. The first directors (to number not less than three nor more than five) are to be appointed by the signatories.

Astra Romana Company.

Replying to a member in the House of Commons on August 14, Mr. Harcourt (for Mr. Runciman, President of the Board of Trade) said he did not at present propose to have further inquiries made into the business of the Astra Romano Company, which was incorporated in Roumania, and was not under the control of any British company.

Meeting.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—August 29, at noon: Winchester House, London, E.C.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for the week, 21 tons (last week 117 tons); Hurgada production for the week, 552 tons (last week 503 tons).

Bibi Eibat Oil.—Week ended 6th inst., 51,067 poods, or 985 tons.

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Week ended August 5, 20,652 poods (333 tons); August 12, 20,986 poods.

British Maikop Oil.—Week ended July 29, 2,335 poods (about 38 tons); week ended August 5, 2,946 poods (about 48 tons); week ended August 12, 2,770 poods (about 45 tons).

European Oilfields.—Week ended August 13, 90,400 poods.

Maikop Combine.—Week ended August 5, 6,816 poods (110 tons); August 12, 6,633 poods.

North Caucasian.—Week ended August 8, 10,347 tons.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended August 5, 65,700 poods.

Ural Caspian Oil.—Week ended August 10, 172,003 poods (or 2,774 tons).

Oilfield News.

Maikop Orient.—Cable, dated 7th instant:—Plot 435a—Well 3, drilled 98 ft., depth 960 ft. Well 1, production for week 235 poods.

Caucasian (Tchermoeff).—Cable:—Well No. 1, depth 1,764 ft. 16 in. casing. Well No. 2, depth 2,156 ft., 12 in. casing.

A newly verified Russian oilfield, with an area of about 70,000 square miles, according to *Russia*, has been located in the Ural Province. It begins at the Caspian Sea, taking a fan-like shape to the north as far as the town of Alexandrovsky Gai, runs nearly due east to the town of Temir, and from there in a southerly and south-westerly direction, following the Emba River to the Caspian Sea again.

Dividends, etc.

Egyptian 3 per cent. Loan.—Interest on the Egyptian guaranteed 3 per cent. loan, due 1st prox., will be paid by Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons on and after that date, Saturdays excepted.

One effect of the war that threatened to be very serious for New Zealand farmers was the curtailment of fertilizer shipments to the Dominion, and the consequent marked advance in prices for these essential stimulants to agricultural production. Other sources of supply have, however, been opened up, says *United Empire*, the journal of the Royal Colonial Institute, and New Zealand has now received its first consignment of basic phosphate from Egypt. The Government is assisting generously in the matter of freights and in fixing values, and farmers will receive a really high-class fertilizer at prices considerably below those ruling for similar materials.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Street, London, E.C.

Once more we begin with a short week, nothing doing on Saturday, which was again a holiday. Business continues to be restricted owing to the absence of sellers, who prefer to hold on to the goods. Generally the tone has continued to be good, and there would be abundant business to record if buyers could find sellers.

A few Aboukir shares have been done at the improved price of 15s. 7½d., Agricultural Banks have remained firm. Alexandria Waters are wanted at 11½. There are several buyers of Beheras at 6; but only a small seller at 6½. Delta Light preferences, as anticipated, owing to the high price of coal and other causes, are husbanding their resources, and no dividend is to be paid in respect of the year ended on March 31 last. The shares, all the same, are buyers at 5, and although they may temporarily, owing to the dividend disappointment in uninformed quarters, go somewhat lower, they will undoubtedly prove a remunerative lock-up at present prices for after the war.

Delta Lands are a firm spot at 9s. 3d. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts are in good demand at 4s. The break-up price of these shares at day's values for its investments is very considerably higher.

Markets are wanted at 24s. 6d. with possible sellers at 25s. 3d. Salts are quiet at 18s. 3d. Khedivial Mail shares have been dealt in to a certain extent round 26s. Land Banks are wanted at 5, but there are no sellers. National Banks have been done at 12½, with further probable buyers, but sellers are scarce.

New Egyptians are bid for at 9s., with sellers from 9s. 3d. to 9s. 6d.

Union Fonciere d'Egypte ordinary are wanted at ¾, but no shares are offering.

Greek Stocks.

Greek securities continue in good demand, but business is almost non-existent, as sellers are few and far between. Currant Bonds have been done at 88¼.

Monopolies are higher at 50½ and Larissa at 53.

AUSTRIAN TRADE REPRISALS.

According to a Vienna telegram received by Reuter, via Amsterdam, the Austro-Hungarian Government has issued a regulation regarding retaliatory measures for the protection of trade against French, British, and Russian subjects, and regarding patents and trade marks against Italian subjects. The regulation provides that patents and trade marks of subjects of France and Great Britain can, on request, be restricted or abolished in the public interest by the Minister of Public Works or charged with royalties.

The same regulations can be applied to patents of Russian subjects without regard to the public interest. Applications for patents and trade marks by subjects of enemy States will be accepted but not granted.

SCOPE FOR NATIVE CAPITAL.

The *Mokattam* (commenting on a circular published in the native Press by Abdul Khalik Madkour Pasha, chairman of the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce at Cairo, suggesting that a limited liability company should be organised in Egypt with native capital divided into shares of £E4 each for the purpose of purchasing some of the German and Austrian establishments under liquidation in this country) says:—"Abdul Khalik Pasha deserves every praise for this valuable suggestion, which tends to enlarge the scope of commercial co-operation in Egypt at a moment of rare opportunity. But we wish his Excellency could give a detailed explanation of his scheme, pointing out the advantage which the country would derive from this enterprise and estimating the amount of money which he thinks would suffice to carry out the business suggested. The public would also be glad to know how the enemy establishments could be purchased, and what system would be adopted for conducting them."

The Roumanian Minister of Industry and Commerce has fixed a reserve of petrol for home consumption for three months. Only the surplus over and above this quantity may be exported.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Price Aug. 11.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4% 1909	99	82	82
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	62¼	62½
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93⅛	71⅜	71⅜
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	80⅜	81
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	70⅛	71
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82⅛	67	67
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	57	57
Do. 5 %, 1894	56	56	56
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	50	50
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43⅜	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	53	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50⅜	50½
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	68	68
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	76½	76½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82⅛	55	55
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	77¼	77¼
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	xd	xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	85	85
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	77¼	77¼
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82⅛	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	52	52
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65⅛	37½	37½
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅛	4	4⅛
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	69	69
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	71	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11¾	11¾
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	1⅜	2
Bank of Roumania	8¼	—	—
Eastern Bank	6	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	6⅜	6⅜
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6⅜	6⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	75/-	75/-
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5⅛	5⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	12⅞	12½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	93/9	5
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5⅛	5⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	88½	88½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89⅛	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅛	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	10	10
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	11½	11½
Do do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	59⅜	59⅜
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	55	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10⅛	10⅛
Pireus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	55xd	55xd
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	15/-	15/-
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	91	92
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	⅜	¼	¼
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2¼	2¼
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	6¼	6¼
Do. Pref.	4⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	9 4½	9 3
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	87½	87½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	¼	¼
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	¼	¼
" " Founders	¼	¼	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	96	96
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	7¼	7⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	77	77
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	9/-	9/1½
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	¼	¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	⅜	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	11⅝	11¾
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1¼	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅝	24/9	25/-
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	95	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	18/3	18/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	26/-	26/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅛	3⅛
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	89	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2¼	1½	1½

OIL.	Price on Aug. 9.	Aug. 16.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/-	6/9
Anglo-Persian	20 9⅛	21/3
European Oilfields	3 9	3/9
Roumanian	14,6	14,9

PARIS BOURSE.

	Aug. 9.	Aug. 16.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4700	4750
Credit Foncier Egyptien	632	632
Turkish Unified 4%	63.25	64.25
Egyptian Unified 4%	90.15	90.15
Serbian, 1895	60.90	60.90

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Cote du 1 Août, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt	£	12⅛ to —
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	93 " —
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11¼ " 11⅜
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5⅜ " 5¼
priv.	L.E.	3⅜ " —
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	124½ " 125
Bons de Panama	Frs.	92 " 93
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs.	62 " —
Privilégiée	Frs.	95 " —
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	75 " —
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2 " —
Comptoir Financier et Commercial d'Egypte	£	1⅛ " —
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1½ " 1⅝
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	⅜ " ⅝
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	4⅛ " —
Bonded Warehouse	L.E.	4⅛ " —
Unifiée	L.E.	82½ " —
Land Bank of Egypt	£	5 " —
Fondateur	£	23 " —
Pressage et dépôts	£	28½ " —
Nungovich Hotels	£	2⅛ " —
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	4⅞ " 4½
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅜ " —
Ord.		19/- " —
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3¼ " —
Egyptian Delta Light Railway	£	5⅜ " —
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£	104 " —
Jouissance	£	155 " —
Egyptian Markets		23/9 " —
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	210 " —
Div.	Frs.	140 " —
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	125 " —
Egyptian Salt and Soda		18/- " 18/1½
Crédit Foncier d'Egypte	Frs.	587 " —
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	304 " —
" 1903 "	Frs.	245½ " —
" 1911 "	Frs.	253½ " 254
Delta Land		9 " —
Port Said Salt		7/6 " —
Cotton Ginners		33/- " —
New Egyptian		3/6 " —
United Lands	P.T.	8/5 " —
Levant S.S. Co.		4 " —
Fondateur		24/6 " —
		95/- " —

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended July 20, 1916.

	1915. £E.	1916. £E.
July 11-July 20	4,027	4,896
April 1-July 20	42,151	51,845

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates named:—

	1915. Francs.	1916. Francs.
August 10, 11, 12	780,000	590,000
August 13, 14, 15	660,000	600,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended Aug. 12.	1916. Week ended Aug. 10.
Cattle markets	213	383
General markets	258	312
Cattle markets closed	31	2
Receipts (£)	*471	695
Total from commencement of year (£)	32,256	33,089

* Bairam holidays.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 277.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

During the past week events in the Balkans have developed with a rapidity and in a manner sufficiently dramatic to satisfy the most ardent seeker after sensations. Striking proof of the solidarity of the Allies and of the unity in action which they have now achieved is provided by the presence in Salonika of Russian and Italian troops, to which it is now permissible to refer, and, incidentally, it may be noted that the fact of their arrival demonstrates the Allies' command of the seas in a manner which even the Germans will have some difficulty in explaining away. The Russian contingents have been arriving steadily for more than three weeks, and the Italians since August 11. Thus, counting the Montenegrins, the Allied force in the Balkans is composed of representatives of six nations. To this must be added a detachment of Albanians, commanded by Colonel Riza Bey. Apart from their military value to General Sarrail, the presence of the Russians is likely to have an extraordinary moral effect upon the Bulgarians at least, while the arrival of the Italian contingent, even if it be but a small one—as to which we are told nothing—will afford convincing testimony to the world that the Allies are absolutely united on certain points which their enemies were pleased to imagine caused some difference of opinion between them.

It was probably a knowledge of the arrival of these forces which drove the Bulgarians to take action. Be that as it may, on August 18 they began an offensive movement against the Serbian front, and have since been pressing forward wherever they found it possible to do so, the Greek troops, acting under orders from Athens, withdrawing before them and handing over forts, guns, and ammunition to them in the most polite and obliging manner possible. Here and there, it is true, some ignorant and ill-mannered Greek commandant, unversed in the higher strategy of the German-trained staff, and perhaps unable to forget that the Bulgar is the "hereditary foe," failed to carry out his instructions, and even went so far as forcibly to oppose the Bulgarians' advance. Thus, the officer in command at Fort Pheapetra actually bombarded the callers, and something very like a pitched battle—in which the whole of the Greek Sixth Division is reported to have taken part—ensued. At Lissa and Starchista also and along the Albanian border there were similar incidents, which are doubtless regarded as "regrettable" by the Staff in Athens. But on the whole the Bulgars can have very little reason to reproach the Greeks for a lack of understanding of their motives.

To follow these operations in detail would be to pay them a compliment they do not deserve. The Bulgarian advance, in fact, amounts to little more than a series of raids, undertaken doubtless at German instigation, and designed to avert, if possible, action by Roumania. That it will achieve that purpose is unlikely. It is, indeed, hard to see any purpose that it can achieve; for the theory that it is designed to secure a food supply from Greece is a very far-fetched one in view of Greece's own difficulties in regard to victualling. It is much more probable that it is the desperate throw of a gambler, made for the reason suggested above.

Another theory that has been advanced to account for the Bulgarian invasion of Greek territory is that it is hoped by means of it to influence the approaching Greek General Election. This is at least possible. It is beyond the power of the ordinary Englishman to fathom the workings of the Teuton mind, but the idea seems to be one that would appeal to German diplomacy. It is, however, a fact that the Greek election has to some extent lost interest, if not for the Allied Governments, at least for the subjects of the Allied States, who find Greek politics too "involved" to understand. And recent events have inevitably served to dishearten some of the warmest friends of Greece. They recognize that the little country is in much the same undignified and unpleasant position of "doormat" that China occupied in the Russo-Turkish War; but they cannot help feeling that to a large extent she has only herself to blame. Had M. Venizelos's far-sighted policy been followed, had King Constantine acted as a constitutional monarch, there would be a different tale to tell to-day. As it is, the Allies are naturally more concerned about, and more interested in, their own offensive than in the election.

General Sarrail began his offensive last Sunday, but so far there has been very little fighting of great importance. At the time of writing the French have occupied several villages in the Belashitza range, along the Greco-Bulgarian frontier; the Serbs are reported to be more than holding their own on the west front, in the Moglena sector; and a check has been administered to the enemy's advance on Ostrovo. As to the British share in the fighting, the General Officer Commanding reports that on Wednesday two battalions of the enemy were sighted in the neighbourhood of Dautli, and that "their advanced troops were driven in by us." On the Struma front, says the same report, the enemy are entrenching on a front about two miles from the river, in the district between Lakes Tachinos and Butkova. An attack made on the French troops holding Komarian

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bridge was repulsed. It is pleasing to add that General Sarrail speaks in high terms of the "brilliant piece of work" performed by our troops in capturing Horseshoe Hill, overlooking Doldjeli village; and that he also praises highly the conduct of our Yeomanry in helping to check the enemy advance on the Struma.

The German Press continues to exhibit many signs of uneasiness regarding the attitude of Roumania, while the Allied Press for the greater part preserves a discreet silence on the subject. The German and Austro-Hungarian Ministers at Bucharest had a very long audience with King Ferdinand on Tuesday; and the Bulgarian Prime Minister has been assuring the correspondent of a Budapest paper that "our relations with Roumania are not only cordial, loyal, and good, but also calm and decided." These things seem to denote a degree of anxiety which may make us and our Allies well content, for once, to "wait and see."

The Mesopotamia Special Commission Bill received the Royal Assent on Thursday last week, and the Mesopotamia Commission of Inquiry being thus legally constituted, held its first sitting on Monday, Lord George Hamilton presiding. At the close of the sitting it was announced that "in view of the extremely private nature of the documents, and of the oral evidence which will be taken," the Commissioners had decided that their meetings should be held in private. With the wisdom of this decision few people will be disposed to quarrel. So long as our Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force is in the field with its object unaccomplished publicity regarding past operations is to be deprecated for many reasons. It is satisfactory, however, to be informed that if any points arise which, in the opinion of the Commissioners, it is desirable to publish, they will be communicated to the Press direct. The first witness called on Monday was Sir Edmund Barrow, Military Secretary, India Office, who on that and the succeeding day gave a general survey of the history of the expedition. The Commission then adjourned for a fortnight to study the documentary evidence. It is announced that General Sir Beauchamp Duff, Commander-in-Chief in India, is returning to England to give evidence before the Commission; and a Reuter's message from Simla reports that the announcement has given general satisfaction in India, where it is believed that by this means "many baseless rumours will now be disposed of."

As to military operations in Mesopotamia, they appear to be almost at a standstill, partly, no doubt, because the extreme heat still renders both sides unwilling to embark upon any important move; but partly, it is to be hoped, because our military authorities are determined that our preparations for an advance shall, this time, be on an adequate scale. What we have done in the West we must do in Mesopotamia—prepare systematically, and then advance steadily, avoiding brilliant dashes unless we are sure that we shall be able to "make good." Baghdad ought certainly to be in the occupation of our forces when the time comes for the discussion of peace terms, if our prestige in the Near and Middle East is not to suffer irretrievably. Meantime we may note that the small skirmishes which continue to take place between our own forces and those of the enemy are of a character more satisfactory to ourselves than to the Turks. An announcement made by the War Office on Monday, for instance, reports that, on the 15th inst., our forces and a contingent of friendly tribesmen inflicted punishment on some Turkish irregulars who had early in the month attempted to interfere with our reconnoitring steamers on the Euphrates, in the vicinity of Ain and Khidr. The latter place is some forty miles north of our post at Nasiriyeh and not far from Samawa, which is the seat of a Kaimakam and a "town" of some importance, as such places go on the Euphrates.

A statement issued by the War Office last Friday added some interesting facts to those previously made known regarding the Turkish defeat at Katia. This statement reports that General Sir Archibald Murray estimates that "the enemy's force amounted in all probability to some 18,000. Of these we took prisoners, wounded and unwounded, 49 officers and 3,871 other ranks. The known killed amounted to 1,251, and wounded are estimated at 4,000, thus making the total casualties about 9,000." The war material captured included a mountain battery of four guns complete, with 4,000 rounds of ammunition; 2,300 rifles and a million rounds of ammunition; nine German machine guns; large quantities of equipment of various kinds, and 500 camels and 100 horses and mules. At Bir-el-Abd the Turks abandoned two field hospitals complete, with most of their equipment; but found time to burn a large quantity of stores. If any further evidence of the completeness of the Turco-German defeat were required after the earlier reports, it is here provided. It would be rash to say that no fresh attempt at "invading Egypt" is likely to be undertaken; for if it suits the German purpose to indulge in another venture of the kind, the obedient Enver will doubtless be willing, if not anxious, to oblige. But whether Turkish troops, despite their docility, will be ready to respond to the call remains to be seen. On this latest advance, it appears, the relations between Germans and Turks were, to say the least, not cordial. The former, well equipped and well provided with stores, held aloof from their "allies," who were less fortunate in this respect; and the latter are not likely to forget the fact.

Meanwhile Egypt awaits fresh developments with the same calmness that it has shown throughout the war. The country, like Canada and India, continues to be as prosperous as ever it has been, and the Fellah, accordingly, goes his way contentedly enough, as he has done through the ages when left to tend his fields and gather in his crops undisturbed. In one respect the war has undoubtedly proved a positive blessing to Egypt. As our Cairo Correspondent has repeatedly pointed out, the martial law *régime* has made it possible for the authorities to grapple with several problems that were constant sources of trouble in pre-war days; and though undesirables who formerly benefited by the extraordinary conditions resulting from the existence of the Capitulations may regret the change, very few other people will do so. It is to be hoped that after the war, with the co-operation of Italy, France, and our other Allies, the judicial system of the country will be put on a satisfactory footing, and that the anomalies of the past will be swept away entirely.

The Turkish success against the Russians has been but short-lived. In the Trebizond sector the Grand Duke's troops have driven the enemy out of Eleu, the Black Sea Fleet lending useful assistance in the operation. West of Lake Van the Russian offensive is developing most successfully. Forced to retreat, the Turks suffered severely from the hornet-like attentions of the Cossacks; and the latest information to hand at the time of writing is to the effect that in the direction of Mosul the Russians defeated four Turkish divisions and surrounded and took prisoners two entire regiments. This is likely to put an end to any further Turkish operations in this region, and to have an excellent effect elsewhere. We may hope shortly to hear that Persian territory is quite cleared of Turkish troops, when doubtless the German agents will also make themselves scarce.

Private advices from Athens indicate that, like everything else, the recent "mission" of Prince Andrew and Prince Nicholas is being widely exploited by the anti-Venizelist party. According to the reports set about by the supporters of M. Gounaris, the two Princes succeeded in persuading the Entente Powers that they had been grievously misled by their Ministers in Athens, and both M. Guillemin and Sir Francis Elliot are shortly to be recalled! Such foolish tales may, or may not, be acceptable to a section of the Athens public, but their real value—if they can be said to have any value at all

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—is merely to show openly what we have known for a long time—that the French and British Ministers in Athens are the victims of an intrigue set on foot by the pro-German party. The wish that was father to the thought in this case is likely to remain long unfulfilled.

While both the Central Powers are obviously uneasy regarding Roumania's future action, Hungary may well be pardoned for feeling not a little uneasiness on her own proper account. She has been called upon by her German partners to make great sacrifices, and she has made them more or less willingly. But she appears to have reached a stage where some at least of her statesmen are asking whether the game is worth the candle, and it has been hinted that she might not be averse to cutting herself adrift from her allies, if only she were sure of being allowed to keep Transylvania. In certain quarters in this country there is a slight tendency to coquette with this idea, and it has even been pointed out that so long as Roumania declines to make up her mind to range herself on our side, it would be permissible to offer Hungary some guarantee of the kind indicated. There are, however, in our opinion very sound reasons for deprecating any proposals of this character. Englishmen as a race have no quarrel at all with the Hungarians. On the contrary, there has long existed a feeling of real friendship between the two peoples, and the considerate treatment meted out to those of our countrymen who are now held prisoners in Hungary is warmly appreciated here. But we must not forget that the enemies of our friends must in honour be our enemies also while this war lasts; and our Serbian allies are inspired by feelings very different from our own towards the Hungarians—feelings aroused by reports that appear to be only too well founded in some cases. Again, if the principle of nationalities is not to be ignored, Transylvania ought certainly to go to Roumania. The best advice that could be offered to Hungary by her well-wishers would be that she should make terms with the Allies now, lest worse befall her, leaving the question of Transylvania for settlement when the time comes for a general discussion of the terms of peace.

On Saturday there was a recrudescence of "liveliness" in the North Sea. As usual, the Germans were early in the field with their official account, and as usual it has since been shown to have been utterly misleading. It stated that German submarines had sunk "in the waters of the English east coast" a small cruiser and a destroyer, and had "badly damaged by torpedoes" another small cruiser and a battleship. The statement issued by our Admiralty early on Monday flatly denied that a destroyer had been sunk and that a battleship had been damaged, and the denial has since been emphatically repeated. What actually occurred was that the German High Seas Fleet, or a portion of it, ventured a short distance from its harbour of refuge, but, warned by its scouts that a considerable British force was awaiting it, avoided an engagement, and returned to port in some haste. The first British report stated that one enemy submarine had certainly been destroyed and another had been rammed and possibly sunk; and the tone of late German reports leaves little doubt that the second of these craft will never return to its base. On Tuesday H.M. Submarine E23, returning from the North Sea, reported that she torpedoed a German battleship of the Nassau class, and "believed that she was sunk." This vessel proves to have been the Westfalen, and the Germans officially admit that she was damaged, though slightly. Against these successes we must unfortunately set the loss of two of our light cruisers, the Nottingham and the Falmouth, which, apparently in the ardour of pursuit, fell victims to the enemy's submarines. Happily the loss of life, though serious, was comparatively small, thirty-six of the Nottingham's crew being reported missing, while the Falmouth's losses are put down at eleven. The whole affair shows once more how tightly our Fleet is keeping the enemy's bottled up, and how vain are his boasts of having wrested the mastery of the seas from Britannia.

M. MATHIAS BOSHKOVITCH.

As already announced in THE NEAR EAST, *H. E. the Serbian Minister, M. Mathias Boshkovitch, is shortly leaving London in order to take up other duties.*

M. Boshkovitch is the son of the eminent Serbian historian, M. Stoyan Boshkovitch. After studying in Paris, he was, in 1890, attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Belgrade. His progress was rapid, and in 1896 he was appointed Secretary, and shortly afterwards Chargé d'Affaires, of the Serbian Legation in Sofia. Whilst employed there he was charged by the Serbian Government with the duty of negotiating the first Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty of Commerce. At the same time he negotiated an agreement by which Serbia and Bulgaria should continue their work amongst their nationals in Macedonia by pacific means. His efforts in this direction met with some success in theory: Bulgaria signed the agreement; but, in practice, she continued her propaganda in Macedonia by means of armed bands, and moreover hastened to inform the Turks of the arrangement that had been come to.

After having been attached to the Serbian Legation at Constantinople for some time as Secretary, M. Boshkovitch was recalled to Belgrade and appointed an Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He held this position with distinction for five years, after which he tendered his resignation, which was accepted. In 1907 he was appointed Serbian Minister in Athens, where he remained six years, up to the end of the Balkan Wars. During this time he took a leading part in the negotiations for the Serbo-Greek Treaty, and the success of those negotiations was largely due to him. From Athens he was transferred to London as Minister, and entered upon his duties in February, 1914.

It is of interest to remember that shortly before the Austrian ultimatum to Serbia, in 1914, when all outward indications seemed to point in a contrary direction, M. Boshkovitch warned his Government that the danger of Austrian aggression was not over, but was indeed imminent. At the time Austria had given assurances to Europe that she was not meditating any aggressive action against Serbia, and that she would settle the Serajevo incident peacefully, by diplomatic means; the Emperor was rusticating at Ischl, and Count Berchtold and the Chief of the Staff, General Hötzendorff, were both holiday-making. It was at this moment that M. Boshkovitch telegraphed to his Government: "The campaign against Serbia which Austria-Hungary is now organising is believed to be very dangerous. The following weeks will be very critical, and Serbia ought to be prepared for everything, and not allow itself to be surprised. The calculated pacific declarations of the Austro-Hungarian circles are in no way to be believed, for preparations for putting strong pressure on Serbia are now made, and may be transformed into an attack in force."

His sympathy with Great Britain, his high regard for the splendid and solid characteristics of the English people, and his intense desire to continue and strengthen the good relations between Great Britain and Serbia, are all almost too well-known to require mention. He has frequently expressed his great pleasure that the rapprochement between the two countries took place during his residence here. Amongst the many happy memories which he will carry away with him it is this one that will give him the greatest pleasure and satisfaction.

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SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, July 30.

The Sirdar's Return.

The Governor-General returned from Erkowit on July 28 with the Private Secretary (Major Symes, D.S.O.), the Assistant Private Secretary (Mr. A. Keown Boyd), the Military Secretary (Major Rees Mogg), and the A.D.C. (Major Edwards). Owing to rain the special train was somewhat delayed. The arrival was quite private.

Monday, the 31st, being the first day of the new Arabic month after Ramadan, is a festival, and there is a public holiday from the 30th to August 2. A levée is held on the 31st.

A violent habboub struck Khartoum from the North shortly after mid-day on July 30. After a short period of yellow fog, induced by sand and dust, there followed a tremendous storm of rain, which continued till half-past four. Fortunately, all the roads have been embellished with channels into which the surplus water may drain and be carried away. For the moment considerable pools lie in the roads, but the water is drawn off before mosquitoes can breed.

The temperature for the last week has been remarkably low as compared with last year. On one day it went down to 91 degrees F. maximum.

Official Movements.

Colonel W. E. May Pasha, the Assistant Financial Secretary, leaves Khartoum on July 31, and is giving up his post in the Government. He has held this position for very many years, and has won the respect of all Government officials for the skill and tact with which he managed the difficulties of Sudan finance.

Captain Maydon, who was wounded in the foot at El Fasher, proceeded north on leave on July 28. Although unable still to wear a boot, he shows no other ill-effects of his wound, and expects to get a complete recovery after a change of air.

Major Thwaites, Assistant Financial Secretary of the Egyptian Army and Assistant Director of Stores, who has been in Kordofan supervising the despatch of supplies, etc., to the forces in Darfur, proceeds north on the mail train of July 30, on a medical certificate for leave.

Mr. Dun, advocate-General of the Sudan Government, started for Cairo on leave on the 28th.

Major Spinks, who was with the forces in Darfur, in command of the Artillery, has been to Alexandria, where he joined Mrs. Spinks, and they returned after a short time to Erkowit, whence Major Spinks will return to take up his duties at Khartoum.

SUFFERING ARMENIANS.

The Rev. H. Buxton, hon. secretary of the Lord Mayor's Armenian Refugees' Fund, who has just returned to England after devoting three months to relief work in the vilayets of Armenia, devastated by war and massacre, stated in the course of an interview on Saturday that, roughly speaking, 500,000 Turkish Armenians were massacred and 1,000,000 deported last summer.

"Help for the survivors," Mr. Buxton added, "must be forthcoming during the coming winter, and also next year, when a large number will be returning to their homes. About £80,000 for relief has been collected in this country, of which £57,000 was raised by the Lord Mayor's Fund, and we now need at least an equal sum. The refugees have been kept alive, and food is perhaps not the main necessity at the moment. Rather it is a matter of repatriating them on their own lands."

Asked whether he had any proof that the deportations were due to German instigation, Mr. Buxton said: "All I can say is that the German Government did nothing to stop the massacres. During the whole business German influence was supreme at Constantinople, and German Consuls were at their posts in all the chief centres through Asia Minor."

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

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THE SIMOON.

(By Our Khartoum Correspondent.)

Few people realise the extremity to which natural heat may go until they have experienced a simoon. In the Northern Sudan, on the great expanses of empty desert, a hot wind arises and, gathering heat as it goes from the sun-baked sand, sweeps across like the red-hot breath from an opened furnace. It is accompanied by a quantity of sand, or, when the desert is rougher, of small stones, and the native who is overtaken by it has to get off his camel, cover his face, and lie down to leeward of his camel, covering with what he may his precious water-skin, which, being porous, loses its contents swiftly by evaporation in the blistering heat. With a shade temperature over 120 deg. F., where there is no shade for hundreds of miles, the actual temperature may be imagined. Sometimes the wind may continue for hours, and the traveller has to dig his camel out of the sand, which has blown over the animal's extremities.

Recently a typical case of the hardships of desert travel in a simoon occurred. A party of five Arabs, including one well-known guide, were proceeding to a well some two to three days' journey from their starting-point. The simoon came on and deprived them of all guidance, since they could see neither the sun by day nor stars at night. At the same time most of the water in their skins dried up. When they continued their route and had completed three days, and had no sight of their well, they consulted; but the guide was still confident of his road, and they continued two days more, and arrived at a place close to which he said the well was. By this time their water was almost spent, so they divided what remained; one man stayed in his place, two went north and two south to search for the well. The latter pair returned shortly, and all three followed the tracks of the first pair, whom, however, they had to give up, as they had clearly lost their way and discarded their arms and property. The three men killed a camel, drank of its blood, and squeezed a little moisture—perhaps a pint and a-half—from its belly into their water-skin, and then started due east for the Nile. On their way they killed one of the two remaining camels, but even so one of the three men died, and only two contrived to reach the river in four days from the time they had lost their companions. Their endurance is barely credible did one not know what extremes of thirst the Arab can support.

ARCHIEPISCOPAL ELECTION IN CYPRUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, July 30.

Apart from the war, the coming election of an Archbishop is of almost all-absorbing interest for the Orthodox Greek community, which forms the large majority of the Cypriots. The Press, which has published long biographical notices of the late Primate Kyrillos, is unanimous in urging that there should be an amicable agreement as to a successor. There is a fairly general consensus of feeling in the island, which deprecates any divisions that might lead to a repetition of the grave scandal to the Church and the community which arose over the question of a successor to the throne in 1900, and which wrought much mischief.

The election is provided for by the canons of the independent island Church. Qualified electors of over twenty-one years in the four episcopal dioceses elect about 1,092 representatives, who are over twenty-five years. These elect sixty-six representatives (twenty-two clerical and forty-four lay) of over thirty years. Finally, these latter, with the Holy Synod, elect the Archbishop. The Holy Synod consists of the Archbishop, the three Metropolitans of Papho, Kition, and Kyrenia, the Abbots of Kykkou and Machaira, and the Archimandrite of the archiepiscopal diocese of Nicosia. At present, during the vacancy, the Bishop of Papho acts in the place of the Archbishop. Encyclicals are issued for the elections of representatives, which are to take place on August 21 and September 18 respectively, and nine days are allowed in each case for appeals and objections. A strong party is in favour of the Bishop of Kition, who is an able and distinguished member of the Church and has already done much for reforms, especially as regards the better education of the clergy. Others urge the election of the Archimandrite Chrysostomos Papadopoulou, a professor in the University of Athens. A preliminary meeting of Greek members of the Legislative Council and mayors of the chief towns has been held at Platres, Mt. Troödos, to discuss matters.

The distribution of 1,000 oxen to 2,000 Armenian families in forty-six villages in the Caucasus is announced by the American committee for Armenian and Syrian relief. These families are returning to their homes, following the advance of the Russian armies into Turkey.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, August 9.

The Election Outlook.

From the Venizelists' point of view, the situation has sensibly improved. As the truth spreads and the slanderous statements regarding the Liberal party and its leader are exposed, its adversaries are clearly losing confidence. The most treacherous of the falsehoods they had spread about regarding M. Venizelos was the imputation that he had been responsible for the mobilization and its long duration; and it was by this means that his opponents stirred up the dismissed reservists against him. Now this false accusation has been shown up, as the result of an announcement made by the *Hestia*, and confirmed by M. Venizelos. According to this statement, when Bulgaria mobilized in September of last year, M. Venizelos submitted to the King the Decree for a general mobilization, declaring that it was for war against Bulgaria; but as soon as he saw that the King was not prepared to go so far as that, he withdrew the Decree; and he only signed it on the urgent insistence of his Majesty, who appealed to his patriotism, saying that, according to the belief of the Staff, even a delay of a few hours might have disastrous consequences for the country. Thus the anti-Venizelists have been deprived of their best election cry, and at the same time the turn in favour of the Allies that the war seems to have taken is exercising considerable effect upon national feeling.

The First Election Address.

In spite of this, the other side is not much discouraged, and their Press attacks on M. Venizelos continue to be as violent and as coarse as ever. In a speech just delivered at Patras, M. Gounaris again harped on the old theme—if Greece had followed the Venizelist policy and taken part in the Dardanelles operations, she would have been lost; the Powers had never promised her territorial compensations; and by not taking part in the war on Serbia's behalf she has been saved, and so forth. Next he tried to justify himself with reference to the suspicions of the Entente Powers that he had incurred, which he attributed to insinuations of the Liberals; and declared that he was very grieved to find his policy so misunderstood. He was thus not ashamed—as M. Venizelos remarks in the *Kyrix*—to admit that during the nine months he and the other "saviours" (the title they have arrogated to themselves) were in power, with daily opportunities to dispel these misunderstandings, he was unable to convince the Entente Powers of his sincerity.

The outstanding feature of his address, the rallying cry of his electoral campaign, was the demand that his constituents should "proclaim Greece independent in the face of the world by voting against M. Venizelos, who has recognized and approved of the intervention of the Powers in the country's internal affairs and the occupation of Macedonia by their troops." To this the *Kyrix* replies that, if M. Gounaris considered that the independence of Greece was threatened by the Entente, such danger would not have existed had Greece fulfilled her obligations as Serbia's ally and co-operated with the Franco-British, or if his own Cabinet and the other one in which he served had preserved the benevolent neutrality promised.

The Staff and Politics.

The *Kyrix* openly denounces the Minister of War and the Minister of the Interior, who, accustomed as superior officers to obey the behests of the Staff, continue to suffer its influence in the exercise of their Ministerial functions. Thus they fulfil these functions in a manner absolutely opposed to the mandate that the Government has received, to secure the free expression of the people's will at the forthcoming elections. While fully recognising the straightforwardness of purpose with which M. Zaimis desires to carry out this difficult task, M. Venizelos considers that he has chosen these two Ministers unwisely. M. Venizelos is of opinion that M. Zaimis would have been well advised had he, before accepting power, demanded the dismissal of the Chief of Staff from the confidential position he occupies, where, by upsetting all constitutional order, he has succeeded in getting all political power into his own hands. Having failed to do so, M. Zaimis has now to put up with the consequences. It was natural that the Minister of War should be called on by the Staff to act the leading part in the political struggle, a rôle which he has played well by allowing the reservists about to be dismissed—but while they were still actually soldiers—to indulge, at the instigation of their officers, in outrageous demonstrations against the leader of the Liberal party. Again, the Minister of the Interior, Colonel Charalambis, under the same influence, has left numerous Gournarist prefects and officials in undisturbed possession of their posts, where they will be political agents of their patron at the election; while he has not appointed a single Venizelist, adopting the dishonest attitude that one cannot be a Liberal without being an anti-Royalist.

Sensational "Revelations."

The *Athenai* publishes a sensational statement, which has at least not been officially denied. This is to the effect that on June 21, when the Powers delivered their ultimatum to the Greek Government, M. Skouloudis gave orders to Admiral Condouriotis that as soon as the Allied Fleet appeared off Phaleron it should be attacked by the Greek Fleet; and, adds the report, it was the King who—as soon as he learned of this foolhardy order—hastened to countermand it. The whole thing is so grotesque that it would be useless to comment upon it.

The *Nea Hellas* also has a sensational story, according to which, in November of 1915 the Staff sent orders to Salonika to attack the Allies; but General Moschopoulos declined to obey the order, asking for explanations and to be informed whether war had been declared, and, if so, whether it was the Government that had given the order to begin hostilities!

Back-Alley Intrigue.

Certain indications lead one to believe that the military and political opponents of M. Venizelos, knowing very well that if, as they like to hope, M. Gounaris is successful at the elections, he will not be acceptable to the Entente, are preparing fresh plans to meet this difficulty. It seems that they propose in such case to make use of M. Dimitracopoulos, a former Minister of Justice under M. Venizelos, and now leader of a small group of the Opposition; and that they would place him in power, with the Parliamentary support of M. Gounaris. It is stated that M. Dimitracopoulos has already been received twice by the King.

DEPORTATION OF MONTENEGRINS.

Montenegro, apparently abandoned to a fate ill-deserved, is undergoing the most appalling suffering, writes Mr. Alex. Devine. In spite of all the Austrian efforts to prevent news leaving the occupied country, a correspondent in a neutral country writes to-day that 30,000 Montenegrin men and boys from fifteen to seventy-five years have been sent to a distant part of Hungary where the Magyar element is dominant. Most of these are in a most destitute condition.

Those remaining behind have to subsist upon potatoes, which cost no less than 5s. per lb. The terrible drought this year has added to their sum of suffering, and totally destroyed all the crops. Even the vines have not been left to them, for, when the Serbian retreat was on, and Montenegro was overrun by the Serbs, sufficient wood for cooking the food could not be obtained, hence all the vines were uprooted and utilised. Truly Montenegro is the Land of the Black Mountain.

The Anglo-Montenegrin Relief Committees in Rome, Geneva, and Marseilles are doing splendid work.

A telegram received in London on Monday states:—A great fire has broken out in the forest of Pikermi outside Athens, and threatens the forest of Pentelikon. A thousand soldiers have been sent to endeavour to prevent the fire from spreading.

In a note issued by the Serbian Press Bureau in Corfu a denial is given to a report in the Germanophil Bulgarian newspaper *Kambana* recently from the Macedonian front alleging that the troops of the Allied armies in Macedonia had been guilty of terrible cruelties towards the civil population of the occupied districts.

In answer to Major Wedgwood's inquiry whether steps have been taken to get black troops raised in Africa for garrison purposes in Egypt or Aden, or for active service in Mesopotamia, Mr. Lloyd George says that the War Office has been in communication with the military authorities in Africa, and he will have pleasure in conveying the results privately to the hon. member.

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PROGRESS OF THE ARAB MOVEMENT.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 4.

A brilliant success for the Arab movement for independence appears to be close at hand. It is semi-officially announced that diplomatic agents of the Shereef will shortly be appointed in those countries in which Arabia has special interests. Indeed, the Shereef's agent at Cairo, Omar Bey El Farouky, is already practically recognised as such; and it is said that very shortly the Shereef's flag will fly over his residence, which was taken only a few weeks ago. Omar Bey belongs to one of the noblest families of El Irak. He is young, energetic, and enlightened, and achieved distinction as an officer of the Turkish Army before he left to realise the dream of his life. He belongs to the secret Reform Committee of Arab Officers, and has played a leading part in the present great movement in Arabia.

The following facts, simple in themselves, serve to throw into relief, and lend practical significance to, the momentous announcement made lately by the British Government in regard to Arabia.

The Egyptian Postal Administration has notified the public that correspondence from the Hejaz, even though not bearing any stamps, may be delivered to the addressees, if it simply bears the mark denoting that it has been sent through the Hejaz Post Office. As a matter of fact, the Shereef's Government has decided temporarily to stamp all correspondence emanating from the Hejaz with the letters "T. SH." to indicate that it has passed through the Hejaz Post Office—this pending the new issue of Hejaz stamps, which have been ordered in Europe. It will interest philatelists to know that the issue consists of two series, one of 1 piastre, sky-blue in colour, and the other of half a piastre, red in colour. In the middle of the stamp are inscribed the words "Mecca the Honoured," and at the top "Hejaz Post"; while on the two sides figure the date of the current Arab year. Thus, the incredulous pro-Turks—and they are still legion over here—will soon have a concrete proof of the existence of an independent Arab State.

As has been foreshadowed in previous notes, the Shereef has, by his sagacity and his intelligent and rigorous conduct of the movement, won over the leading Arab chiefs. It has already been announced that the Idrissi has joined in the movement, and that, after occupying Kunfeida, he marched with his army on Ubha; and it is satisfactory to be able to announce that the Zaraneek tribe, which had not so far submitted to the authority of the Idrissi, has, through its chiefs, offered him its allegiance, and their forces are now incorporated in his army. Those who are at all acquainted with the affairs of the Tehama region and its vicinity may recollect the continual revolts of this tribe against the Turks. The Zaraneek inhabit the country lying between Assir and Hodeida, and are within a night's march of Beit el-Fakeeh, the seat of Sâdât Beit el-Bahr, the flower of the Yemen nobility. Their adhesion to the Idrissi has, therefore, a particular value. The tribe numbers about 50,000 souls.

A further item of welcome news, derived from an equally trustworthy source, is that the Shereef's Kaimakam, Emir Harb, was delegated by his Highness to visit Ibn Saoud, who had hastened to send deputies to the Shereef as soon as he heard of his momentous action. It is common knowledge that Ibn Saoud has always resisted Turkish authority. Indeed, in 1909 he drove the Turks out of El Hissa, and occupied it. As to Ibn er-Rasheed, a former supporter of the Turks, it has been ascertained that he retired to Jebel Shemru; then, seeing the collapse of his authority, he is said to have proceeded to Mecca, and to be now in the suite of the Shereef. If this be the case, he will have done a very wise thing, for his men—who abandoned him when he went over to the Turks once for support against his neighbour, Ibn Saoud—will probably rally round him again. In other quarters of less importance the feeling of enthusiasm for the Shereef has risen to such a degree that blind allegiance has been sworn to him, and implicit confidence is placed in his fitness for the supreme leadership.

As to the Imam of the Yemen, although he has not yet taken any active part in the movement, his present passive attitude, especially in connection with the Idrissi's action, may be taken as a sign of tacit approval. Indeed, the Imam's zone of influence—the Zeidi country, which comprises seven kazas (districts)—is entirely independent and under his exclusive authority. The levying of taxes and all internal administration are entirely in his hands, and his name is mentioned in the mosques as the Emir of the Faithful. The Turks' authority there is more of a shadow than a reality. When, after his successful revolt, he insisted on the Turks addressing him as such, the latter found a compromise in the title of "His Highness the Emir of the Muslemeen." Judging by the past, it is legitimate to predict that the Imam will, at no distant date, take San'a as his seat of government, as it used to be for his ancestors for centuries past, and then both Mahmoud Nedim Bey, the Vali, and Taher Rejab Effendi, the Assistant Governor, would probably be among his high officials. The chief aim of the Imam in all his past actions was the abolition of effective Turkish authority; and it would be illogical to suppose that he would not avail himself of the present occasion to realise his wish fully, more especially as he has in his suite a worthy and capable man, well known to some of the Egyptians—Es Sayed Ahmed El Kabsy, the Deputy for San'a, who has all along harboured a secret grudge against the Turks and an ardent wish for complete independence under the sacred Moslem law.

On the occasion of the forthcoming visit to the Holy Places of pious Moslems from all parts of the Peninsula, including men from the Yemen, a true indication of the policy the Imam intends to pursue will be given. Meantime, the Shereef's prestige is growing daily with his growing success on the field of battle, and when he shall have cleared Arabia of the Turks and rallied round him most of its great leaders, his title to supreme spiritual and temporal authority could no more be contested.

PRISONERS IN TURKEY AND BULGARIA.

The International Agency for Prisoners of War at Geneva, which is connected with the International Committee of the Red Cross, publishes news which has reached it of the British prisoners in Asia Minor.

At Dorak, on the southern slope of the Taurus Mountains, the men are employed in building the railway which goes from Tarsus to Konia, across the Taurus. Numerous letters from English taken prisoner in Mesopotamia and despatched to the north and east of Asia Minor have passed through the Agency. The prisoners appear to have been humanely treated *en route*. They easily obtained eggs, milk, iced drinks, lemonade, and melons. The officers were able to take their meals in the cafés of Mosul and to visit the town. Almost all these prisoners ask for clothes.

A detachment of Indian troops is employed at Ras el-Ain in building the railway from Aleppo to Mosul. An English doctor of the R.A.M.C. attends them. The internment camps are stated to be at Brusa, Yuzgat, Kastamuni, Eski-Shehir, and Afioun-Kara. Hissar, and the hospital is at Angora.

With regard to the British prisoners in Bulgaria, the Agency states that for the first time a full bag of about 200 letters and cards has passed through its hands to be forwarded to England. The correspondence came from Philippopolis, Drevnovitz, and Sofia. It appears that there are 261 non-commissioned officers and men interned at Philoppopolis, and that efforts are being made under the auspices of the Queen of Bulgaria to collect all the British prisoners in this camp.

The general conditions at Philippopolis are said to have been much improved; the food is better, and the camp commandant does all he can in favour of the prisoners. The men go to church every Sunday afternoon. The chapel is outside the city, and the service is conducted by an American clergyman. There is a circulating library of about 1,000 volumes for the prisoners. Postal packages arrive more regularly than formerly. The article most in demand is sugar, which cannot be obtained in the city. Clothing has been distributed at the expense of the Queen and of a Roumanian lady. The prisoners are allowed to write twice a month, on the 14th and on the 26th.

TO OUR READERS.

THE NEAR EAST is published on Friday, and copies are obtainable at any London bookstall early in the morning, and in the Provinces in the afternoon, of that day. To prevent disappointment, readers would assist us very much if they would place a standing order with their newsagent or railway bookstall for the supply of the paper every week. Any newsagent or railway bookstall clerk can, however, obtain copies at a few hours' notice if they have temporarily run out of stock; or we will post THE NEAR EAST for delivery on Friday morning, to any address, on the following terms, post free:—

12 MONTHS, £1; 6 MONTHS, 11s.; 3 MONTHS, 6s.

Abroad THE NEAR EAST is obtainable at any of the following agencies:—

PARIS. Librairie Hachette, 79, Boulevard Saint-Germain; Librairie Galignani, 224, Rue de Rivoli, and at Railway Bookstalls.

CAIRO. Cairo Express Agency, near Shepheard's Hotel; The British Library, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil; and at Railway Bookstalls.

ALEXANDRIA. Librairie Schuler, Rue Cherif Pasha; Nacamulli and Company, 12, Rue Sesostris; Librairie Calebotta, Rue Cherif Pasha; Librairie Cauro, Rue Cherif Pasha; J. Eugenides and Co., 12, Rue Cherif Pasha; Main Station Bookstall.

PORT SAID. Charles Evans, and on board vessels in the harbour.

KHARTOUM. Sudan Stationery and Bookstore.

CYPRUS. Cabahe and Wilson, Nicosia.

SALONIKA. Librairie Francaise, Rue Sabri Pasha, and Vafiades and Co.

ATHENS. Librairie Th. Vafiades.

BUCHAREST. No. 1, Strada Academiei, and Socec and Company, Calea Victoria.

CALCUTTA. 1, Royal Exchange Place.

NEW YORK. Office of "The New Armenia," Flat Iron Building.

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IN SERBIAN MACEDONIA.

A LETTER FROM PRILEP.

(From a Correspondent.)

Private letters from Serbia—and especially from that part of Serbia which is occupied by the Bulgars—are indeed a rarity. No Serb dares, of course, to send news of himself to a friend abroad, or to describe the conditions under which he is living. Nevertheless, one such letter has come through. It was written last March by a Serb from Prilep, and it was published first in the Salonika Serbian paper, *Srpski Glasnik*, and afterwards in the Serbian paper *Srpski Dnevnik*, which is being edited in New York.

The letter describes the first days of the entrance of the Bulgarian army into Prilep, the conditions prevailing thereafter, the arrival of the Bulgarian Crown Prince Boris in the town, etc. Even then, in the month of March, the writer expressed the hope that the enemy would soon be driven out of the country.

What sort of reception did we give (the letter begins) to the Bulgars? A very cold one. It is true that the houses were decorated with flags; the population came out into the streets; many of the people were dressed in their best attire—but all were cold and calm.

Everywhere a solemn silence ruled when the first cavalry patrols appeared and entered the town. Not a single "Hooray" could be heard, except from the throats of a few paid cowards.

After this patrol, the first to enter the town were the komitajis, who were led by the ill-famed komitaji leader, Churluk. After their entry, terror and fright reigned through the town. The komitajis immediately began to pursue the Serbs. Everywhere the persecution of men, women, and children took place. The heart of the whole population was well-nigh breaking with anguish when they realised in those first few days what life under the rule of our "liberators" would be like.

While all this was taking place in the town, we did not know what had been done in the villages; but when the peasants began to come into the town, all the shops and the taverns were filled with their terrible and gruesome tales. Arson, looting, murder, violation: those are the first things brought by the Bulgars to our nation. There is not a house, not a family, in the whole of the neighbourhood which has not suffered from the savagery of the Bulgars. Like a furious gale these beasts swept from village to village, from house to house, leaving everywhere a bloody trail behind them. The terror-stricken faces of the peasants were evidence of all of the terrible cruelties they had suffered.

Afterwards the police arrived. They simply continued the work that Churluk, the komitaji leader, had begun. Every day new lists were made out of Serbs summoned to appear before the police, where they were murdered, outraged, or banished to Bulgaria. To such proportions did this barbarity attain that one of their colonels was at length compelled to make the remark: "You have the names of so many Serbs on your lists here that in this town there are no Bulgars, with the exception of those who came with us from Bulgaria."

Not a single Serbian priest, not a single teacher, not a single peasant able to write has been left.

Describing the condition of starvation, sickness, and death which a short time later the town was in through lack of everything, the letter continues as follows:—

By requisitioning everything, the Bulgars have left us nothing; and starvation, with its consequent diseases, is rife among the population. We have no supplies whatsoever. In the first place, we have no bread.

Then it was that starvation, with its consequent diseases, began to mow down the population. Prilep, which had hitherto been a healthy place, now became a den of disease. We have graves, graves, graves—nothing but graves—and the police, komitajis, and famine are causing the number to be added to daily.

We already know that the Bulgarian Crown Prince Boris went to Prilep, but till now we did not know what sort of reception he met with there. This letter gives a full and detailed account of it.

While his motor-car was going from Veles to Prilep some of the Prilep colonists were running from one house to another trying to find a suitable residence for the Imperial guest, but this proved a matter of great difficulty. Every landlord made the excuse that it was impossible for him to receive Prince Boris, because he was such a "big man." In vain the municipal councillors tried to persuade them that the Crown Prince was very unassuming: the landlords got out of it by repeating one word only—he was so "big" they could not receive him. The motor-car was almost in Prilep, but the situation as regards the residents was the same. Finally, one councillor with some municipal servants went to the house of Jordan Bombolovic, whose house they took by force for the Crown Prince. So the Prince came to that house, but, simultaneously—the landlady fled therefrom! Boris noticed the coldness with which he was received, and immediately he is said to have become very nervous. The next night he slept in Bitolj.

We can imagine the feelings of the Bulgarian army to-day in Prilep, and how they must fear the offensive move towards Macedonia which the Allies have now commenced. Meanwhile it is interesting to know—and we obtain this information also from the letter referred to—that the Bulgarian and German soldiers who were in Prilep during last March were even then dreading the Allies' offensive:—

The German and Bulgarian soldiers (continues the letter) were earlier saying that they would throw the Allies into the sea, but to-day they confine themselves to saying that the defences of Prilep are so strong that the Allies will have no easy task to take them. "But even should the Allies take Prilep," they say, "we shall offer a stubborn resistance at the Babuna Pass."

The German and Bulgarian soldiers are saying, in their usual boastful manner, how they will bring their 42-centimetre guns up. But those guns have not arrived yet, and there is no prospect of their arrival.

The letter ends with the following simple words:—"We only fear future events, because we have been informed that in case of an evacuation they will again clear us." "To clear" is a familiar term, which, as well as the word "evacuation," sounds quite harmless. Really their meaning is dreadful, and signifies this: "When the time comes for the Bulgars to retreat before the Allied and Serbian armies the Bulgars will undoubtedly murder all the Serbs in Prilep."

THE LAST OF ALI DINAR.

In a proclamation issued from Erkowit, bearing date July 8, the Governor-General of the Sudan (General Sir F. Reginald Wingate) says: "I hereby proclaim that in view of the action of Ali Dinar, late Sultan of Darfur, in rebelling against the Sudan Government, he has been deposed from the sultanship, and that Darfur will henceforth come under the direct administration and government of the Sudan Government."

MESOPOTAMIA MEDICAL SCANDAL.

The *British Medical Journal* publishes extracts from a letter received on August 15 and written by Sir Victor Horsley from the front, Mesopotamia, on July 5, about ten days before his death. The information contained in the letter was placed at the disposal of the editor, who states that the three main points are: "First, that it was written in order that the case of the responsible medical officers in Mesopotamia should not be prejudiced, as he feared it might be, through the report of the Vincent Commission; secondly, that the appalling failures in the medical arrangements in Mesopotamia were due to the utterly defective transport; and, thirdly, that the failure was bound up with the question of the present extremely unsatisfactory relation between the financial department of the Indian Government and the medical services."

The Serbian Government has asked the Mayor of Corfu for permission to use the Municipal Theatre of that town for the sittings of the Serbian Parliament.

The American Zionist Provisional Committee reports that some progress has been made toward the sending of a medical unit composed of ten doctors and two trained nurses to Palestine, says the *Jewish Chronicle* (August 18). Mr. de Haas, Secretary, and Mr. Julius I. Peyser, of the Washington Bureau, recently waited on the Acting-Secretary of State and discussed the details of the sending of the unit and were assured that the Federal Government would use its utmost endeavours in order to obtain the necessary permits from the various belligerent Governments so that the expedition might proceed as speedily as possible. The chief difficulty ahead, it is believed, will be in obtaining permission to import drugs and medical necessities with the personnel of the unit. In the meantime the Hadassah Central Committee, under whose auspices the unit is being organised, is perfecting the necessary organisation details incidental to such an important undertaking.

ARMENIAN RED CROSS & REFUGEE FUND

FOUNDED DECEMBER, 1914.

President, VISCOUNTESS BRYCE.

Donations are earnestly entreated for the relief of sickness and distress among 250,000 destitute Armenian refugees in the Caucasus, whose condition is "pitiable in the extreme." Relief pay is less than 4d. per head a day. Food and all necessaries of life are very dear. A copy of the Report for last year will be sent to inquirers. All work in connection with this Fund is voluntary. Contributions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Emily J. Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W. Cheques may be made payable to the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund; they should be crossed "London and South Western Bank, Holland Park Branch."

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

El Khudr, or Khidr, the little village on the Euphrates, which is mentioned in the War Office communique issued on Monday, has always interested me; but, though I have been in its neighbourhood twice, I have never been able to visit it. There is near it a grove which is—or was—regarded as a sacred spot by the local Arabs, and which serves as a place of asylum for birds and beasts of all sorts. As long as they are in this grove the furred and feathered ones may not be killed by anybody; nor may the trees of the "sacred grove" be cut or damaged. If you have read Ainsworth's "Euphrates Expedition," you may remember that he and his companions, ignorant of these facts, set their men to cut wood for fuel in the grove itself; and, to make matters worse, Ainsworth actually went shooting in the sacred precincts, where he was surprised by the number and variety of the game of various kinds. The natural result followed: the party was driven off, their steamer was fired upon, and it was only thanks to the use of their "nine-pounder carronade" that they extricated themselves from a rather ticklish position.

***

Since writing my note upon the difficulties of constructing a railway (in the present circumstances) from Busreh towards Baghdad I have had another conversation with my engineering friend on the subject. I put it to him that there are in the neighbourhood of Busreh a good many *sudds*, or embankments, of a fairly solid character; and that in view of this fact it should surely be possible to construct a railway embankment in the same material. But he informed me that these sudds are constructed of a particular kind of clay, which is obtainable only in comparatively small quantities; and that to make a really good embankment, even with this clay, men accustomed to the work are necessary. And as he speaks from personal experience, his opinion is not lightly to be brushed aside. Then I mentioned a point which had been raised by other critics of his remarks: "Why not take your line back in the desert?" He replied that, in order to make the line safe against floods, it would have to be carried on an embankment, even if it were constructed some way out in the desert. And, obviously, the further back into the desert you go the greater will be the risk of "trouble" with Arabs ill-disposed towards us, and, consequently, the larger the force required to safeguard the line against raids.

***

My story about the late King George of Greece and the Newfoundland dog has brought me another, which shows what an excellent memory for faces the late King possessed. A Greek gentleman was presented to his Majesty in Athens, and, in reply to questions put, informed the King that he was an engineer by profession, and that he had received part of his instruction in England. Some years later this gentleman returned to this country, where he became connected with a technical paper. Then King George came here on a visit, and one day held an informal reception of leading members of the Greek community in London. The ex-engineer attended and was duly presented to his Majesty as Mr. X—, of the ———," the name of his paper being mentioned. "What!" said King George, at once, "you are now a journalist? When I last saw you, you were an engineer and told me you had learned your work at Messrs. ———'s."

***

The *Sudan Times* to hand by last week's mail gives the speeches made at the entertainment held at the Egyptian Officers' Club, Khartoum, on the occasion of Drake Pasha's departure. I have read them with real interest and pleasure, for there is a genuine ring about them that shows how an officer of the right stamp, like Lieut.-Colonel Drake, can win the esteem and admiration of the better class of Egyptian officer. That, however, was not my reason for referring to the pleasant gathering. It was to put on record a sentence in the speech made by Lewa Mahmoud Pasha Helmy, who was entrusted with the task of expressing his brother officers', and his own, good wishes for Drake Pasha. In apologising for his shortcomings as an orator, he remarked: "My dear Lord Kitchener of Khartoum used to drill into me many years ago, 'No officer should be an orator or speaker.'" If anything could have made me hold a higher opinion of K. of K. than I already held, the reading of that excellent advice would have done it.

CORSAIR.

A meeting of the Dardanelles Commission was held at the House of Lords on Wednesday, in order to examine General Sir Charles Monro.

Foreseeing the Russian advance, the Turkish authorities have evacuated Greek villages near the Black Sea and sent the inhabitants to concentration camps in the interior. The Greek Government has protested to the Sublime Porte.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

BEHOLD THE WOMAN.*

The author describes this book as a story of redemption—the redemption of a woman who "suffered every degradation, endured shame and ignominy as great as had been her glory, despised, condemned, and persecuted—strong, superb, and noble in the integrity of her womanhood." From which will be gathered the strenuous character of the struggle to profess Christianity in Alexandria in the days when the faith was less in keeping with the world, the flesh, and the devil than it is now—to judge, that is, by the attitude of some who still preach and pray. The author is something of an iconoclast—she destroys some of our most cherished traditions. "The early Christians were not all saints; they were human, as we who live to-day are human. They were weak, the victims of ignorance, and guilty of bigotry, injustices, and wrongs, even as we are prone to be."

The heroine is Mary, a powerful Alexandrian courtesan, "whose beauty in its day was truly the glory of Egypt." She is frankly painted—so frankly, indeed, that we may be forgiven if we plead that the worst woman (or man) who ever lived was not as bad as she (or he) is painted; but the utter wickedness of the woman—in the days before she heard the mysterious voice that called her to salvation, of course—merely serves to emphasise the strength of the redeeming power, so, for once, we may confess that the evil of exaggeration may be regarded as a virtue. A more pronounced cynic would claim, however, that the author has made a superlatively wicked woman triumph over her sin in order to show that women to-day are "clear-visioned and valiant enough" to "demand their right to equal place with men in the affairs of the nations."

There is much that is fascinating in the book—indeed, it is almost as fascinating as it is repulsive—and those who are prepared to admit the wisdom of digging deep into the miry and unsavoury depths of ancient wickedness for a moral which could be found with less difficulty nearer to the surface will, no doubt, welcome it. For ourselves, the question of appreciation is entirely one of the point of view. If the book is to be regarded as a record of Christian endeavour, we have not grasped its utility; if it is a piece of propaganda work on behalf of woman suffrage, it leaves us quite cold. If, on the other hand, it is merely a novel, then our appreciation outweighs our desire to criticise, for it is a very powerful story, and, judged from that standpoint, worth reading.

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton will publish a new fairy story by the Queen of Roumania, which will be entitled "The Stealers of Light." Mr. Edmund Dulac, who illustrated the Queen's previous book, "Lily of Life," will provide the illustrations for the new volume also.

"The Collected Poems of James Elroy Flecker" will be published by Mr. Martin Secker.

Mr. Eveleigh Nash will publish in the autumn "The War in Eastern Europe," by Mr. John Reed.

Mr. E. Chivers Davies has written, and Messrs. Methuen will shortly publish, "A Farmer in Serbia."

Mr. Martin Secker is to publish "Mahomet: Founder of Islam," by G. M. Draycott.

Part I. "The Holy Qur-an," an English translation of the Koran, has been published recently by Mr. Q. Abdullah, 41, Great Russell Street. It is hoped to issue two or

* "Behold the Woman." By T. Everett Harré. (Philadelphia and London J. B. Lippincott Company. 3rd edition.)

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three parts each year, and to complete the work in thirty parts.

Mr. Melrose published last week "Trooper Bluegum at the Dardanelles," by Oliver Hogue. The Hon. J. A. Hogue writes a preface to the book.

Mr. Sydney A. Moseley's book "The Truth About the Dardanelles," which has just been published by Messrs. Cassell, is likely to cause some stir. The author had excellent opportunities for following the campaign closely, and those who know him will feel sure that he has made the most of these chances. He contends that the evacuation of the Peninsula, not the expedition itself, was our greatest blunder, and suggests as a fitting epitaph for those who fell at the Dardanelles: "Died in faith and courage, failed for want of faith and courage in our politicians."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Song of the Dardanelles and Other Verses. By Henry Lawson. (Harrap and Co. 2s. 6d. net.)

Turkish for Tommy and Tar. By Frank Scudamore. (Forster, Groom and Co. 3d.)

Arabic for Our Armies. By Frank Scudamore. (Forster, Groom and Co. 3d.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

AN APPEAL FOR THE LEBANON.

Sir,—Reuter has just published the text of the official warning that Great Britain—no doubt with the full approval and adhesion of her Allies—has served on the Central Powers in connection with the treatment of the population of the territories occupied by them. In this minatory note the firm intention is expressed of exacting full reparation, by the exercise of Allied force or of public opinion in neutral countries, should the enemy refuse the introduction of foodstuffs and the unhampered distribution thereof through commissions appointed by a neutral Government.

The wording of the telegram is such as to imply the non-inclusion of the Lebanon in the provinces for which the proposed relief is intended. If such be the case, it would seem opportune for the Lebanese to make, through representative bodies, urgent representations to the Allied Governments, and recall to them the fact that, as the practical independence of the Lebanon forms the subject of conventions and protocols between the Allied Governments and the Porte, and is guaranteed by the former, the Lebanese have every right to expect the inclusion of their mountain in the territories referred to in this Note. Whatever means are resorted to for compelling the free and unhampered distribution of relief foodstuffs to the population of the occupied provinces should, in all justice, be extended to the poor Lebanese, whose extermination is the direct consequence of the political conventions which have brought their country under foreign (Allied) control, which has ever been so galling to the Young Turks' foolish pride. The occupation of the Lebanon is practically as much an act of aggression as that of Serbia or Poland.

If the following report, published by an Arabic paper in New York, be true—as there is every reason for believing—the state of the Lebanon justifies the gravest anxiety. A man from a village close to Aley, the headquarters of the Turkish military authorities, where sits the Court Martial presided over by Jemal Pasha, in sending a letter to a relative of his in the United States, has contrived to elude the Censor's hawkish eyes by writing on the inner side of the envelope the following:—"We are dying of hunger, and by the time this reaches you we may be no more of this world." At one time it was hoped that, thanks to the protection of Emir Shekeeb Arslan, the Young Turks' evil counsellor, the villages in which (or in whose neighbourhood) Druses are found would escape the full rigour of the measures adopted for starving out the Lebanese; but this hope does not now seem to be justified, since inhabitants of the village in question are running the risk of complete extermination, in spite of the presence of the Druse element in its immediate neighbourhood.—I am, etc.,

"A FRIEND OF THE SYRIANS."

Egypt, August 1, 1916.

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THE NEAR EAST (Book Department),
16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

"YENI TURAN."

TRAITORS TO ISLAM.

A special correspondent of the Central News supplies the following interesting particulars regarding the Neo-Turanian—or Pan-Turanian—movement. They show how deep-laid are the schemes of the so-called "Young Turks" and their German friends for the undoing of Islam:—

For some years a new movement has been noticeable in Turkey, known as "Yeni Turan"—New Turan. Its object is to revive Turkish nationality at the expense of the Moslem religion, and on this basis to unite in a general federation all the Turco-Tartar and kindred races, Bulgarians included. Its promoters are hostile to Islam, on the ground that (so they say) Islam tends to destroy the feeling of nationality, and has prevented the formation of a "Turkish" civilization; they want to "make the Turkish national soul independent of Islam." Islam, in fact, has no place in their programme, unless some fragments of it, much modified, are to survive in the new Turkish "national" religion.

The movement has both a literary and a political side. The former seeks, among other things, to glorify the history of the Turanian races; Ghengiz Khan is made a hero and a statesman by those who dream of restoring his empire. The political side concerns the Arab race. Bitter hostility is shown to them. They are a "misfortune" for Turkey; they must be Turkish; their lands must become Turkish colonies, their history and customs must be forgotten; above all, their language must be forbidden and replaced by Turkish. All this has been constantly advocated by Turkish nationalist writers, and a Turk preaching in Syria has declared that the existence of the Prophet was a fiction invented by the Arabs.

Yeni Turan is worked by a society, subventioned by the State, known as "The Turkish Hearth"; and behind it are the Committee of Union and Progress, whose leading men are not Moslems in any sense, and who, as a Government, have been denounced by Moslems for many acts contrary to the Sheriat.

The movement is, of course, warmly encouraged by Turkey's German task-masters. Since Germany discovered that it was impossible to seduce from their allegiance the great Moslem populations embraced in the Empires of France and Britain, her enthusiasm for Islam has cooled remarkably; while the world now knows (thanks to the capture by General Smuts at Moshi of the famous circular addressed by the German Government to its colonial agents) that all the time Germany was seeking to destroy the Moslem religion in her late African colonies. Germany, in fact, is to Islam the most dangerous of all enemies, the enemy who poses as a friend.

Islam has done much for the world; but the Turanian races, as their history shows, have done nothing but destroy. They have never created anything; but where they have passed they have not only, time after time, destroyed civilization and its works, but have debased and degraded their subject races by the most abominable methods. The Neo-Turanian idea that Islam has prevented the formation of a Turkish civilization is not true. Ottoman civilization is certainly only a patchwork borrowed from Arabia, Persia, Byzantium; but, then, those Turanian peoples who are not Moslems have created no civilization either, but have borrowed from China. Islam is the one thing that has held the Ottoman patchwork together. The Turk can still only destroy; he has massacred the Armenians because, in his view, they stood in the way of his joining hands with the Turcomans of Azerbaijan and the Caucasus; and in "Yeni Turan" he has a deliberate programme for the destruction of Arab nationality. But that is a subject on which both the Arabs and the Allies will have a good deal to say.

AMERICA AND ARMENIAN MASSACRES.

Under date of August 23, Reuter's agent in Washington cables:—The State Department has instructed the Armenian Embassy in Constantinople to make representations to the Porte in the name of humanity that it shall not permit a massacre of Armenians in Persia such as has occurred in Asia Minor.

A Constantinople *communiqué* dated Monday states that a Turkish airman successfully attacked two Russian torpedo-boats in the Black Sea, dropping bombs, as a result of which smoke clouds were seen on the decks of the Russian vessels.

In the next issue of *Das Neue Europa*, a monthly review published in Zurich, will appear (says a Berne message) an article proposing as a basis of peace between Austria-Hungary and Italy that the Trentino shall form a new Papal State under the independent sovereignty of the Pope. What makes this article especially significant is the fact that the review is really the organ of the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Office.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Aug.	1916. Aug.		1334. Shawwal	5676. Ab.
25	12	Friday	25	26
26	13	Saturday.....	26	27
27	14	Sunday	27	28
28	15	Monday	28	29
29	16	Tuesday	29	30
30	17	Wednesday	Julkada 1	Elul 1
31	18	Thursday	2	2

Next Thursday is the birthday of H.M. the Queen of the Netherlands, who was born in 1880.

The Serbian Legation states that reports which have appeared in the foreign Press, regarding the Crown Prince of Serbia being ill, are absolutely untrue.

Lady McMahon has arrived in London from Egypt, and is staying at 7, Walton Place.

Sir Murdoch and Lady Macdonald have arrived at Inverness from Egypt, and intend spending some time in the Highlands.

Madame Misu, the wife of the Roumanian Minister, and Mlle. Margaret Misu, her daughter, left town on Tuesday for Eastbourne for the autumn.

M. Yovan Yovanovitch, the newly-appointed Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James, who is at present in Corfu, is not expected to arrive in London before the second or third week of next month. His Excellency will attend the opening of the Skupshtina on the 28th inst.

H.E. the Roumanian Minister visited the Foreign Office on Monday afternoon.

Mme. Lahovary, the wife of the Roumanian Minister, and her daughters have arrived in London from Paris.

Last Friday's Court Circular contained the following announcement: — Major-General George Gorringe had the honour of being received by the King, when his Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Military Division).

Prince Bibescu, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, is expected in London shortly.

Captain Arion, Special Delegate of the Roumanian War Office, left London on Saturday for Ascot.

M. Levitch, the Serbian Secretary-General of the Ministry of Finance, has left London for Brighton.

The Rev. F. Hoskins, D.D., of Beyrout, has lately arrived in this country, having travelled from Constantinople by way of Austria and Germany. He is staying at the Thackeray Hotel.

A telegram from Constantinople received in Amsterdam on Tuesday states that M. Mano, the Roumanian Minister there, has left for Bucharest in consequence of the death of his mother.

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to grant authority to Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur Henry Limpus, K.C.M.G., C.B., Admiral Superintendent of Malta Dockyard, to wear the Insignia of Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour, conferred upon him by the President of the French Republic in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

Mr. Henry Robert Conway Dobbs, C.I.E., Revenue Commissioner, Occupied Territories, Busreh, has been appointed an Additional Companion of the Most Excellent Order of the Star of India.

In reference to the belief expressed by a correspondent in our last issue that we were about to receive a visit on this side from Mr. E. Bonham Carter, the Legal Secretary to the Sudan Government, we now learn that this will not take place for the present, Mr. Bonham Carter having returned to Khartoum.

M. Filipescu, leader of the Roumanian Conservative party and of the Unionist Federation, was received on Wednesday of last week by King Ferdinand.

Captain F. MacKinnon, R.A.M.C., is returning to Malta this week.

The marriage of the Rev. Percy Dearmer, D.D., and Miss Nancy Knowles took place quietly on Saturday at St. James's Church, Piccadilly.

The *Sudan Times* of July 29 announces :— The marriage of Mr. G. A. Clark, Public Works Department, Khartoum, and Miss E. F. Wood took place at the Cathedral on Thursday morning last. The bride was given away by Mr. A. E. Biggs. Mr. Longman acted as best man. Mr. and Mrs. Biggs were "at home" to the friends of bride and bridegroom.

Mr. and Mrs. Favarger are on a visit to Portsonachan, N.B.

We regret that in the list of subscriptions to the British Refugees from Turkey Fund, published in our issue of last week, the subscription from Mrs. H. M. Cardew was wrongly described as being from Messrs. H. M. Cardew.

Mr. Gerald C. Dudgeon, Consulting Agriculturist to the Ministry of Agriculture, recently proceeded to Upper Egypt on a tour of inspection.

The Count de Salis, who succeeds Sir Henry Howard as British Minister at the Vatican, is a Count of the Holy Roman Empire. He was born in 1864, entered the Diplomatic Service in 1886, and was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of Montenegro in 1911. Amongst other appointments he has held was that of 2nd Secretary at Cairo (1894-1897), when he was granted an allowance for a knowledge of Arabic, and where he was twice Acting Agent for that period. In 1901 he was transferred to Athens (from Brussels), and in 1905, after a period of employment at the Foreign Office, he was appointed a British Delegate for the negotiation of a new commercial convention with Roumania. From 1906 to 1911 he was in Berlin, as Councillor of Embassy, and on many occasions acted as Chargé d'Affaires. He was made a C.V.O. in February, 1909, and a C.M.G. in June of the same year.

A pathetic interest attaches to a letter written by the late Colonel Percy Machell to an old Anglo-Egyptian friend, to whom he sent condolences on the death of his son. The letter was written only a few days before Colonel Machell was himself killed, and in it he said :—" When the war began I raised a battalion round my home in Westmoreland, and have commanded it ever since. So far I have come through all right, but no one can go on for ever in a war like this, and if before long you hear that I have gone too, please remeber that I have not forgotten your kindness twenty years ago."

Mrs. Dalzell Wilkinson and Miss Hermione Flatau wish to thank their friends most gratefully for their letters of sympathy concerning Captain Flatau. They feel unable to answer these letters just at present, but will do so later.

Dr. H. N. Keeling writes to *The Times* :— "I have received a card (dated July 19) from my brother, Lieutenant E. H. Keeling, a prisoner of war from Kut. He is at Kastamuni and is 'quite fit.' The only communication he has received from home since last November is a letter (not limited to four lines) which my eight-year-old son sent to him from school in May. Possibly my boy's letter softened the official heart."

Admiral Sir John Ommanney Hopkins, G.C.B., aged 82, of Chewton Lodge, Highcliffe, Hants, Commander-in-Chief on the Mediterranean Station 1896-1899, a Crimean veteran, left unsettled estate of the gross value of £2,968.

Havre Municipal Council last week decided to name one of the streets in that town after Lord Kitchener.

Major Henry Ernest Walton, 4th Dragoon Guards, of Sussex Square, Brighton, who died on May 22, leaving £102,225, gave £500 to the British Ophthalmic Hospital at Jerusalem. He desired that no gloves, hatbands, scarves, and cloaks, "or other disgusting paraphernalia of the undertakers" should be worn at his funeral, the horses to be used thereat to be bay, brown, grey, or chestnut, and not "the usual slab-sided Belgian horses, behind which no gentleman would care to be seen dead or alive."

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

It is now announced that M. Mathias Boshkovitch, the retiring Serbian Minister, will leave London towards the end of the month for Paris.

Sir Charles Monro, who so successfully organised the defences at Salonika, and later directed the withdrawal from Gallipoli, has been appointed Commander-in-Chief in India, in succession to General Sir Beauchamp Duff, who is coming to England to give evidence before the Mesopotamia Commission.

A Sudan correspondent writes :—

After serving some seven years in the Government, Captain H. Beaumont has been re-transferred to the Army, and the post of Senior Inspector in the Mongalla Province has been filled by the promotion of Captain H. C. Smith.

Captain R. C. Greenwood, Senior Inspector of the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province, who has been on leave until lately, will not return to the Sudan, having now been re-transferred to the Army. He has been connected with the Government of the country in various capacities since the end of 1906. His many acquaintances will be glad to know that his state of health, which had not been very good of late, has improved, and he is pleased to be again in harness.

Captain Lord Hawarden has been appointed to take Captain Greenwood's place in the senior inspectorship of the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province. His promotion from the post of Second Inspector to that of First Inspector in the same Province has been especially rapid, the advancements taking place within a few days of one another. He has been connected with the Sudan Government only since the early days of 1912, and hitherto he has been stationed at Wau, one of the three districts of the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province, of which he has also been Acting Governor. Lord Hawarden, who is in his thirty-ninth year, is unmarried. He has seen some service in Egypt, having been employed with the Army since 1910. He succeeded his cousin, the sixth viscount, in 1914, and his heir is another cousin, Mr. Thomas Raymond Maude, who is just eighteen years of age.

Captain H. C. Smith, who has succeeded Captain Beaumont as Senior Inspector in the Mongalla Province, was formerly a Second and subsequently a First Inspector, being stationed at Rejaf. He has had some four-and-a-half years' experience in the government of the Sudan, his promotion being, as in the case of Lord Hawarden, unusually rapid. His appointments as First and Second Inspector were gazetted on the same day.

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The vacant Second Inspectorship in the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province has been filled by the transfer of Captain R. S. Hart, who has hitherto been filling a similar post in the Kassala Province, where he had been stationed at Gallabat.

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has been graciously pleased to make the following appointments in recognition of the meritorious services of the undermentioned gentlemen during the war:—To be additional Companions of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire: Lieutenant-Colonel d'Arcy Charles Brownlow, Indian Army, Principal Military Governor of the Occupied Territories, Busreh; Major Gerard Evelyn Leachman, Royal Sussex Regiment, Assistant Political Officer, Busreh; Reader William Bullard, Esq., Levant Consular Service, Civil Adviser to the Principal Military Governor, Busreh; Major (Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel) Frederick Walter Radcliffe, Dorsetshire Regiment, Deputy Military Governor, Busreh; Edward Leonard Bagshawe, Esq., Telegraph Department, Busreh; Charles John Emile Clerici, Esq., Postal Department, Busreh.

Sayed Omar el Farouki, an Arab gentleman of Baghdad, who is one of the leaders of the Arab movement in Turkey, has been selected to act as representative of the Shereef of Mecca in Egypt.

Major C. M. Jickling, Norfolk Regiment, and Captain A. G. Spears, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, having reported their arrivals in Egypt, have been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as special service officers and posted, the first to the 1st Battalion, and the second to the 13th Sudanese.

Mr. George Jamieson, C.M.G., late Consul-General at Shanghai, has been appointed a member of the governing body of the School of Oriental Studies, on the nomination of the China Association.

Lieutenant C. G. Martyn, V.C., D.S.O., Royal Engineers, has been attached to the Egyptian Army with the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and attached to the Military Works Department for duty.

OBITUARY.

LIEUT.-COL. C. E. RADCLYFFE, D.S.O.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Edward Radclyffe, D.S.O., Rifle Brigade, commanding a battalion of the Essex Regiment, who was reported wounded and missing on September 26, 1915, and is now presumed killed, was the only son of Charles Edward Radclyffe, J.P., of Little Park, Wickham, Hants, and Constance, daughter of Colonel and Lady Maria Saunderson. Born in 1864, he was educated at Eton, and entered the Rifle Brigade in 1885. He was captain in 1894, major in 1903, and lieutenant-colonel in 1909, when he took command of the 4th Battalion Rifle Brigade in Egypt, Khartoum, and India. He served with the Burmah Expedition in 1886-7 and 1887-9, and was severely wounded (medal with two clasps). He went through the South African Campaign with the 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade, being present at the relief of Ladysmith, and was wounded and won the D.S.O. in 1900. He afterwards became Assistant Provost Marshal. He was mentioned in despatches three times, and received the Queen's medal with six clasps, and the King's medal with two clasps. Colonel Radclyffe, who had been placed on half-pay in December, 1913, was given the command of a battalion of the Essex Regiment when the present war broke out, and went to France in September, 1915. He was twice wounded at the battle of Loos, the second time very severely. Colonel Radclyffe married, in 1898, Theresa Caroline, only child of John Stanley Mott, of Barningham Hall, Norfolk, and leaves one son, born in 1911.

MR. J. R. P. SANDFORD.

Our Khartoum correspondent writes (July 30):—We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. J. R. P. Sandford very suddenly in Khartoum Hospital on July 29. He was popularly reported to have swallowed a fish-bone. He was in hospital and was said to be improving when he had a sudden and violent hæmorrhage. Mr. Sandford was an Oxford man, and came to the Sudan in 1906, and was an extremely able and hardworking administrator, and was likely to be promoted shortly to the rank of senior inspector. Whilst in Omdurman, where he had been for some years, he took a keen part in polo and racing. His loss is very keenly felt by all who knew him. His funeral took place on July 30, and was attended by H.E. the Governor-General and staff, and a large number of officials and officers, besides numerous sheikhs and notables of Omdurman and Khartoum.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces that the death of Lieut.-Colonel Gordon Frazer, commanding at Kasr el Nil Barracks, took place on Wednesday morning, August 2. The funeral took place in Old Cairo the same afternoon with full military honours.

Second-Lieutenant Cyril James Moss, Suffolk Regiment, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Moss, of Tonbridge, died of wounds on August 19, aged 24. When the war broke out he came home from Turkey, where he had been on the staff of the Imperial Ottoman Bank. He was a good athlete and all-round sportsman, and was a prominent member of the South London Harriers. After a special course at Sandhurst, he was gazetted to the Suffolk Regiment, and he took part in the battle of Hooge. Mr. Moss was educated at Tonbridge School, where he was in the Football XV., the Cricket 2nd XI., the School Gymnasium Eight, and a sergeant in the O.T.C.

The Rev. Lewis Joseph Matthews, one of the Roman Catholic chaplains to the Forces, who served with the Nile Expedition of 1898, has died on service. Sixty years of age, he had been in the Army Chaplains' Department since 1884, and reached the First Class in 1905. Besides serving in Egypt, he went through the South African War, and he held the Egyptian medal and both the Queen's and King's South African medals.

News has been received that Captain Jersey de Knoop, of Calveley Hall, Nantwich, who was with the Imperial Camel Corps in Egypt, has been killed in action. Captain de Knoop, who had previously served on the Headquarters Staff in France as an interpreter, was the son of Baron de Knoop, of Manchester. Last year, when home on leave, he made a speech referring to the shortage of ammunition at the Front, which caused a strong sensation.

As we go to press we regret to learn that news has been received, through the American Minister at Copenhagen, of the death at Beyrout of the Rev. Daniel Bliss, D.D., President Emeritus of the Syrian Protestant College at Beyrout, at the age of ninety-two years.

The death is also announced of Mr. Edwin Glockler, of Beyrout, who died at Everek Develau, in Asia Minor. He was one of the civilian British prisoners interned in Turkey at the beginning of the war.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH.

MOSER.—On Sunday, July 30, at Cairo, the wife of R. C. Moser, P.W.M., Egypt, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

RITCHIE.—On the 13th inst., in hospital, Salonika, Nursing Sister Jessie Ritchie, of The Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Reserve, daughter of the late Mr. Alexander Ritchie, Whitefield, and Mrs. Ritchie, Abbeyville, Coupar Angus, Scotland.

RODGER.—Killed in a charge, on July 7, 1916, Norman Guild Rodger, Corporal, Cheshires, only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Guild Rodger, of Port Said, Egypt. *Pro patria mori.*

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 1916.

TURKEY AND THE ARABS.

After passing through a period of comparative quiescence, the Near East has during the past week become the scene of stirring events once more. The audacious advance of the Bulgars, and—to a greater extent—the publication of the news that Russian and Italian troops have landed at Salonika, have served to draw all eyes to that sector of the Allied front. But these are, after all, only the opening moves of the drama that must be played out to its inevitable end in the Balkans. There is another theatre of the war in which events are probably much nearer a climax. Arabia is still a land of mystery to most Englishmen; but, unless indications are entirely misleading, it is about to become the scene of developments that cannot fail to be of considerable importance to the British Empire. To all students of the East, and of the Moslem East especially, the movement for freedom which the Shereef of Mecca has headed must be of enthralling interest and appear pregnant with many possibilities. Arab resentment of Turkish rule is no new thing, nor were events such as are now occurring unknown in the past; and if the motives that have brought about this uprising and the scene of its action are examined, the reasons for it are not far to seek. The Arabs, like the Albanians, are a freedom-loving race, and are bound to resent being governed by a people whom they consider their inferior both in intellect and artistic feeling. The Arab is quicker-witted and more alert mentally than the rather sluggish, heavy Turk of the purer type, though he may not possess some of the qualities that go with the calmer temperament of the latter. The Arab has a fine tradition and history behind him, and has attained a height in artistic production, literature, and learning generally to which the Turk has never even aspired. The Arabs lost their independence to the Turks in 1517, when Selim I., "The Grim," added Mesopotamia, Syria, Arabia, and Egypt to the Turkish Empire. Since then revolts in the conquered provinces have been frequent, and in the early part of last century Ibrahim Pasha of Egypt led his victorious troops as far as Konia and Angora and to within a few marches of the capital itself. The tragic events in the Lebanon show that both Christian and Moslem Arabs have suffered at the hands of their rulers, and rebellion in the Yemen has been a running sore for many years past. Since the Turkish Revolution of 1908, with all its initial promises of equality and goodwill for all subject races, some of the men who have been at the head of affairs have been everything that is most repugnant to the more high-minded and deeply religious Arab. They were Freemasons, converted Jews, and men who had lost their faith and had not replaced it with anything else. The army, in which the Arabs are now largely incorporated, was, at least during the Balkan wars, told to fight for its "memleket" (country) and not for its "din" (faith), as of old. With the exception of greater freedom of movement at the start, the change of *régime* did not bring in its train any appreciable benefits in the way of increased prosperity or reduced taxation, which to the simple-minded people is the only *raison d'être* of any desire for a change. The failure of the attack on Egypt and the full manner in which the Turkish troops are occupied in the other parts of the Empire, combined with the impossibility of sending reinforcements or supplies to the garrisons of the Hejaz or Yemen by way of the sea, led to a situation highly favourable to a successful revolt. The Shereef of Mecca, an able and enlightened man, saw that the moment was opportune, and struck, with the chances of success greatly in his favour.

It will be well now to examine the possibilities arising out of the present situation, more especially as they affect Great Britain. The primary interest centres round the question of the Khalifate, which was won for the house of Osman when Selim I. forced the representatives of the old Abbassid family to make over to him and his heirs the rights and privileges of the successors of the Prophet. Since that date the Sultan of Turkey has been both Sultan and Khalif owing to his possession of the Holy Places of Mecca and Medina. With the passing of Mecca, and the probable loss of Medina, into the hands of the Shereef the right to the Khalifate, which is based on the possession of these towns, passes by right of conquest. The blow to the Sultan of Turkey is a serious one—more serious than would be the loss of Rome to the Pope; for the right to the title of Khalif is based on the actual possession of the Holy Places of pilgrimage, which are, so to say, the central pivot of orthodox Islam, whereas the power of the Pope is spiritual and independent of the possession of certain localities. By placing themselves in open revolt against their Turkish rulers and oppressors, the Arabs of the Hejaz have, *nolens volens*, joined the cause of England and her Allies against the common enemy. This places them in a position entirely different from those brought about by former risings. In any previous revolt Great Britain, being in friendly relationship with the Ottoman Empire, was bound to observe a strict neutrality, but the case is altered now, as was made clear in an official statement recently issued. The situation remains, however, a difficult one, and calls for most careful handling. There can be no question that our attitude towards the Shereef of Mecca and those who have thrown in their lot with him should be sympathetic; but we must be tactful in our way of showing our sympathy. The Arab is quick to recognize a friend and quick to appreciate a friendly act; but he is no less quick to resent anything savouring of interference.

Happily, our Government appears to be fully alive to the difficulties of the situation. It has announced its policy in the clearest possible manner, and with that policy it would be difficult for anybody who was not bent upon picking a quarrel, or making mischief, to find any serious fault. Great Britain has millions of Moslem subjects, many of whom have lately been prevented from making the pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina; and in Irak Indian Moslem pilgrims to Kerbellah and Nejef have been subjected to brutal treatment, which has proved to them that the present self-appointed rulers of Turkey "are no Moslems, and do not act according to the precepts of Islam." Such things cannot and will not be suffered. Britain's policy has always been one of religious tolerance; but she will not brook manifestations of religious intolerance directed against those who have a right to look to her for protection. She has no desire to interfere in questions that concern Moslems alone, and she will not do so. But her Moslem subjects are entitled to have free access to the Holy Places, and she is determined to do what lies in her power to secure that right to them. In so far as the movement headed by the Shereef of Mecca tends to help forward this policy it will be welcomed, and its continued success is to be hoped for. We are entitled, therefore, to hope that if the Shereef desires our help in any form it will be given him freely. By so doing Great Britain would be helping forward the cause of freedom and of justice, and would assuredly not be guilty of any unfriendly action towards Islam. In certain quarters there has long been some confusion between "Turkey" and "Islam"—a confusion which has been deliberately fostered by Turco-German emissaries for their own purposes. The plain fact is that Turkey is to-day in the hands of a camarilla that has done its best to bring the country to ruin and the Khalifate and Islam into contempt. The Shereef of Mecca is an incomparably more worthy representative of Moslem thought and Moslem ideals, and the Arab movement—unlike that neo-Turanian movement to which *The Times* recently referred for the first time—is deserving of our warm sympathy and best support.

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PROBLEMS OF THE SUDAN.

II.—THE CONSERVATISM OF THE SUDANESE.

(By Our Khartoum Correspondent.)

Some years ago, when an agricultural pest appeared, the local sheikhs were gathered together and the proper means of getting rid of the pest explained to them with care. In the middle of the explanation a voice in the background was heard to say in the local dialect, "Who is this who teaches us agriculture? Have we not tilled for a thousand years? What do they know?"

This is very typical, and exemplifies in almost every detail the attitude of the native.. First of all, he believes he knows best—that is his amazing conceit; secondly, he is thoroughly sceptical of the efficiency of the methods put before him, and this is either ignorance or "a little knowledge"; thirdly, he clings to the old way for its own sake, because it *is* the old way—and this is really due to his religion. It may be profitable to consider each of these points in turn.

The conceit of the native does not, as a rule, become immediately recognized, as he practically invariably secretes it beneath an obedient, even subservient, manner. But a very short experience of the country teaches the oft-repeated phrase, "I thought it was a better plan so," produced as an explanation of a direct disobedience of orders and complete ruin of carefully designed plans. Indeed many an official would say that the words "Ahsan Tartib" (a better plan) will be found engraved upon his heart. The other favourite motto of the country is "Yimkin bukra" (perhaps to-morrow), and is not unnatural to a people who are for the most part physically weak and mentally little developed; but with that "better plan" already mentioned it combines to reduce the energetic apostle of progress to gibbering rage. Show a native a motor-car for ten minutes, and he will say he knows all about it, and, if left unwatched, will not hesitate to drive it. Whatever be the art or science, he will undertake to do anything on sight, and sometimes without that—notably the art of cooking, as travellers can tell.

All this assumes the will of the native to be on the side of action, for if it be not, he knows nothing, understands nothing, and is incapable of anything. Take, for example, the native who is offered largess to show the way to another village—to which, for some reason, he does not want the traveller to go. He will defer replies with a long-drawn-out "E—e—e—r?" of interrogation to the simplest question, and will claim that neither he nor anyone else knows the existence of any such road, and that it never did exist. Yet once convinced, a few minutes later he may be in furious argument with his relations as to which of the many roads is really the best.

In effect, the native considers he knows best for himself and for everyone else, and he can perform any function if necessary; and any accident is due not to his own folly, but the inherent badness of the subject matter dealt with.

The scepticism of the native towards modern methods is at times not entirely unreasonable. He has no means of distinguishing between the various regulations, so as to detect which contains the really essential point; and, secondly, he has not infrequently discovered himself some similar means of prophylactic of which he knows only too much. To a man to whom the miscroscope has not yielded the secrets of Nature the idea that mosquitoes breed fever in the blood is extremely difficult to grasp. He makes no distinctions between one kind of biting fly and another, let alone between individual mosquitoes; and he cannot see the microbe—but he is certain that anti-mosquito regulations are tiresome, and is inclined to believe the whole thing a fetish. On the other hand, in the case of vaccination, he knows too much. The Sudanese discovered that by infecting a healthy man with smallpox he got over the disease, and they have adapted this principle with certain cattle diseases. But it is a heroic measure, for the fatalities are many. To explain to him that vaccination does not give him smallpox is to ask for the retort, "Then why give me something else?" and the explanation, one feels, is too long and difficult to be credible.

Again, native methods have a most unfortunate knack of succeeding when they have no business to succeed. For instance, a camel which had a severe cough was treated for some months unavailingly on scientific methods. At last the owner was told he had better take his camel away, as the cough did not improve. He did, and returned with it in a fortnight, cured to all outward seeming. His treatment had been a touch of a red-hot iron at the tip of the tail, the near hind foot, and the top of the head. A result of this sort is most damaging to science—and is on the face of it a justification of scepticism. Or, again, the treatment of clarified butter poured through the nostril as a cure for sore feet (by this means it goes straight to the part affected!) is not on the face of it scientific, but it is a well-established treatment amongst Arabs, and has its votaries even amongst Europeans.

It would be easy to multiply such instances. They are not peculiar to the Sudan. Only where all things are more or less incomprehensible the influence of magic or some mystic rite is easily credible, and makes the way of the scientist hard.

It is a commonplace to refer to the inability to progress in Islam. It is indeed a static faith with a moral system dependent on the conditions of life in Arabia 1,334 years ago. And since the essential doctrine of the religion is simpler perhaps than any in the world, so the religion is exemplified by a (nominally) stricter adherence to a moral law laid down long since, overlaid by thousands of examples and precepts, but developed not at all. With such a system as the basis of his life, the Sudanese, like any other Moslem, looks upon change askance, and he is never quite sure that the new idea may not lead him to some dilemma, some divergence between his long-established custom and the new order of things, which will worry him and make trouble in the household. For if the man is conservative and fond of his old customs, the woman is a fanatic about them. Any divergence, she maintains, will bring ill-luck, if not worse; and the real weight of opposition to progress lies in the women far more than the men.

It might be supposed from these lines that the Sudanese are a surly, obstructive, and unprogressive people. This is far from being the case. The conceit that prompts the native of the Sudan to assume that he knows all things urges him likewise to know more, and he is as inquisitive as a monkey. He has, moreover, a very touching personal belief in the individual British administrator, and will carry out his recommendations, however sceptical he may be of their success; and when in the fulness of time success crowns his efforts he will find fresh reason for self-satisfaction therein—no doubt, copying his more Western examples.

Consistency is not to be expected in a primitive people, if in any, certainly not in the Sudan, and progress will occur and has occurred already to a striking degree; but it requires special characteristics in the administrator, infinite patience, a sense of humour, and much determination and a great sympathy. Certainly the results are there to be seen, but much remains. What especially remains is to bring the mental development up to their standard of outward civilization; and it is this conservatism of the mind, a lack of receptivity, and a desire to refuse new ideas—or at most to do no more than make use of them, only to drop them at the first opportunity—that provides one of the chief problems before the Sudan.

A Cairo telegram states that in addition to Jeddah and Mecca, telegraphic communication has now been established with Taif, via Wadi Halfa and Suakin.

In the Prize Court on Tuesday, the President, Sir Samuel Evans, granted the officers and crews of his Majesty's ships Kennet, Jed, and Wear, bounty to the amount of £175 in respect to the sinking of the Turkish torpedo-boat Demir Hissar on April 16, 1915, in Khios Strait. The enemy, after attempting to torpedo a transport, was chased for ninety miles by the Kennet and Jed, and fled to the Straits. She was trapped by the Wear entering by the other channel, ran herself ashore, and attempted to blow herself up.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Special Commissions Bill. Aug. 17.

A Royal Commission, consisting of the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Devonshire, and Viscount Allendale, announced that the Royal Assent had been given to the Special Commissions (Dardanelles and Mesopotamia) Bill.

Commands in Aden and Mesopotamia. Aug. 22.

Viscount PEEL asked whether Major-General Shaw, recently removed from his command at Karachi, was deprived of his command at Aden in 1915 on military grounds; whether another general officer recently recalled from Mesopotamia had been given an important command in India; and whether his Majesty's Government thought it desirable that officers removed from their commands on military grounds should receive new appointments during the war.

Lord ISLINGTON said that it was a fact that General Shaw, who was G.O.C. at Aden in 1915, was transferred because the Government of India were dissatisfied with his discharge of the responsible duties. He was subsequently appointed G.O.C. at Karachi, a station of less importance, and he had now been removed from that appointment in consequence of his share in the responsibility for the lamentable disaster to the drafts removing from Karachi, and had now received permission to return to England. The second part of the question would seem to indicate that General Aylmer was removed from Mesopotamia on military grounds. He was an officer of high record and gallantry, and held the V.C., but he was no longer a young man, and the climatic rigours of Mesopotamia and the peculiarly arduous conditions of the campaign made the post one of special difficulty for him. On his transfer from his battalion he was posted to a divisional command in India, but he had been selected for such an appointment before he went to Mesopotamia, and on his return merely reverted to it, though, for the convenience of the Service, he was given command of a different division. The India Office was not consulted. With regard to the last part of the question, it must be remembered that there was a great shortage of officers, and that an officer who was unfit for a command of one kind could be used in an appointment for which he was suitable.

Conditions in Mesopotamia.

The Marquess of SALISBURY asked whether the Vincent report on the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force had been communicated to the Government, and whether the Government were satisfied that everything stated by that report as requiring prompt attention had been supplied.

The Earl of DERBY replied that the Vincent report was communicated to the War Office last week, the apparent reason why it had not arrived sooner being that the Secretary for India was informed by the Viceroy that there was nothing in the report requiring immediate action. The War Office were, however, carefully examining the report. All demands for stores had been met, and any further demands for medical stores, however large, would be supplied. But the real difficulty was getting the stores up river. Orders had been given which would place the proper craft at the disposal of the expedition. He had, however, to add a word of warning. It would not be possible to have the whole of the defects regarding transport made good until, at all events, the end of October.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Kut Prisoners. Aug. 17.

Sir E. CORNWALL inquired how many of the prisoners who fell into Turkish hands at Kut-el-Amarah had been traced.

Mr. H. W. FORSTER gave the figures as:—British Army officers, 80; British Army N.C.O.'s and men, 178; Native Army officers, 139. The number of Indian N.C.O.'s and men was not available.

The Greek Demobilisation.

Lord ROBERT CECIL informed Sir E. Cornwall that the demobilisation of the Greek Army was proceeding satisfactorily. He had no information as to when it would be completed.

British Prisoners in Persia.

Colonel YATE asked whether the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had any official information showing the release of the staff of the Shiraz branch of the Imperial Bank of Persia who had been held prisoners for the last nine months by German emissaries in Persia, and if he could give any information regarding the British Consul and other British Government officials at Shiraz who had been held prisoners with them.

Lord R. CECIL: I am happy to say that not only the gentlemen of the Imperial Bank of Persia but all the British subjects detained at Abram—with the unfortunate exception of Colonel O'Connor—have been released and arrived at Bushire on the 10th inst. It is hoped that as soon as the Persian tribesman who is to be released simultaneously with Colonel O'Connor arrives from Bombay, this officer may be set free.

Our Forces in Irak and Aden. Aug. 21.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India whether officers invalided from Mesopotamia had been detained for considerable periods at Bombay before being sent home, owing to sanction having to be obtained from Simla to the decision of the medical board invaliding them home.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: It has been the general practice to obtain the permission of the Commander-in-Chief in India before sending the officers home, but it has always been open to the local authorities to act in anticipation on their own responsibility when circumstances demanded it. The permission when sought was given by telegram. Discretionary powers are now being definitely given to local authorities to act without reference in all urgent cases.

Colonel AUBREY HERBERT asked how the vegetables for the troops at Aden were sent there.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: They are sent from Bombay, but the Government of India informed me some weeks ago that they were arranging to restart the old commissariat garden at Sheikh Othman.

Sir H. CRAIK asked the Secretary for War whether steps could be taken to relieve the men of the Mesopotamian Force by new drafts, as the climate and other conditions, as well as the insufficiency of supplies, made a prolonged stay in Mesopotamia dangerous to life.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: Such measures as are practicable have been and are being taken to relieve the units which have suffered most from climatic and other causes in Mesopotamia.

Consuls in Enemy Countries.

Lord ROBERT CECIL, replying to Sir Edwin Cornwall, said the number of salaried Consular officers who were employed in enemy countries before the war was as follows:—In Austria-Hungary, 5; Germany, 9; Turkey, 23; Bulgaria, 3; total, 40. With the exception of three who had retired, one whose services had been lent to the military authorities, and one who was a prisoner of war, all were employed in various capacities, and continued to receive their salaries or the salaries of other posts to which they had been appointed. Though it was certainly part of the duties of these officials to promote British trade interests after the war, he did not know that it would be true to say that in every case their duties were in every respect specially calculated with that object. The most important matter at the moment was that duties should be calculated to promote success in carrying on the war, and this must be the paramount consideration at present.

Parcels for Kut Prisoners.

Mr. J. F. HOPE, replying on behalf of Lord R. Cecil to Mr. MacCallum Scott, said: A considerable number of postcards and letters from prisoners of war from the Kut Force, interned at Angora and other places in Asia Minor, requesting especially that money and clothing may be sent to them, have been communicated to us. The United States Embassy at Constantinople are sending clothing, money, and comforts to the prisoners as soon as their arrival at a camp is known. To supplement the supplies available at Constantinople, we have asked the Porte to allow a neutral vessel with all kinds of supplies required to put into a port on the coast of Asia Minor, the unloading of the ship and distribution of the supplies to be in the hands of neutrals. We have not yet had a reply to our communication, and are pressing for one. Parcels under 11 lbs. in weight should be sent care of Ottoman Red Crescent Society, Constantinople, and General Post Office, London. Parcels over that weight can be sent through the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, or the American Express Company. It is important that the rank and regiment of the prisoner and the place of internment should be clearly stated. When the place of internment is doubtful, parcels may be sent through the General Post Office or American Express Company (according to their weight), and the United States Embassy at Constantinople. It is inadvisable to send parcels to prisoners of war of whom no news has been received.

Rations in Mesopotamia. Aug. 22.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE informed Mr. RUPERT GWYNNE that there were certain things which the troops in Mesopotamia were rather short of, but there was no shortage of important rations.

The Armenian Atrocities. Aug. 23,

Answering Mr. BIRD, Lord R. CECIL said: A valuable report on the Turkish atrocities in Armenia, consisting chiefly of a collection of documentary evidence, has been prepared at the suggestion of Lord Bryce by Mr. Arnold Toynbee, and will be laid before Parliament in due course.

The Position in the Balkans.

Replying to Sir H. DALZIEL, who asked for information about the position in the Balkans, Lord R. CECIL said that which was most interesting about it at present were the military operations which were taking place at Salonika, and obviously it would be improper for him to say anything about them. As to our attitude towards the Greek Government, the House were aware that a little time ago it became necessary and proper for the British Government, in concert with our Allies, to put certain demands before the Greek Government. Those demands were accepted, and our relations with the new Greek Government presided over by M. Zaimis were, as far as he knew, thoroughly satisfactory.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Greece's Fall—and Opportunity.

In a leading article, "For Greece, a Tear," the *Morning Post* (August 23), referring to the over-running of Greek territory by the Bulgarians, says:—

The Hellenic spirit must be strangely dulled if it fails to perceive in the indignities now inflicted on Greece the direct consequences of the fatal policy of abdication both of duties and ambitions which was entered upon when M. Venizelos was dismissed from office. Since then Greece has endured ignominy after ignominy, reaching a climax when Greek territory and Greek fortresses were surrendered to the Bulgarians, not only without a blow but by active connivance. The Greeks are a proud people—the inheritors of imperishable traditions. What must be felt by the descendants of the men who held the pass at Thermopylæ when they see Fort Rupel tamely evacuated and whole provinces invaded by an inveterate and hated foe without even a protest? Yet to such a pitch have faction and partisan fury risen in modern Hellas that the men who contrived this abasement for Greece are openly glorying in it, because, while it humiliates Greece as a Sovereign State, it offers the hope of discrediting a political opponent.

As to the coming elections, the writer puts the issue clearly before his readers. It is to be hoped that it will be put as clearly before the Greek electors.

German machinations and partisan fury are capable of distorting the issue at the coming elections in many subtle ways. But there is only one true issue—that between friendship for France and England and friendship for Germany and Bulgaria. And there is only one way of deciding that issue unmistakably—by returning M. Venizelos to power as the First Minister of the King of the Hellenes. It does not greatly matter to the Allies in which way the Greek people decide, but it matters very much to Greece, and, therefore, a word of counsel betimes may not be amiss.

M. Venizelos and His Opponents.

Mr. Crawfurd Price writes from Athens (July 25), and the *Pall Mall Gazette* publishes (August 17), an article, "The Greek Elections," from which we quote the following passages:—

The elements which have coalesced to oppose the Liberal party in what promises to be the final combat between the forces of progress and reaction will resort to such subterfuge, and will so exploit the individual weaknesses of the electorate and flood the land with misrepresentation, that our friends will be obliged to put forth a supreme effort if the people are to vote for civil liberty, national prosperity, and the aggrandisement of Greece.

Contrasting M. Venizelos with his opponents, those "discredited politicians of pre-Venizelist days," Mr. Price writes:—

There is little need to laud the personality of Eleutherios Venizelos. The fashion in which his genius purified Greek politics, relegated the army to its proper sphere as a national, non-party instrument, and contributed to the doubling of the kingdom, is deeply graven in the minds of all students of contemporary history. He is pro-Entente because of his unlimited faith in the ultimate triumph of the Allies, because he admires the principles for which they are battling, and because he believes that the friendship of Britain and France is the manna upon which Greece will grow and wax strong.

An able administrator, a silver-tongued orator, and endowed with the gift of personal magnetism in a remarkable degree, he stands for most of the ideals which are dear to the heart of the Entente peoples.

But the anti-Venizelists have worked hard, and have achieved a certain amount of success. The soldiers, for instance,

have been inspired with an unwholesome dread of war, which, combined with nearly a year of pernicious inactivity with the colours, has served to demoralise them and rob them of that fine and aggressive spirit which led them to victory against Turks and Bulgars. Indeed, when M. Venizelos returns to power one of the greatest difficulties confronting him will be the necessity of restoring the broken morale of the Hellenic army.

And Mr. Price himself has witnessed some of these deplorable demonstrations by reservists which our own Athens correspondent has described:—

The writer travelled with a trainload of home-going reservists on June 29. The departure from Athens was the signal for loud cries of "Blackball Venizelos!" and not only were these demonstrations repeated at every station and whenever a group of wayfarers was passed, but a like inscription was chalked on the carriages themselves. Between now and September sounder judgment may manifest itself as the influence of the barracks wears off, but the effect of the political education of the past nine months will undoubtedly remain in more or less degree.

Armenia: Germany's Guilt—

In a leading article, "Armenia and the War," the *Daily Chronicle* (August 21) pleads eloquently for help for the war-stricken Armenians. "They had," says the writer, "no part or lot in the causes that precipitated this world-war; but innocence did not save them, and they have suffered proportionately from the gigantic conflagration more than any other nation. It was not war that the Turks waged in Armenia; it was wholesale massacre of an unoffending and unarmed people." And he adds his voice to the rising chorus of indignation at Germany's share in the crime:—

A sinister feature of this appalling massacre of Armenians was the quiescence if not the acquiescence of Germany. Had she so minded, Germany could have prevented the massacres or stopped them after they had begun. Her influence in Constantinople was supreme. Yet while Armenian men, women, and children were being done to death by the hundred thousand, Germany did not raise a finger to save them, or utter one word of protest. If not participant in she was accessory to this unparalleled massacre. She acted according to her manner and her traditions. The ruthless soldiers and Machiavellian statesmen who built up modern Germany never disguised their contempt for humane and merciful considerations. Bismarck's famous dictum that the Balkan question was not worth the bones of a single Pomeranian grenadier, was simply an expression of Prussian callousness on the subject of Turkish atrocities. (By the way, how strangely that dictum reads in the light of the world-war which Germany deliberately planned on a Balkan issue.) The present Kaiser has proved himself an apt disciple of Bismarck in callousness to the spectacle of human suffering and condonation of crime. . . . Modern Germany, whose crimes in this war have staggered humanity, will have much to answer for before the tribunal of history. Not the least formidable count in the indictment will be her connivance in the wholesale slaughter of an unarmed people.

—And a German Protest.

In this connection the following paragraph taken from an article ("Germany's Boundless Brutality") contributed to the *Daily Graphic* (August 21) by Mr. Julian Grande is of much interest. He has been referring to protests in the *Basler Nachrichtung* against German brutality, and he adds:—

It is now the turn of the British reader to rub his eyes in amazement, for the second protest in the *Basler Nachrichten* against German brutality is from German missionary teachers in the German school at Aleppo. It is to the German Foreign Office that these missionary teachers protest against the atrocious cruelties perpetrated upon the women and children of murdered Armenians, expelled from their homes and brought to Aleppo. It is impossible, they say, to carry on their work of teaching children moral precepts and German Kultur while under the very walls of their mission school, within sight of their pupils, such heartrending scenes of distress are taking place, by authority of Germany's Ally. The German Foreign Office, to their knowledge, has already been informed in detail of the conditions in Aleppo, and of the treatment of Armenian women and children—treatment which is too horrible to describe. Yet nothing is done. Germany's good name in the East runs the utmost risk of being hopelessly tarnished for all time. "How can we teachers," says the protest, "read about Little Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs with our Armenian children? How are we to decline and conjugate if in the courtyards opposite and near our school buildings death is reaping his harvest among their starving fellow-Armenians; girls, boys, and women, almost naked, lying on the ground, some of them breathing their last between those who have already succumbed and the coffins laid ready for the dying. Out of 2,000 to 3,000 healthy peasant women dragged down here from Upper Armenia only forty or fifty remain, and they are reduced to skeletons. More than a hundred corpses of those who have died of starvation are daily carried out of Aleppo."

What will the German Foreign Office have to say on the subject?

Freebooters in Persia.

The *Times* last Saturday devoted a leading article to the subject "Turkish Raids in Persia." After analysing the operations in Armenia—which he describes as "somewhat odd"—and on its borders, the writer goes on to say that "the Turks planned and actually began a fresh and audacious invasion of Persia." And having described these operations, he concludes by reminding his readers of an important fact:—

It should be understood that these singular proceedings, by which the Turk elects to invade Persia while his own territories are being overrun, are rendered possible only by the swarms of tribal freebooters now pervading Persian soil. The operations of the Turks are not aimless, but are partly the outcome of the little-known Pan-Turanian movement.

The Reward of Treachery.

The following extract from a leading article in Wednesday's *Times* puts well thoughts that must be present in the minds of many Bulgarians to-day. Their reflections can, indeed, hardly be enviable, but it is too late to pity them. They have made their choice, and they must abide by it.

With what thoughts King Ferdinand himself and King Ferdinand's subjects may look forward to the situation which is

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now beginning to develop we can only surmise. Stringent precautions are taken to prevent information as to Bulgarian opinion from reaching the outside world. But the Bulgarians know that they owe their liberation, their early aggrandisement, and, indeed, their national existence, to Russia. Now they find themselves arrayed against her. The dynastic policy of their German ruler has brought them into conflict with the historic champion of their race and of their creed. That is a false position, and it is not surprising to hear already of desertions from their ranks. It is one thing to wage war against the hated Greeks. It is another to face the soldiers of the "Great White Tsar." He has sent them to redress the wrongs of Serbia and to exact reparation from the false brethren of Slav blood, who struck them in the back as they were fighting for life against the hereditary enemies of Slavdom.

The Allies and Bulgaria.

We give below a couple of comments, taken from evening papers of Tuesday's date, upon Bulgaria's action in Macedonia. They are typical of many expressions of opinion, and show that the move was taken perfectly calmly in this country even before the news of the arrival of Russian and Italian troops was published.

The manner in which the Bulgarians are overrunning Grecian Macedonia will not affect the plans of the Allies, but it is not surprising that it should cause great perturbation in Greece. If the Allies win the war, well and good, the Bulgarians must surrender the occupied territory with much else, but if the Greeks are not yet convinced of the victory of the Allies they may also have very strong doubts whether they will get back territory which would be so valuable to their neighbour. In the actual fighting affairs are not going well for the Bulgarians. Their fresh encounters with the Serbians, French, and English have resulted in defeats, heavy considering the forces engaged, while their one success in advancing to Florina merely gives them a position in a plain dominated by heights in possession of the Allies.—*Westminster Gazette.*

It all looks to us as though the Bulgarians were becoming exceedingly nervous on the progress of the war from their own particular point of view, and wanted to have something to bargain with when they are compelled to sue for a separate peace. It is just the kind of policy which would commend itself to Ferdinand, but we do not think it will be found to pay. The Allies have very sternly made up their minds about Bulgaria and Bulgarian treachery, and are not at all likely to change them.—*Globe.*

Hungary's Defenders.

The *Morning Post* of August 18 contained a most interesting article, entitled "Defence of Hungary," from its Budapest correspondent. How such a dispatch ever passed the Hungarian censor it is hard to imagine, for the writer does not mince his words. Amongst other things, he writes:—

The chief command in the lower sector of the front—that is, from the Eastern Galician front to the Roumanian frontier—is held by the heir to the throne, the Archduke Karl Franz Josef, the "hero who is defending the Hungarian plains from invasion," a description which has been applied, no doubt, with a deeper purpose than would readily occur to one. It sounds well to state that "the future King of Hungary is defending the wooded Carpathians against the Slav invasion," and the *communiqués* never omit a reference to this historic rôle of the Archduke, who, however, failed to conduct with success the offensive against the Italians in the Trentino. Despite the fact that he has proved to be one of the greatest misfortunes of the Austrian army, and the greatest imbecile among the Austrian generals, the defence of the Hungarian frontiers has been entrusted to him, a task which, considering the fury and determination of the Russian attacks, calls for a general at least of the type of Koevess or Hindenburg. The Crown Prince had a special desire to show his love for Hungary, and he therefore secured for himself the chief command on her frontiers. In this position he is ruining Hungary, but as his appointment was due to a Royal wish Hungary will have to put up with invasion rather than to express dissatisfaction with the Royal desire. The Archduke is opposed in this most difficult terrain to General Letchitsky, one of the ablest generals the Russians ever had; yet the Crown Prince is a very young man with little or no experience, one of whose convictions is that "one must attack, even with inferior forces, in order to gain victories," and that an offensive is the only move when in a tight corner. This may be regarded as sound strategy or policy if it succeeds, and as he adopted it when, on July 26, he took over the command of the forces in this sector, and actually gained some ground at three different points, the official and semi-official reports and bulletins praise him without stint. Anxiety, however, is felt with reference to the ultimate issue.

The anxiety is certainly comprehensible. As to the Turkish troops who have been summoned to help in the defence of Hungary, the correspondent reports:—

It is said that so far only five divisions have arrived from Turkey, most of them units who fought at Gallipoli. The Turkish soldiers in their conversations with journalists always talk of the Peninsula and of the fine fighting and fairness of the English and Colonial troops to whom they were opposed there. At least twenty articles containing accounts of interviews with Turkish officers have appeared in the Hungarian Press, and in every case the story was the same—that the English were fine and noble enemies. At all these interviews English was spoken, for the Turkish officers, at least the majority of them, prefer to speak English rather than German, a language very few of them understand.

"A Prussianised Eastern Question."

The current *English Review* contains the first instalment of an article by "Custos," in which the writer proposes to give a précis of ideas formulated by M. André Chéradame in an important series of articles in *La Victoire*. From this instalment ("The Pan-German Scheme") we give the following extracts:—

The Eastern Question is to-day no longer the old classic Eastern Question, but it is a question of a Prussianised Eastern Question; the Austrian Question is no longer the question of the Austria of bygone days, when it merely meant the old-time struggle of the Habsburgs with the several nationalities under their rule. What the Allies have to consider nowadays is the Berlin attempt to Prussianise Austria-Hungary. In a word, William II., after having, by means of the Pan-Germanic propaganda, developed in the minds of his people an appetite for conquest and plunder, declared war, obsessed with the idea that it would have as a result the foundation of the hegemony of 77 million Germans over 127 million non-Germans in Europe, and in Turkey. The Prussophil *camarilla* of Vienna, powerful, but small in numbers, a group of Magyar aristocrats led by the noxious Count Tisza and a dozen pseudo-Young Turks bought with Berlin gold, have been the Kaiser's accomplices. It is but a handful of men which has dragged into the war the 50 million Austro-Hungarians, and the 20 million Ottomans, the great majority of whom did not thirst for this bloody conflict, which the Germans are waging under conditions which assimilate them with "burglar-murderers," in other terms, with the criminal classes. They have placed themselves beyond the pale of humanity, while those who, outside of Germany, help them to enslave Europe, are purely and simply accomplices, and should be treated as such.

An important fact to be taken into consideration is that of all the countries now swallowed up by Germany, the most important in point of fact is Austria-Hungary, which is completely under the German thumb, and Germany's absolute control over the Dual Monarchy is of greater value to her than that she exercises on the Western and Eastern fronts. Hence it is part of the Pan-German plan, in so far as it affects Austria-Hungary, not to overlook the Balkans, and Turkey constitutes to an overwhelming extent the principal side of the Pan-Germanic plan. The Allies should give this indisputable fact their most earnest consideration.

The article will repay careful reading.

The Balkans and the Public.

The following passage is taken from a review of "The Balkans" which appears in *History* (the journal of the Historical Association), and is written by Professor Pollard:—

In spite of the Balkan Wars of 1912-13 there are few areas of the world war of to-day in which the average citizen is more hopelessly at sea than the south-eastern peninsula of Europe, which was once Turkey in Europe, and is now so divided that its States have sought a common denominator in a range of mountains; and the popular and vulgar weekly, which in the last week of July, 1914, filled its placards with the imprecation "to hell with Servia," appealed to a public that was all the more sympathetic because it had but a hazy idea where or what Serbia was, and had no intention of going there. Even intelligent students of history might easily go adrift in the turbulent cross-currents of Balkan politics, and the most fervent advocate of democratic control over foreign policy might shudder on the brink of a referendum on Balkan issues and Great Britain's duty therein.

Professor Pollard adds that "fortunately, or unfortunately, we shall be spared that folly." Very few people, one thinks, will question the kindness of the Fates in this respect.

Articles to Note.

"The Truth About the Turk" (a letter from Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall); and "A Poem by Firdausi's Nephew," by H. Beveridge, in the *Asiatic Review* (August).

"La vigilia della Romania," by Francesco Evoli, in *La Vita Italiana* (August 15).

According to a Turkish *communiqué*, a cruiser and three monitors for three hours unsuccessfully bombarded Phokia, in the Gulf of Smyrna, on Monday.

Turkish reports state that on the Tigris front five British aeroplanes flew over their positions on the night of August 15 and dropped bombs without success. Next morning a Turkish aeroplane successfully bombed the British camp, bridges, and quay on the Tigris.

M. Diamantopoulos, the new Attaché to the Greek Legation at Berlin, is reported to have been arrested by the Italian authorities, and a diplomatic portfolio which was in his charge is said to have been seized. The Greek Government has instructed the Greek Minister at Rome to take up the matter with the Italian Government

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

I understand there is little doubt but that the deposit receipts issued under the scheme for the loan to the Treasury, for the purpose of regulating exchange, of Egyptian 3 per cent. guaranteed loan bonds will be in bearer form. There should, therefore, be no fear that "holders will be unable to make a corresponding use of them."

***

Since the war began there has been a marked tendency to hurl charges indiscriminately against those in power; and I have always held the view that we should win the war before we begin to hunt for scapegoats. Generally, Government has been the victim, but we have had a variant this week. An official committee appointed to check the extravagancies of the great spending departments saw fit to make some serious reflections against the good faith of a great firm of contractors in respect of hut-building. When it became known, through the frankness of Sir John Jackson, that his was the firm involved in the charges, there was much astonishment. The inevitable has happened, of course, for Sir John, whose probity and patriotism are above suspicion, has been able to vindicate his colleagues, and himself, with the greatest ease. His case was a crushing reply to his detractors, and I am glad of the opportunity to say so.

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A reader who has been interested by the special articles and notes in THE NEAR EAST, in which reference has been made to the facts of the German past and to German hopes for the future, invites my attention to an article by Mr. Austin Harrison, editor of the *English Review*, in a London daily paper. In this article Mr. Harrison preaches a very sound gospel. The pan-Germanic scheme is economic rather than material, Mr. Harrison believes. It aims at what the Germans call the "economic hegemony" of the East. They are aiming at this economic power, not land, in Turkey, and so long as they hold the railway through Serbia to Constantinople "not only is the goal of the pan-Germanism attained, but the military conditions are established which ensure the faithful attachment to Berlin of the Austrian-Balkan belligerent group." I quote this view now because since it was published the long-expected development has occured in the Balkans, and events which seem to indicate that an offensive movement by the Allies is imminent have transpired.

***

It is desirable to emphasise none the less that it is imperative to expel the Hun and all his friends from this quarter, and that the sooner the expulsion is effected the better. I do not suggest that we should undertake ill-considered or unduly hasty movements, but I do suggest that the liberation of Serbia should not be subordinated to other, and less important, interests. As Mr. Harrison points out, "Turkey to Germany is a 'healthy selfish' interest. Cotton, wool, naphtha—these are the things that Germany wants, and the fertility of Mesopotamia." It ought not to be necessary to point out that the upsetting of the German designs can never be achieved until Serbia is relieved of the intolerable presence of her enemies. Let there be no mistake about that. If a sectional peace were to be declared next week, and Turkey, or Bulgaria, or Austria capitulated, the need to keep them out of Serbia would be as important as ever.

***

Peace or no peace, these three peoples will always be the mental and physical vassals and friends of Germany. They will always be a menace to Serbia, and that means menace to British interests in the East. We may as well be frank about it all. Besides honour and glory we want to get substantial benefits out of the victory we are wresting from the Huns and their friends, and we should be a foolish and quixotic people if the reverse were the case. I have little sympathy with those who believe that German military power could ever reach India; but I know what the German emissaries of commerce have done in that and adjoining countries well enough to realise that if they are permitted to continue their domination in the Balkans they will lose no time in attempting to re-assert it southwards and eastwards. We must prevent that at all costs, and we can do so only by making it impossible for them to maintain their influence in the Balkans. This is one of the reasons why Serbia must be liberated quickly and completely, and, when the liberation is accomplished, placed upon her feet, politically and economically.

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An Amsterdam message dated August 22 states that the Bulgarian Government has met the demand that debts due by Bulgarian subjects to various credit houses in Great Britain, and incurred before the intervention of Bulgaria in the war, must be settled by August 31, by the simple method of repudiating its obligations. It was stated that, in default of a settlement on or before the date mentioned, Bulgarian shares and securities held in England would be sold by public auction. We are now informed that "the Bulgarian Government will not recognise such shares and will not meet the obligations on such shares or coupons. Bulgaria has instructed credit houses in Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey to communicate the numbers and series of Bulgarian shares and coupons held in England."

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So far as we are concerned in England, it does not matter much if Bulgaria is honest or otherwise. Comparatively speaking, the stocks and securities held in this country do not represent a large sum. There is a certain amount likely, in the circumstances, to become temporarily involved, but the bulk of the loss would fall upon our French friends if the filibusters of Sofia were to apply their repudiation to obligations held across the Channel. For the rest, I dare say that, later, we can find a way of making even Bulgarian traitors pay their debts.

***

I have read with much interest the preliminary reports of the Industrial Exhibition organised by the Ministry of Education and opened at Alexandria on August 5. It is early as yet to speak of the result, but judging from the excellent collection of exhibits, which appear to be representative of all the arts and industries of the country, that should not cause very much anxiety. Such affairs, however, cannot always fairly be judged by immediate financial results. Exhibitions should always have an educative rather than purely monetary ideals, and if the Minister of Education is able to show that he has awakened interest in industries, old and new, he will be able to claim that the enterprise has been successful.

***

The correspondent of THE NEAR EAST in Cyprus writes that the date fixed for the picking of locust beans in the districts of Nicosia and Kyrenia was August 14. "Days are fixed by the Courts of Administration in every district, before which it is unlawful to gather any. A law to this effect was passed after the British occupation was accomplished, in order to protect the owners of trees, which are widely scattered over large areas. The depredations of thieves at night, as the crops ripened, used to be so serious that this protection was found necessary, and was urgently pressed for by cultivators. The pods have been badly affected this year in some parts by the waves of hot winds." Regarding this latter point, it is interesting to learn that cultivators are now required to destroy affected pods and ends. A brief outline of the regulation will be found elsewhere in this issue.

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It is a matter for regret, I think, that young Egyptians should look for a future almost exclusively in Government offices, apparently neglecting the land and industry, and all that these mean in a land in which pioneers have opportunities for profit and advancement. Recently, I am informed, the Ministry of Finance advertised a vacancy at the moderate salary of £E6 a month. "The applicants had to be well educated, for they had to have obtained the Egyptian Baccalaureat. They had also to pay P.T. 50 for examination fees, which sum would not be reimbursed to the successful candidate. All candidates had to be over eighteen years of age. On July 27 no fewer than 170 candidates presented themselves for the examination, which consisted of Arabic, French, and mathematics."

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It is not for me to suggest that a higher salary ought to have been offered to men possessing such qualifications—the Ministry of Finance must know the value, or otherwise, of cheap clerical labour. What I should like to emphasise is that there is no indignity in manual labour, on the land or in the workshop, and the sooner this truth is instilled into the minds and hearts of young Egypt the better it will be for country and people.

***

The papers devoted to the interests of the drapery and outfitting trades in this country are urging their readers to utilise the opportunities presented for trade in Egypt through the closing down of enemy firms. "Who wants an Egyptian branch?" asks one of the journals, and it then proceeds to describe in pretty glowing terms the business opportunities which await the enterprising tradesman out yonder. It is curious that Egypt should not have attracted new British firms, because to my knowledge so long ago as May, 1915, a European firm from Bombay opened out at Busreh. This was Messrs. Leach and Weborny, and from all I hear they do not regret their enterprise.

COMMENTATOR.

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ROLL OF HONOUR.

British Subjects from Turkey in H.M.'s Forces.

The Editor of THE NEAR EAST *would be obliged if relatives of former British residents in the Near East who have joined H.M.'s forces would communicate additional names or other particulars for insertion in our Roll of Honour. Biographical details concerning those who have fallen in their country's service would also be appreciated.*

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.

ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.

ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co., Royal Field Artillery.

BAKER, Captain A. Warden, Assistant Military Attaché, Rome, Italy.

BARKER, Lieut. Eric, Interpreter, Shropshire Light Infantry, British Central European Expeditionary Force.

BARKER, 2nd Lieut. C., Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.

BARRON, Captain J. B., Worcester Regiment, France.

BATH, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.

BELL, Sister M. J., Edinburgh War Hospital, Bangour, West Lothian.

BINNING, Sergt. G. A., South Wales Borderers B.E.F., France.

BINNS, Captain C. E., R.N., Assistant Military Attaché, Berne, Switzerland.

BINNS, Lieut. Harold H., Royal Naval Division Headquarters, British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

BINNS, Miss Hilda B., V.A.D., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., H.M.H.S "Aquitania"

BINNS, Lieut. W. Hylton, care of The British Consul, Brindisi.

BLUNT, Pte. R. E. (5495), A. Coy., No. 2 Platoon, 2/4th Batt., Northamptonshire Regt., Newmarket.

BLYTH, Captain R. C. P., 1st Gloucestershire Regiment, attd. Egyptian Army. (*Killed in Action.*)

BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.

BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.

BOND, Lieut. Gladwyn J. T., 1/8 West Riding Brigade, R.F.A., Ripon.

BOND, 2nd Lieut. Sidney, Royal Horse Guards, Interpreter, Salonica.

BOND, Corporal R. (41,857), Headquarters Staff, "D" Battery, 79th Brigade, R.F.A., 17th Division, B.E.F., France.

BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.

BOWMAN, Corporal Henry J. (2424), R.A.M.C., British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

BROOKS, Corporal George, 41356, D. Batt., 78th Brig., R.F.A., 17th Div., B.E.F. France (in hospital with fever).

BURN, E. R., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.

BURNS, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Accidentally Killed.*)

CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.

CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C. Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.

CHARNAUD, Lieut. A., R.N.V.R., Acting Interpreter.

CHARNAUD, 2nd Lieut. Fred, Intelligence and Interpreter.

CHARNAUD, Temporary Lieut. Percy, R.N.V.R.

CLEMOW, F. G., M.D., C.M.G., British Red Cross Mission.

CLIFTON, Capt. H., Interpreter, 11th Batt. Durham Light Infantry, 54th Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital, Haifa).

COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.

CORBETT, Lieut. H. C., M.D., R.A.M.C.

CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.

CROWE, Louis B., Red Cross Motor Ambulance, B.E.F., France.

CUMBERBATCH, Lieut A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Liason Officer, 29th Division, Headquarters, Salonica.

CUMBERBATCH, Captain R. C., 7th Bn., Rifle Brigade, 14th Division, B.E.F., France.

CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. H. D., 6th Bn., The Buffs, 12th Division, B.E.F., France. (*Wounded.*)

CUMING, Sergt. A. C., No. 38,983, Intelligence Corps, 3rd Army Headquarters, B.E.F.

CURSI, Pte. F., 8th Bn., King's Liverpool Regt., B.E.F., France.

DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.

ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Battalion.

ELLIOTT, Flight Sub-Lieut. Clifford W., R.N.A.S.

EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.

FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.

FREWEN, Rifleman Walter K., London Rifle Brigade.

FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.

GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.

GATER, Private E. A., 3/1st E.A. (Res.) Div., Cyclist Coy., Halton Camp East, Bucks.

GATER, Private A. G., 3/1st E.A. Reserve Divisional Cyclist Corps.

GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.

GORDON, 2nd Lieut. Stephen, Intelligence and Interpreter, B.C.E.E.F.

GOUT, Captain Charles L. Gout, 2/4th K.O.Y.L.I., Lark Hill Camp, Camp No. 10, Salisbury Plain.

GOUT, 2nd Lieut. Evelyn, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade, Intelligence and Interpreter, B.C.E.E.F.

GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.

GRAVES, Captain Philip, Intelligence Department, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian H., "A" Co., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade, Queen's El Ward, Bed 40, Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester. (*Wounded.*)

HARRIS, Trooper H. L., 1st King Edward's Horse, 48th South Midland Division, B.E.F., France.

HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.

HOLMES, 2nd Lieut. Gerald H., 2/5th Batt. Leicestershire Regiment.

HOLTON, Corporal Alfred, Royal Naval Division, Divisional Engineers.

HOLTON, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.

IRELAND, 2nd Lieut. D. J., 15th County of London Regiment, Intelligence and Interpreter, B.C.E.E.T.

JACKSON, Cadet E. V., 28th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, King's Park Schools, Edinburgh, N.B.

KERR, Miss E., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., H.M. Hospital Ship Brighton, British Expeditionary Force, France.

KEYSER, Captain A. G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

KEYSER, Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.

KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.

KEYSER, Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment, Intelligence and Interpreter, B.C.E.E.T.

LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. Fred, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade, Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.

LA FONTAINE, Captain S. Hubert, Intelligence Department, British East Africa Protectorate.

LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. Hugh, 2/7th City of London Regiment, Acting Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.

LA FONTAINE, Lieut. J. S., R.N.V.R., Hawke Battalion. (*Wounded*), Intelligence and Interpreter, B.C.E.E.T.

LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. E. L., Intelligence and Interpreter, B.C.E.E.T.

LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.

LE BAILLY, Lieutenant R. F., R.N.V.R., Recruiting Officer for Royal Naval Air Service, Brook Green Road, Hammersmith.

LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.

LYSTER, Lieut. Henry Newbolt, Brigade Intelligence Officer, 81st Infantry Brigade, British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Salonika.

LYSTER, Pte. Frederick John, 6129, 5th Co., Inns of Court O.T.C., Berkhamsted, Herts.

MACKENZIE, 1st Lieut. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.

MACKINNON, Dr. John M., Captain, R.A.M.C., 3rd King's African Rifles, Mombasa, British East Africa.

MACKINNON, Dr. Frank I., Captain, R.A.M.C., c/o Dr. Thomson, 14, Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, N.B.

MACKINNON, Lieut. Patrick, 12th Field Co., Royal Engineers, 6th Division, B.E.F.

MACKINNON, Lieut. Eric, 13th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

MACKRAY, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force

MCLOCHLAN, 2nd Lieut. B., 1st Canadian L.I., Intelligence and Interpreter, Egypt.

MCLOCHLAN, 2nd Lieut. G., 1st Canadian L.I., Intelligence and Interpreter, B.C.E.E.T.

METCALFE, Sister E. J., Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.

MOORE, Miss K. M., Royal Red Cross, Serbia.

MORRISON, Lieut. J., 4th Seaforth Highlanders, B.E.F., France.

MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.

MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.

MOUNTAIN, 2nd Lieut. Harold G., Royal Engineers.

MUMFORD, P. F., Army Service Corps, R.E., Baldock.

MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.

NEWELL, Pte. W. A., Royal Marines, Chatham. (*Wounded at Dardanelles.*)

NOWILL, 2nd Lieut. Sidney, 2/17th City of London Regiment, Acting Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.

PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.

PATERSON, Captain Alexander, R.A.M.C., 1st Scottish General Hospital, Aberdeen, N.B.

PEACOCK, 2nd Lieut. Frank, 4/4th Batt. London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers.

PEARS, Major G. B., Military Cross, R.E. (*wounded*), now temporarily Chief Instructor (G.S.O.), Royal Military Academy, Woolwich.

PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.

PODMORE, Lieut. Arthur, Military Cross, R.E.

POTTER, Very Rev. Archdeacon, Hon. Chaplain Volunteer Training Corps, Godalming Company. (Archdeacon in Cyprus and Syria.)

POYNTER, Lieut. Hugh E., No. 2 Base Supply Depot, Portishead, Somerset.

RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, B.E.F., France.

REES, Sub-Lieutenant J. Langdon, R.N.V.R.

REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.

REES, Sub-Lieutenant T. B. F., R.N.V.R.

RICHARDS, Miss, Dispenser, Edinburgh War Hospital, Bangour.

RICH, Rifleman Cecil, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Died from Wounds.*)

ROBINSON, Sergeant J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem. (*Killed in action.*)

ROBSON, Driver F. B., 2/1st E.A. (Essex), R.G.A., Heavy Battery.

ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.

ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. R. A. C., Royal Engineers, P.S., Army Base Post Office, Salonica.

SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.

SAMSON, Seaman George McKenzie, V.C., R.N.R. (*Seriously Wounded.*)

SEAGER, Driver B. W. (7739), H.A.C.'s H.Q., Armoury House, Finsbury, E.C.

SEAGER, Lieut. J. A., 16th Middlesex Regiment, France.

SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regt. (*Wounded.*)

SELLAR, Lieut. Fred. B., Interpreter, Central European Expeditionary Force.

SEMPLE, Rev. S. H., C.F., 7th Royal Scots, 156th Brigade, 52nd Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.

SILLEY, 2nd Lieut. Edward C., Interpreter, Headquarters Staff, British Central European Expeditionary Force.

SILLEY, Rifleman Bernard (4361), 3/12th London Regt. (The Rangers), East Sheen.

SIMMONS, Gunner H. C., 123rd Heavy Battery, R.G.A. (*Died from Wounds.*)

STEPLING, Rev. Canon, R.A.M.C.

STOCK, Capt. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)

STOTT, Sergt. F., 3/5th Sherwood Foresters, Grantham, Derby.

SUMMERS, Lieut. H. C., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Europa."

SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).

THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.

THOMPSON, John, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.

THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."

THWAITES, Captain H., R.A.M.C., France.

TORRANCE, Dr. D., R.A.M.C.

TRENTER, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.

VAN LENNEP, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.

VAN MILLINGEN, 2nd Lieut. Charles A. M., 14th Rifle Brigade. (*Wounded.*)

VAN MILLINGEN, 2nd Lieut. R.A.M.C.

VAN MILLINGEN, Aldridge, Intelligence and Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

VAN MILLINGEN, Private R. G. C., 3rd Batt. London Brigade. (*Wounded.*)

VEDOVA, Rifleman Egbert, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.

VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)

VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.

VINICOMBE, 2nd Lieut. Leo, Royal West Kent (*Killed*).

WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)

WEALE, 2nd Lieut. W. W. C., 11th Batt., Devonshire Regiment, Interpreter, Salonika. (*Wounded.*)

WELLS, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.

WHEATLEY, Miss K. H., Matron of No. 17, Stationary Hospital, Bombay, India.

WHEELER, Captain P. F. C. d'Erf, 3rd Dorset Regiment, Medit. Exp. Force. (*Wounded.*)

WHEELER, 2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Nowell Popham d'Erf, 7th Dorset Regiment, Portsmouth.

WHITEHOUSE, Canon F. C., 3/6 City of London Rifles, Fovant Camp, Salisbury.

WHITEHOUSE, Mid. L. Edwin, H.M.S. "Triad," Mediterranean.

WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.

WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.

WHITTALL, Commander F. E., R.N.

WHITTALL, Lieut.-Commander H. E. C., R.N.

WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)

WHITTALL, Lieut. F. J. G., 17th Batt., Manchester Regiment, British Expeditionary Force.

WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. H. V., Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.

WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Kenneth, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut Roland, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. (*Died from Wounds.*)

WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Vernon, Intelligence and Interpreter, British Central European Exp. Force.

WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Walter, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade, Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force. (*Wounded.*)

WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut., 6th Batt. King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, India Expeditionary Force. (*Seriously wounded.*)

WHITTALL, Miss E. M., Q.A.I.M.N.S., No. 10, Stationary Hospital, British Expeditionary Force.

WILSON, Dr. Marian E., Scottish Women's Hospital, Abbaye Royaumont, France.

WOODS, Harold, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.

WRATISLAW, Captain J. C., 8th Leicestershire Regiment, 110 Brigade, 37th Division, B.E.F., France.

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BRITISH CONSULS.

We make no apology for returning to the subject of the British Consular Service, because the answers to questions submitted to the representative of the Foreign Office in the House of Commons on Tuesday last make it abundantly clear that the British official mind is beginning to think. It will be recalled that interest was attached to the question by the appointment to an unpaid Consular post at Rotterdam of a gentleman "whose father and uncle left this country shortly after the outbreak of war and have not since returned." Mr. Holzapfel's connections were so well known at Newcastle-on-Tyne that his appointment was viewed not only with apprehension, but with unmeasured indignation. We need not go farther into that particular matter, however, for, in view of the outcry raised, the gentleman has resigned, and, so far as that is concerned, we shall hear no more of him. But, as matters have turned out, the original arrangement was fortunate. When he stated on Tuesday that Mr. Holzapfel's appointment might be considered at an end, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs made a notable announcement. He said he had given directions that for the future no person who was of foreign nationality, or who was a naturalised British subject, or whose father was a naturalised British subject, should be appointed to any post, even of an honorary nature, in the Foreign Office, the Diplomatic or Consular Services, until such appointment had been approved by the Foreign Secretary or Under-Secretary.

It would be ungracious not to admit that this is a considerable concession to popular British commercial opinion. It will effect a great improvement in existing conditions, and, provided that in the future no importunate job-seeker is permitted to get the better of the discretion of an official anxious to please somebody else, the rule may work satisfactorily. We confess, however, that we do not like the reservation, not only because it is unnecessary, but also because no Minister of the Crown ought to be willing to sanction the introduction of an alien, or the son of an alien, into either of the confidential services mentioned. For this reason we hope that those Members of the House of Commons who have taken so great an interest in this question will not hesitate to take it a step further, and to press for legislation exacting not only that aliens and their sons shall not be appointed except with the approval of the Foreign Office, but that they shall not be appointed at all. The Government of India have found it necessary, and, with the co-operation of the Imperial Government, possible, to follow that line in regard to the Indian Civil Service, and we know of no reason why the British Consular Service cannot be safeguarded similarly. In the past, when it has been suggested that restrictions should be imposed upon aliens, the effect likely to be produced upon the neutral mind has been taken into consideration. Here, fortunately, that question does not arise, for if neutrals are to be affronted the decision already reached would be sufficient to furnish the cause. And the same argument applies to our friends.

The importance of the question cannot be emphasised too strongly or too frequently. As we pointed out last week, we have already taken more risks than we could afford, and the results have been disastrous. Most of us claim that after the war is over we propose to set out to capture German trade, and to re-capture what Germany has taken from us. If we are to be successful in our mission we shall want all the assistance we can get, and the chances of being obstructed by a "British" Consul with alien sympathies would be a handicap which might well prove fatal to our chances of success. We impugn nobody's good faith when we say that so long as it remains legally possible to appoint an alien the risk of such an appointment exists. It would be better, therefore, to make it impossible, and Parliament would not stand in the way of the necessary legislation being passed. We should like to see a beginning made in the Near East and throughout the Mediterranean, where, if all we hear is true, we have not invariably been well served; and we should like to hear that the all-British principle has been extended to provide for the substitution of British for alien officers.

GERMANY IN ROUMANIA.

Exploitation of Trade and Industry.

Whatever the future contains for Roumania, whatever the ultimate attitude of that country may be towards the Entente Powers, there is nothing in our commercial relations with her in the past of which we may be proud. A correspondent wrote recently:—

> The peaceful penetration by Germany of Roumania, and the work and organisation accomplished, before as well as after the commencement of the war, by the Germans in this country, invites the wonder and even the respect of an impartial observer, if there was not a discrimination in the ways and means adopted by them to achieve their ends. To study Roumanian commerce, industry, and finance is to know the story of German enterprise. German work and German initiative gaining the mastery everywhere and in every walk of life.

We do not forget that the contention is made that the position was made easy for German traders by the introduction in 1860 of a German prince as King; we give full weight to that contention, but we cannot forget that, in countries in which the Huns did not possess that advantage, they have been almost as successful as they have been in this Balkan State. Indeed, it is a matter for national shame that, under the British flag, the Germans have scored some of their most notable triumphs. Until a month or two ago—it may be the same to-day—there were 20,000 Germans in Bucharest alone. Outside the capital there were another 50,000, and if to this considerable army of propagandists is added a quarter of a million of German Jews, there is in the total a formidable host indeed.

Peaceful Penetration.

The study in peaceful penetration is very complete. The Germans have left unutilised no opportunity of pushing German trade interests. They have formed German clubs, Chambers of Commerce have been established, the Consular service has been made as perfect as human agency could make it, and, generally, the greatest use has been made of the initial advantage which the choice of a King by the Roumanian people gave them. Great Britain and France between them have ten Consular representatives in the country; Germany and Austria have twenty-five. But that is not all. Working in close touch with the Consulates are numbers of attachés and agents whose functions are similar to those of the members of an Intelligence Service. As usual, in this respect, the Germans and Austrians are infinitely better served than the British and French, with the inevitable result that enemy interests have scored heavily all along the line. This is what the correspondent to whom we referred just now has to say on that point:—

> The country's commercial, financial, economic, social, educational, hygienic, and many other phrases are thoroughly studied and reported on from time to time. Anyone interested in Roumanian affairs is obliged to refer to the German reports.

It is not surprising to learn that German and Austrian trade advanced by leaps and bounds. The excellence of their intelligence system enabled them to discover whom they might trust and, what is equally important, whom they might not. They studied their markets, and did not make the mistake, which British traders make so frequently, of taking to one market goods more suitable for another. Low-priced goods, specially made for the Oriental trade, were introduced into those quarters in which high-priced stuffs were outside the range of buyers; the pernicious credit system was also introduced, and studied and adapted until it became a fine art; and while French and British traders were wondering where all the business was going, their rivals were quietly sending the orders to their respective fatherlands.

Five-Ninths of the Imports.

The import figures in Roumania for the year 1913 are interesting reading. Out of a total of £9,520,000, the Germans accounted for, approximately, £5,600,000 and the Austrians appropriated a fairly good slice of what was left. To secure this great volume of business, and to be certain that outside hands should not annex any of it, the Germans established their own banks, branches of their great industrial and commercial houses, and built factories; and it is testimony to their indomitable perseverance and capacity that a considerably quantity of the raw material that helps to swell the import returns is manufactured in all-German factories.

It will be said, of course, that the Germans have had facilities; so they have had, but the facilities were worked for, and—let us be frank to ourselves—were thoroughly deserved when they were obtained. As in other parts of the world, so in Roumania the Hun has always worked hard; he does not spend part of his time in watching the hands of the clock accomplish the circle. The stool and the workshop have no terrors for him; the clerk and the artisan put in more hours of work than the Briton would regard as healthy. The apparently ardent desire of the British Labour party to have this question included in the peace settlement, when the time comes, is some evidence on the point.

In paying this tribute to German energy it must not be assumed that the corrupt and, generally, dishonest methods employed by German traders are forgotten. These have been practised in Roumania as assiduously as in other parts of the world, and it would not require a particularly shrewd guess to judge Roumanian opinion on the point. In this respect the French have, perhaps, been the greatest sufferers; but, since, with our own people, they have to share the responsibility for neglecting opportunities in the country in the past, like us they must pay the penalty and, cutting their losses, hope to recover lost ground when the war has ended.

Industrial Exploitation.

We referred just now to the fact that the Germans have established factories in which to work up raw materials which they imported from their own land. They have done more than that, as a matter of fact. The awkward questions put the other day to a Minister in the House of Commons regarding the ownership of certain oilfields in Roumania will be remembered. In that direction the Germans found a very fruitful field for their energy and capital. The history of the German exploitation of the oilfields goes back, approximately, to 1895. The capitalists were supported then in the campaign by the diplomats and, despite many rebuffs, the combination persevered, stooping to the employment of the shadiest devices until they got a considerable footing in the fields. The rest was easy, and in a comparatively short time they had acquired the predominating influence, assisted by their allies and confederates, the Jews.

The shadow of war was in the political sky in those days, about 1900, and it is no secret that Germany had induced Roumania to join her in an alliance. For her petroleum supply Germany was embarrassed. Russia was no friend of hers, the United States were unlikely to assist if Great Britain did become involved, and only Roumania was left. It is difficult to understand what inducement the Kaiser held out to his kinsman; they may have been similar to those offered to his present dupes, Turkey and Bulgaria; in any case, they appeared to have succeeded, and the alliance became a fact. The Americans made a luke-warm attempt to obtain the concessions, but they were no match for German intrigue, and were left standing, as they themselves would say. The war did not take place; but to-day the Germans hold a controlling interest in nearly every considerable well in the country.

The Krupp Hand.

As with oil, so with other important industries. Electrical works, iron foundries, and shipbuilding concerns are, for the most part, controlled by, or in, the Krupp interest. Manufactures of cloth, cement, paper, and nearly every other industry of importance are in German hands.

That is not all, however. When Roumania wanted money she was encouraged to borrow from Germany, with the result that to-day the Huns are creditors to the extent of about one-third of the national debt. It is said that Bucharest pays annually to Berlin in interest on loans something like £2,000,000. It is a curious reflection just now that the bulk of the borrowed money went back to German hands in payment for munitions of war, and, as a Roumanian described the situation to the correspondent, "The payment of these £2,000,000 is an annual tribute paid to Germany."

Roumania's decision regarding the war will mean a good deal to some people.

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PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, August 24.

Currants.

There has been more activity in the market this past week, the demand being mostly for spot, although the remaining available supplies present a remarkable scarcity of choice fruit. From advices regarding the new crop, shipments will be started early next month, and, if war conditions permit, first arrivals may be expected about the end of the month. The prices asked for new crop fruit, provincial, are 54s. to 55s., duty paid, but so far very little is done on that base.

Sultanas.

The market is comparatively quiet, only small business passing at late rates. There is a noticeable demand for cheap fruit, which, however, is not easily obtainable owing to scarcity.

Figs and Dates.

The former are quiet, with very little doing, while the latter have met with a fair demand for old as well as new crop at late rates.

Seeds.

Linseed is dearer, but with little doing. London-Calcutta, spot, was sold to-day at 77s.; afloat also 77s.; July-Aug., 77s. 6d.; Aug.-Sept., 78s.; and Sept.-Oct., 78s. 6d. Bombay to London: Small grain has been offered, Aug.-Sept., at 78s., and ordinary ditto 79s. Rapeseed has been firm at full prices: Toria to Hull, Aug.-Sept., 68s. to 69s. Cottonseed is quiet, and favouring buyers: Egyptian to London, Sept., £12 15s., and Oct., £12 10s.; Hull, spot, £12; Sept., £12 10s. and £12 7s. 6d., asked; Bombay to Hull, spot, £12; Sept., £12 10s.; and Oct., £12 7s. 6d.

Oils.

Linseed oil is quiet, and easier for forward positions. Spot pipes is quoted £37 5s.; spot barrels, £37 9s.; Aug., £37 10s.; Sept.-Dec., £38 5s.; and Jan.-April, £39 17s. 6d. Rape oil is firm. Refined English, in barrels, spot, is quoted £46 to £48. Cotton oil is rather dull: Crude pipes, spot, £38 15s.; refined pale, pipes, and sweet, barrels, £51 to £52 10s. Olive oil is very scarce and firm: Spot Spanish and Levant, £59 to £60 per ton, ex store.

Oilcakes.

Cotton cakes: Egyptians are all cleared. A steamer parcel now loading is offered at £9 15s., ex-ship, while English makes are offered at £9 17s. 6d. to £10 per ton. Linseed cakes are very quiet, buyers being unwilling to deal at present high prices. Best London and East Indian prices are unaltered.

APPEAL TO OVERSEAS BRITONS.

An appeal, which has been issued to oversea Britons, by the United Workers, London, and endorsed, among others, by Mr. Bonar Law and Lord Cromer, deserves attention.

The appeal declares that upon the issue of the war depends the liberty of our Empire, and proceeds: "The whole German nation is supporting its armies. The utmost frugality is in force, and the nation's resources are being conserved in a remarkable way. To the recent War Loan, which realised 535 millions, there were 5,279,645 subscribers. Germany is not exhausted. Britain, who must buy her food and raw material abroad, and lend her allies more than a million pounds a day, has realised that every single citizen must be called upon for his or her maximum effort.

"We address all of British blood, and we tell them this:—(1) Time is on our side if our Empire can outlast Germany in money and resources; and it is beyond dispute that we can outlast her if we choose; (2) Our power so to do depends entirely upon the individual conserving his resources, and making them available for the war; (3) This he can only do by producing more, consuming less, and lending every penny he can either to his own Government's War Loans or to those of the British Government."

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Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
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Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
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ALEXANDRIA'S EXHIBITION.

A Comprehensive Industrial Display.

The Alexandria Industrial Exhibition was opened formally on August 5, and among those who were invited to be present at the ceremony were the Princes, the Ministers and past-Ministers, the Advisers, Under-Secretaries of State, heads of Administrations in Alexandria, Chief Officials of the Sultanieh Household, Members of the Municipal Council, Members of the Commission of Commerce and Industry, the Mudirs and Governors, the President and Vice-President of the Legislative Assembly, representatives of the Caisse de la Dette and of the Courts of Justice, etc.

The Exhibits.

We are indebted to the *Egyptian Gazette* for the following description of some of the exhibits:—

One of the largest sections of the exhibition is that devoted to the textile industries, divided into numerous important groups.

Altogether there were about sixty exhibitors of woven articles, including carpets, and these are fully representative of all the craftsmen in the country. There were attractive bed-covers, striped curtain cloths and towels of characteristic design from Akhmin, one of the biggest weaving centres in Egypt; striped galabieh and cotton cloths from Assiut, tapestry and curtain cloths, furniture coverings, shirtings, shot silks for dresses, and much else of similar description from Mahalla el Kebir, in designs for which that district is justly famous. From the Bulac Technical School there were shown some fine examples of figured silks and tapestry cloths, while in the same group were many other figured silks representative of the finest Cairo silk weaving.

Weaving.

In addition to this admirable collection of exhibits, there was shown the process of weaving from the simple native wool weaving to the improved Mansourah type of hand loom, and the application of the hand loom to the Jacquard for figure weaving. The visitor was able to see at work kelim carpet weavers from Beni Souef and pile carpet weavers from Assiut, as well as mat weavers from Zagazig. A Scotch spinning-wheel was also at work to demonstrate the simple and rapid method of spinning wool for carpet weaving.

In the wool weaving section there were some examples of native blankets, Zarbut cloths of characteristic natural coloured wool, fine wool arbieh cloths from Upper Egypt, and serge and home-spun mixtures and tapestry cloths from the Bulac School.

Examples of native clothing was another attractive feature in this section, especially the dressed stands (life-size), showing the various types of native costumes as worn by the fellahin and other classes of the people.

Damietta Products.

From Damietta came examples of thin silk-crêpe cloths, and an interesting section of the same group was comprised of crinkled striped crêpe recently made in Egypt to replace goods previously imported from Syria.

A rich display of carpets included work from Assiut, Beni Souef, Nag Hamadi, and Beni Ardi, together with Bedouin kelims made by the western Arab women. These were specially fine in design and structure.

One of the most striking features in the central hall was the Kiosk, covered inside and out by embroideries by Ismail Omar, of Cairo. The work may be said to represent the high-water mark of Arabic applique embroidery. Many of the designs are of historic Arabic patterns, and included a fine geometrical design copied from the Mosque of Kait Bey at Cairo. Over one door of the Kiosk, in the inside, there is a panel with Arabic writing in white on a red satin ground, bordered by delicate arabesque. Translated, the inscription reads: "May he live who has restored the glory of Egypt."

The principal exhibits in the art metal work section came from the Khan of Khalil, Cairo, consisting of engraved and inlaid brass-work, and including reproductions of an exceedingly beautiful Koran box and of two fine candlesticks in the Cairo Museum.

EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

Read with the letter from our Cairo Correspondent of August 2, published last week, the Monthly *Bulletin* of the Ministry of Agriculture will not be uninteresting.

The *Bulletin*, which is dated August 3, 1916, gives the present condition of the cotton crop in Lower Egypt as 2 per cent. above the average, while that of Upper Egypt is 1 per cent. below the average. The *Bulletin* adds that the weather has been favourable. The water supply was sufficient everywhere except some districts in Daqahlia, Gharbia, and Beheira, and chiefly on tails of canals. The effects of over-watering have been reported from Menufia and Beni Suef, showing that it has been indulged in to a certain extent, especially by small cultivators, with the usual boll-shedding as a result.

The cotton-worm attack, which, as pointed out in last month's *Bulletin*, has been heavier and more general than last year, has been overcome with no damage to the crop, except to an unimportant extent in parts of Qaliubia and Saff Markaz (Giza). Aphis has been comparatively rare, being noticed in particular in Fayúm, Minia, and Qena. The ordinary boll worm (Earias insulana) has been conspicuous by its almost complete absence, while the pink seed worm (Gelechia gossypiella) has infested the bolls in a varying degree in every province up to Assiut. The crop has continued to make good progress, and bolls in the early-sown fields in Lower Egypt have begun to open. The Upper Egypt bolls are also ripening in early cultivation. The condition of the crop in all parts of the country fully bears out last month's forecast of an early picking, which has already begun in the basin lands of Assiut.

DIRTY COTTON.

Complaints have been somewhat frequent of late regarding the presence of foreign matter in bales of Egyptian cotton. In the *Manchester Guardian* (August 21) Mr. H. Robinson, secretary of the Manchester Cotton Association, writes:—"I would state that the directors of the Manchester Cotton Association some months ago had their attention drawn to foreign matter, such as jute, fibre, string, and pieces of canvas contained in Egyptian bales. The association at that time addressed a communication on this subject to the Alexandria General Produce Association. The president of the Alexandria Association replied, stating that the matter had been brought before a meeting of his committee, who strongly recommended that every effort should be made in order to avoid such foreign matter being present in the cotton. It was, however, pointed out that they have to depend entirely on the natives in the villages, and that it is an extremely difficult matter to convince them of the seriousness of this practice. The Alexandria Association, however, promised to take every means to bring about an improvement."

COTTON FAILURE.

Considerable surprise was caused on the Liverpool Cotton Exchange yesterday (August 24) by the posting of a letter from Messrs. Forgan and Co., cotton merchants, announcing that they would be unable to meet their liabilities at this week's Settlement. The news led to an immediate advance in prices, but as the morning tendency was downwards and much liquidation was in progress the advance was not maintained. The stoppage is not expected to have a serious effect on the market.—*Financial Times.*

THE GERMAN WAY.

The commission delegated to carry out the liquidation of the Deutsche Orientbank is about to complete its work, says *Ahaly*. The liquidation is expected to be finished two months hence, and the German establishment will then cease to have any existence in the commercial and financial circles of Egypt. It is worth noting that the German bank, which was established ten years ago in Egypt, had, with gradual progress, secured a high position in the country. According to a well-informed authority, the Deutsche Orientbank, in the first year, purchased 50,000 bales of Egyptian cotton, in the second year it purchased 100,000 bales, in the third year 250,000 bales, and it continued to develop its cotton purchases until it became able to dispose of about a third of the whole crop.

TRADE NOTES.

Openings.

The British Vice-Consul at Tetuan (Morocco) reports that a local merchant desires to secure the agencies of United Kingdom insurance companies (fire, life, accident and marine); also of U.K. steamship companies. Apply for particulars to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

RESTRICTIONS.

Malta Prohibitions.

The following articles have been added to the list of merchandise, the exportation of which from Malta is prohibited (except to the United Kingdom, British possessions and Protectorates):—

Cape garnets or rubies; copper stamps used for stamping woven piece goods; firebricks and fireclay; rennet powder, rennet extract, and other preparations of rennet; vinegar containing not more than 6 per cent. of acetic acid; vinegar essence, and similar preparations containing more than 6 per cent. of acetic acid; wire, barbed, and galvanised wire; woods, viz., beefwood, birch, boxwood, dogwood, greenheart, hickory, lancewood, padouk, sibacu, teak, whitewood; bags, wrappers or sacks made of jute, other than any such bags, wrappers or sacks as constitute the coverings of goods to be shipped for exportation and are allowed by the Collector of Customs to be shipped as such coverings (in lieu of the items:—"Bags and sacks made of jute," and "jute wrappers (Surrat tares)").

Export to all foreign ports in Europe and the Mediterranean and Black Sea, without the permission of the Collector of Customs, is now prohibited of the following:—

Bamboo; bristles; feathers and down; felspar; insulating materials, the following:—Leatheroid, oiled cloth and tape, vulcanised fibre; rattan, woven; tea; tobacco; varnishes, spirit, containing gum.

SEA ROUTES TO EGYPT.

"Britisher" writes:—

I was recently looking through Macmillan's "Guide to Egypt and the Sudan" (latest edition), published this year, and very much regret to have to make the following remarks:—

On page 1—"Miscellaneous Information"—under the heading "Long Sea Routes from England to Egypt," I find that the North German Lloyd are set down as leaving Southampton twice a week.

On page 2, under "Overland Routes," the Austrian Lloyd and North German Lloyd are widely advertised, the former as sailing from Venice, Trieste, and Brindisi, and the latter from Marseilles, Genoa, and Naples.

Now, I take it that a guide-book is published for the information of the public, but the book above quoted is very misleading, as at the present moment both the lines mentioned have, of course, been suspended owing to the war; and as regards conditions after the war, I imagine that the compilers of Macmillan's Guide are not in a position to state whether these two enemy lines will be permitted to resume their calls at any of the Allied ports, or to be specially utilized as a connecting link between England and Egypt.

Before concluding I wish to point out, as a contrast to the above-mentioned advertisement of enemy lines, the complete absence in the guide-book in question of any mention of the Overland Route by the Orient Express to Constantinople, thence to Egypt by the Khedivial Mail Line Steamers—the only British Mail Service running in the Levant. Is this due to an oversight of the compilers of Macmillan's Guide, or to the lethargy of the management of the Khedivial Mail Company?

CAROB DISEASE IN CYPRUS.

The authorities in Cyprus have taken steps to check the serious disease which has for some years attacked locust beans in several areas in the island. A recent proclamation provides that all affected pods and buds must be gathered by owners of trees within forty days of the date fixed for the picking, and burnt or buried in lime to the satisfaction of the Director of Agriculture or his agents. The storing of, or dealing in, diseased pods is prohibited under penalty.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Remarkable Oil Eruption.

It has already been stated that the well No. 26 of the Romano-Americana in Roumania struck oil at a depth of 424 metres, toward the middle of last April. The well is situated at a distance of forty metres from the wells No. 27 and 28 of the Steaua-Romana at Baicoi-Ferbatore, both on the south-western slope of the anticlinal, and both having made famous eruptions. The company has, of course, expected violent eruptions, and therefore took all precautionary measures for a most efficacious capping of the crude oil and gas, says *The Petroleum Review*. An ingenious installation has therefore been erected. Above the last 10-in. column has been fixed by means of very powerful joints a usual safety valve, and above the latter there has been placed a valve of the system Tacit-Puscariu. Above the two valves there has been installed an eruption cross of very solid construction, above which there was fixed another Tacit-Puscariu valve, and finally the usual safety valve. All the valves were fixed by means of powerful joints. The usual safety valves are worked from outside the tower by iron rods, while the Tacit-Puscariu valves are operated by steam supplied through 2-inch pipes at a distance of 150 metres from the well. From the side parts of the eruption cross lead two 10-inch pipes, each provided on the outside of the tower with a valve, and each having fixed inside a steel cork 30 cms. in diameter, and with a hole 1½-inch wide. The two pipes terminate in an hermetically closed wooden hut by 3 by 3 by 2½ metres, into the main part of which are introduced two 6-inch pipes, through which the gases are absorbed by means of two powerful aspirators placed at a sufficient distance so as to avoid any danger of fire. The hut has on top a wooden chimney 3 metres high, through which can escape the last traces of gas, and which is provided inside with a steam pipe.

The Crude Oil.

From the hut the crude oil runs into a number of iron reservoirs, where it is separated from sand, and is then pumped away into tanks by means of four pumps of a capacity of 400 tons an hour, each pump working independently of the others. Capacious reservoirs moreover surround the well for any emergency. The expectations of the company were fully realised, and after cleaning with a baler, the well, on April 20, began eruptions which, with small intervals, continued until June 2, when the well was blocked with sand. At the start of the eruptions the valves of the pipes leading to the hut were opened, while the Tacit-Puscariu valve above the eruption cross was closed, and this has been done rapidly and easily, notwithstanding the extreme violence of the eruption. When on April 23 the pipe-lines were found to be blocked with sand, the valves were opened, the pipe-lines were cleaned, and the eruption soon commenced again, when the upper valve outside the tower was at once closed, and the oil allowed to run through the pipes. Between May 28 and June 2 the well yielded a total of 30,950 tons of oil, and on June 2, when the well was working but eighteen hours, the yield amounted to 3,480 tons. After the cessation of the eruption, the whole installation was re-examined, when it was found to be in perfect order, notwithstanding that tremendous quantities of sand have passed through it and have caused but an enlargement of the holes in the steel corks from 1½ in. to 4 in.

New Eruptions.

In order to prevent new eruptions between the columns, the surrounding ground has been dug on an area of 3 m. by 3 m. to a depth of 8 m. or 2 m. under the upper end of the column of 12½ in., and after cleaning out the sand, the space between the columns has been filled in with cement. On June 12, after ten hours cleaning, the well recommenced extremely violent eruptions. The upper Tacit-Puscariu valve has been at once closed and the oil let run through the pipes. The eruption was so violent that the whole of the installation was shaking for fifteen minutes, when, unfortunately, owing to a breakdown of the 10-inch pipe, the installation capsized under the tremendous force of the eruption, the violence of which was such that, notwithstanding the fact that already 30,000 tons of pure oil have been spouted out from the well, large quantities of dry sand, stones, and gas were ejected from it to a height of 100 m. to distances at a radius of one kilometre from the well. Naturally, most strict measures of precaution were taken to prevent an outbreak of fire, but it was only after three days that the well could be approached for purposes of closer observation, when it was found that in the interior of the tower a deep crater was formed, and that the end of the column could not be seen. In order to weaken the violence of the eruption, quantities of old iron cable and other weighty articles were thrown into it, after which the eruptive column diminished to a half of the height of the tower.

Restricted Petrol.

The high price and restricted supply of petrol has caused great consternation among motorists and motor-car owners. The announcement from time to time of the discovery of one or another substitute for the now precious liquid fuel raises, naturally, their hopes, but so far nothing has yet appeared in the market, and the discoveries are apparently of an experimental nature. It is well known that, in spite of the reported "abundance" of petrol in Germany, a very strict economy is also studied there, and it has been thought advisable that the Government should take over the production and control the supply. In the meantime, German scientists were busy, and their efforts were in more than one case rewarded. A preparation, for instance, of a motor fuel which, according to recent information, has been extensively used there for over a year now with success, is the discovery of a German scientist or chemist. It consists of 80 per cent. alcohol and 20 per cent. benzole, with the addition of 200 grammes per gallon of naphthalene. The mixture, it is said, gives almost the same power as petrol, as the calorific value is brought up to the requisite figure by the naphthalene and benzole, although alcohol has a very low calorific value, being only 6 per cent. of that of petrol.

Petrol from Crude Oil.

Scientists in America have been just as busy as the Germans over the petrol problem. By a new process, which was invented by a United States Government official, gasoline, which is the American word for petrol, can be obtained from synthetic crude oil. By this process it is possible to reconvert paraffin, vaseline, rod wax, and other natural hydrocarbons into a synthetic crude oil, and to obtain from 50 to 70 per cent. of gasoline or petrol as white as water in colour. Nothing is said about the cost of production, but the results obtained are said to indicate that this oil fuel will meet the requirements of the market. There is also another American process, devised by a chemical engineer, which is considered of great value in the way of enlarging the production of motor fuel. This process is the result of the application of mathematics, physics, and chemistry to the process of petroleum cracking, and it is stated that this cracking system not only secures petrol to an amount varying from 50 to 75 per cent., but also enables benzole and tolecol to be obtained at will. However, until these petrols and substitutes for petrol are put on the market and can be obtained at reasonable prices the consternation of motorists and joy-riders will be continued.

Paraffin Mixtures.

Motorists who are making trials of paraffin mixtures are advised to keep in mind the fact that it is inherent for paraffin to separate from the mixture and enter the cylinder in the "wet" state, instead of the gaseous condition. This is difficult to avoid, owing to the absence of a proper vaporization method for the paraffin. The risk of trying paraffin mixtures is one that is not easily detected; it arises from the unconsumed paraffin draining past the piston rings into the crank-case and diluting the oil, and which may eventually lead to a seizure of melting out of one or other of the big ends. It is best to keep to small proportions of paraffin, otherwise the "economy" may turn out to be dearly purchased.

SHIPPING NOTES.

Of 25,500,000 tons of merchant shipping cleared from United Kingdom ports in the year ended June 30, 1916, 23,000,000 tons belonged to foreign flags. Clearances to Greek ports increased threefold.

The Russian decree prohibiting the transfer of merchant ships to a foreign, other than an Allied, flag, it is ordered, will remain in force "until two years as from the date of the ratification of the Peace Convention."

The Board of Trade have received through the Foreign Office gold, silver, and bronze medals, which have been awarded by the President of the French Republic to the masters and members of the crews of the British steamships City of Nagpur and Collegian, of Liverpool, in recognition of their services to the crew and passengers of the French steamship Euphrate, of Marseilles, which stranded at Socotra on September 11, 1915.

Advices continue to reach this country from the Mediterranean of the torpedoing of vessels by enemy submarines. It was reported as follows, on August 17, from Genoa:—The following vessels have been torpedoed and sunk in this neighbourhood within the last few days:—Italian sailing vessels Balmoral, Eurasia, Regina, Pacis, Pausania, and Ida, besides some others the names of which have not yet been ascertained. Advices are now received that the sailing vessel Louis B., of Viareggio, was sunk by an enemy submarine off Capraja Island on August 14. The Italian steamer Erix and the Italian sailing vessel Dea have been sunk.

As was forecasted last week, Messrs. Furness, Withy and Company, Limited, have acquired the preponderating share interest in the Prince Line, Limited, together with the life interest of Mr. James Knott, the founder and managing director of the line. It is now stated that another fusion is to take place. The managing directors of the Taylor and Sanderson Steam Shipping Company, Limited, Sunderland, are asking the shareholders for their opinion of a proposal to realise the company's assets by selling the seven steamers belonging to the company, with a gross total tonnage of nearly 17,000 tons. They point to the present high prices of ships, and suggest that from profits the managing directors should receive £50,000, representing five years' remuneration as directors, out of which compensation would be paid to the company's staff. The realisation of assets and the winding-up of the company would probably take two years.

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COMPANY REPORT.

Bibi Eibat Oil.

The report of the Bibi Eibat Oil Company for the year ended March 31 last states that it has been found practicable to embody in the accounts the operations of the Russian company for the two years ended December 31, 1914, and 1915 (old style), and it is hoped that in future the English accounts may be issued only three months later than the Russian accounts, instead of 15 months later, as hitherto. The gross income amounted to £16,111, the greater part of which represents interest accrued on sums advanced to the Russian company (La Société de Naphte de Bibi Eibat), the balance being the return upon investments, interest on loans, etc. General expenses absorbed £3,826 and other payments £252, leaving £12,032. From this has to be deducted £7,000 for interest and redemption of debentures, while to the remaining £5,032 must be added £15,002 brought forward leaving £20,035, of which £503 will be applied to the redemption of Income notes, the balance of £19,532 being carried forward. The decrease in revenue is attributable to the Russian company being unable to declare any dividend for the period included in these accounts. This result was due primarily to the stoppage of work for two months in 1914, during the strike of workmen which was general throughout the Baku fields. On the resumption of work many of the wells were found to be damaged by water, and in spite of the efforts to overcome this trouble, the production showed a decline of 25 per cent., as compared with the output immediately before the strike. In consequence of the royalty of 40 per cent. still exacted by the Russian Government—amounting in 1914 to Rs. 345,049—the operations of the Russian company involved a loss on working for that year of Rs. 116,825. Although the production for 1915 was slightly in excess of that for the previous year and the average price obtained more favourable, the increase in receipts was more than counteracted by higher working costs, with the consequence that the year's expenses (including royalties equal to Rs. 372,329) exceeded the receipts by Rs. 136,139. Information furnished by the Russian company includes the following particulars of working during the two years ending December 31 (o.s.) :—

	1915.	1914.
Crude oil produced (poods)	3,447,600	3,384,300
Used for fuel (poods).....	1,106,300	942,100
Government royalty (poods) ...	936,520	976,880
Quantity belonging to co. (poods)	1,404,780	1,465,320
Average price realised (per pood)	42.44 kops	35.73 kops
No. of wells baled during year..	26	29
Wells producing at end of year	21	18
Wells under repair at end of year	7	6
Amount of boring during year..	88 sagenes	105 sagenes

The deep well (No. 11) did not maintain the large output which it at first yielded, and is now undergoing repair. The local management hopes, however, to bring this well again into production in about two months, and much depends upon the ultimate result, as many of the older wells appear to have suffered permanent deterioration as a result of stoppage during the protracted strike of 1914. The company has not felt justified in proceeding with the two new wells, Nos. 39a and 40, pending a settlement of the question of royalties, a reduction in which was recommended by a Government Commission more than six years ago. The prospecting license acquired over 99 acres of land on the Novo Aldi field to the south-east of Grozny expired in May last, but has since been extended. An extension has also been granted in respect of the prospecting licenses at Adji-Kabul, on the Shirvan Steppe. A contract has been made for the sale of the net disposable production for one year from December 1, 1915 (o.s.) at one-half kopeck above average market price, with a minimum of 35 kopecks per pood.

I am glad (says a correspondent of the *Egyptian Mail*) I have not to sit at an examination for the French commercial diploma, one of which has just been held in Alexandria. In the geography paper the candidates were asked to report upon the prospects of a trunk railway from Oran in Algeria to Alexandria via the north coast of Africa. They had further to discuss the advantages which would accrue to the railway from an extension to Tigris and Batum. The examiners had some sense of humour, however, for they asked the candidates to state what help Alexandria should provide

COMPANY NOTES.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, the week 12 tons (previous week 21 tons). Hurgada, 551 tons, against 562 tons.

Baku Russian Petroleum.—Week ended August 12, 79,200 poods.

Bibi Eibat.—Week to August 13, 61,000 poods.

European.—Week ended August 20, 88,200 poods.

International Russian Oilfields.—Production from well on plot No. 107 during four weeks ended August 19, 8,411 poods.

Maikop Pipeline and Transport.—Received for pumping week ended August 12, 70,308 poods. (Note.—Owing to mutilation in cable figures for week ending August 5 are not yet available.)

New Schibaieff.—Month of July, gross, 512,920 poods; net, 303,852 poods.

Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields.—Week ended August 12, 797 tons.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended August 12, 56,300 poods.

Ural Caspian.—Week ended August 17, 159,859 poods.

Oilfield News.

Maikop Orient.—By cable: "Plot 435a, well 3, drilled 63 ft.; depth, 1,023 ft. Well 1: Production for week, 200 poods."

Dividends, etc.

Nile Cold Storage Co.—An interim dividend of £1 sterling per share, payable in cash, has been declared on the shares of this company. Coupon No. 11 is payable on and after August 10, 1916, at the National Bank of Egypt in Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, or London.

Meeting.

Bibi Eibat Oil Company.—August 30, 1916, noon, River Plate House, E.C.

Sir M. Samuel's Correction.

Sir Marcus Samuel, chairman of the Shell Transport and Trading Company, having stated at the general meeting of that company that they had "succeeded in bringing about the solvency of the Schibaieff Company, in contrast to other efforts at reconstructing Russian oil companies in London," was asked by Mr. Herbert Allen for an assurance that his remarks did not apply to any of the four following companies:—Baku Russian Petroleum Company, Bibi-Eibat Oil Company, European Oilfields Corporation, Russian Petroleum Company—all of which came within the category of Russian oil companies reconstructed in London. Sir Marcus Samuel has now stated that he regrets that any words he may have used in his recent speech should have been thought to refer to the insolvency of the four companies mentioned above. The remarks were not intended to bear this interpretation, and consequently were not intended and do not cast such a reflection upon those companies.

Maikop Premier Oil Syndicate.

Mr. G. R. Bonnard presided at a series of meetings of holders of securities in the Maikop Premier Oil Syndicate, held on August 18, to consider a scheme of arrangement proposed to be made between the company and the various holders.

At the meeting of the debenture stockholders he explained that in respect of the debentures amounting in the aggregate to £406,989, issued or to be issued, in the capital of the company, the debenture-holders should in satisfaction of those debentures receive exactly half of the nominal amount in debentures, which would be created in the suggested new company, and a number of shares, aggregating 40,989, of 10s. each, fully paid, out of the total capital of £150,000 divided into 300,000 shares of 10s. each. In regard to interest accrued on the debentures amounting to £4,864, it was stipulated that the claims of the debenture-holders for that interest should be satisfied by receiving £2,432 in debentures in the new company and 4,864 shares of 10s. each in the new company, credited fully paid.

Mr. Cutliffe considered the terms far too drastic so far as related to the debenture-holders. Did they choose, the debenture-holders could take the whole of the property. Why, therefore, should their interest be cut down to the extent of 50 per cent? Moreover, the new debentures were not convertible into shares—such conversion would be a valuable right if the new company proved a success.

The Chairman said their critic claimed that the debenture-holders could themselves carry along the business, but if they elected to do so a considerable amount of new money would have to be found by them for working capital. Further, they would have in front of them gross royalties of 20 per cent. in one case and 5 per cent. in the other. If the concern was successful half their interest would be in debentures and half in shares of the new company. The shares, if the company turned out well, would produce an income greater than the debentures. Under the scheme, the total 20 per cent. royalties was to be placed behind the new debentures, whilst the people who were taking up shares in the company in the place of their royalties were also putting up a considerable amount in cash to enable the properties to be developed. He believed that the provision of capital under the scheme would give the company an excellent opportunity to achieve success. The resolutions carrying the scheme were adopted.

At meetings of the holders of the 5 per cent. and 20 per cent. royalties, and of the creditors and holders of shares in the company the arrangement was agreed to.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Roumanian Government has prohibited the export of oats and barley of the new harvest.

The Kom Ombo Hotel, which was destroyed by fire in May, 1915, is being rebuilt and will be completed this year.

Authorities in South Africa estimate that in five years it will be possible to export a million boxes of oranges each season.

A Post Office for ordinary and registered correspondence, ordinary and cash-on-delivery parcels not exceeding three kilos in weight and ordinary money orders has been opened at El Fasher, Sudan.

The Hungarian military authorities have requisitioned the whole of the grain and grain products in the country remaining from last harvest. The Decree even covers supplies in private households if these are in excess of their needs.

"If you go to any of the establishments under liquidation in Alexandria you will find that all good and useful stuffs have been sold, and that what remains consists mostly of articles of luxury and a variety of unnecessary things."—The *Bassir*.

In addition to Jeddah and Mecca, says a Cairo message, telegraphic communication has now been established with Taif, via Wadi Halfa and Suakin. Taif, one of the most ancient cities of Arabia, is in the Hedjaz, about sixty-five miles south-east of Mecca.

According to information from Bucharest, a contract has been placed with the German Stahlwerksverband by the Roumanian Railways for the delivery of 25,000 to 30,000 tons of railway rails, intended for the construction of a new line from Crajova to Bucharest.

The British Imperial Council of Commerce, which convened the business conference held in June last of representatives of British Chambers of Commerce throughout the Empire, has now issued a full report of the proceedings, containing the speeches and the resolutions adopted.

It has been notified that on account of the restrictions placed upon the import of unmanufactured cotton into Egypt, no cotton from the Sudan can be transported by the Nile route via Halfa. Import of Sudan cotton into Egypt will still be allowed under the conditions laid down previously.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Street,
London, E.C.

During the past week business has practically been at a standstill, a period of general inactivity apparently having set in. This is to be attributed to the holiday spirit; habits are so hard to kill, and mere Orders-in-Council will not make jaded men work.

Some business has been done, however. As to Egypt, at the moment the country is between the seasons, and all interest is concentrated upon cotton and upon the rise of the Nile. Up to the time of writing, all the news regarding the Nile flood and the cotton crop may be regarded as satisfactory. Still, cultivators are not yet out of the wood, for a full month has yet to run before it can be said for certain that all fear of the pink boll worm has passed away. At the same time, the indications are pretty satisfactory, and confidence in the future is as strong as ever it was.

As to shares, a small business has been done in National Bank of Egypts, and the shares are still in demand at 12½. There is very little to report in Agriculturals, which have had a pretty lifeless market. A few trifling transactions have been negotiated in the neighbourhood of 4¾. A fairly steady demand has been maintained for Delta Light Railway preference shares, offers ranging at about 5⅛; but holders show absolutely no inclination to part with their scrip, and, as a result, no business in these lines has been put through, notwithstanding the keenness of buyers.

Khedivial Mail shares have not moved, and continue a hard market at 26s. There has been some activity in regard to Delta Lands, some few shares in which have changed hands in the neighbourhood of 7s. 3d.

There has been a continuing demand for Greek securities. Some Rentes have been done at 44. Current bonds are also in good demand, but sellers are scarce, and only a few numbers have been obtainable at the higher price of 90.

Oil Shares.

The market for oil shares has been inactive most of the week, but on Wednesday Lobitos came on very strongly, rising by 1s. 6d. to 37s. 9d. For the rest, Shell Transports were quiet, but there was no falling off in value, and there has been very little to do in Russian lines. Spies touched 13s. 6d. and North Caucasians 25s. 6d., while Ural Caspians were sold at 33s. 6d. and 33s. 9d.

BULGARIA'S NATIONAL DEBT.

The *Narod* (Sofia) wrote on July 21:—"The most noteworthy fact in the discussion of the Budget is the general conviction that our national debt will reach the total of 3,000,000,000 frs. (£120,000,000) by the end of this year. That is a sum not to be thought of lightly by anybody."

MESSRS. RALLI BROS.

Indignation is growing in business circles here at the action of the Home Government in empowering Messrs. Ralli Brothers to purchase all the jute for the war orders placed in Dundee (cabled the special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* in Calcutta on August 22).

The papers point out that Messrs Ralli Brothers are a Greek firm, and their appointment might act detrimentally to British firms here. A meeting of jute shippers held to-day strongly protested against the appointment, and demanded the cancellation of the agreement.

THE SUDAN TIMES.
PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK
IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.
For Advertisement Rates, etc., address—
THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES,
KHARTOUM.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price. July 27.	Price Aug. 18.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4% 1909	99	82	78
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	62½	62½
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	71⅜	71⅜
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	81	81
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	71	71
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	67	67
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	57	57
Do. 5 %, 1894	56	56	56
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	50	50½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	53	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50½	50½
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	68	68
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	76½	77
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	55	55
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	77½	77½
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	xd	xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	85	85
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	77½	78
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	52	52
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	37½	37½
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	4¾	4¾
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	6⅛	6⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	69	69
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	71	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11¾	11¾
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	2	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	6⅞	6⅞
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6¾	6¾
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	75/-	75/-
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5⅛	5⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	12½	12⅝
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	5	5⅛
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5⅛	5⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	88½	88⅝
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅝	10	10
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	11½	11½
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	59⅝	59⅝
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	55	55
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10⅞	10⅞
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	55xd	55xd
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅞	15/-	15/-
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	92	91
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	¼	¼
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛
Do. Do. Def.	—	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	6⅜	6⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	9/3	9/3
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	87½	87½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	¼	¼
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	⅛	⅛
" " Founders	¼	¼	¼
Land & Morigage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	96	96
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	7⅞	7⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	77	77
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	9/1½	9/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	¼	¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	⅛	⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11⅜	11⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginnerr, Egypt.	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	25/-	25 4½
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99⅜	95	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	18/3	18/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	26/-	26/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3¼	3¼
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	89	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	1½	1½

OIL.	Price on Aug. 16.	Aug. 23.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	6/9	6/9
Anglo-Persian	21/3	21/6
European Oilfields	3/9	3/6
Roumanian	14/9	14/9

PARIS BOURSE.

	Aug. 16.	Aug. 23.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4750	4885
Credit Foncier Egyptien	632	635
Turkish Unified 4%	64.25	64
Egyptian Unified 4%	90.15	90.15
Serbian, 1895	60.90	61

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Cote du 1 Août, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt	12⅜	to	—
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs. 93	,,	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£ 11⅞	,,	11⅝
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. 5⅜	,,	5½
priv.	L.E. 3⅜	,,	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs. 124½	,,	125
Bons de Panama	Frs. 92	,,	93
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs. 62	,,	—
Privilégiée	Frs. 95	,,	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs. 75	,,	—
Urbaines et Rurales	£ 2	,,	—
Comptoir Financier et Commercial d'Égypte	£ ⅞	,,	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£ 1⅛	,,	1⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. ½	,,	⅝
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4⅛	,,	—
Bonded Warehouse	L.E. 4⅛	,,	—
Unifiée	L.E. 82½	,,	—
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 5	,,	—
Fondateur	£ 23	,,	—
Pressage et dépôts	£ 28½	,,	—
Nungovich Hotels	£ 2⅛	,,	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£ 4⅞	,,	4½
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£ 3⅜	,,	—
Ord.	19/-	,,	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£ 3⅞	,,	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railway	£ 5⅛	,,	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£ 104	,,	—
Jouissance	£ 155	,,	—
Egyptian Markets	23/9	,,	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs. 210	,,	—
Div.	Frs. 140	,,	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs. 125	,,	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	18/-	,,	18/1½
Crédit Foncier d'Egypte	Frs. 587	,,	—
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs. 304	,,	—
,, 1903 ,,	Frs. 245½	,,	—
,, 1911 ,,	Frs. 253½	,,	254
Delta Land	⅞	,,	—
Port Said Salt	337/-	,,	—
Cotton Ginners	1/32	,,	—
New Egyptian	8/5	,,	—
United Lands	P.T. 4	,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.	24/6	,,	—
Fondateur	95/-	,,	—

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the days mentioned:—

	1915. Francs.	1916. Francs.
August 16	140,000	190,000
August 18 and 19	730,000	430,000
August 20 and 21	600,000	430,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended Aug. 19.	1916. Week ended Aug. 17.
Cattle markets	269	413
General markets	238	336
Cattle markets closed	31	2
Receipts (£)	507	749
Total from commencement of year (£)	32,763	33,838

LARAICHE HARBOUR.

A recent issue of the *Boletin Oficial* of the Spanish zone of Morocco contains a *dahir*, countersigned by the Spanish High Commissioner, approving and ordering effect to be given to an agreement regarding the harbour works at Laraiche, arrived at with the German company that had the work in hand. The effect of this agreement is to cancel the contract entered into with the company in 1910, and to take over on behalf of the Spanish Government the works already executed.

In this connection the British Vice-Consul at Laraiche (Mr. E. H. Mulock) reports that the Spanish Government hoped to be in possession of these works, including all the plant and material, by August 1, when the completion of the works would be entrusted to the Public Works Department. Amongst the works will be the dredging of the bar and river, which is an urgent necessity in view of the fact that the dredger has lain idle since December last. Later, it is proposed to construct an embankment carrying a road from the Customs quays to the rocks on the south side of the river mouth, and from the latter point to build a breakwater.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.
Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.
GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc, Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 278.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

This week there are again stirring events to record—events which, though not unforeseen, are none the less welcome to the Allies, and which cannot fail to exert a marked influence on developments, especially in the Near East. That influence has indeed already made itself felt throughout the Balkans, in which direction the eyes of the world are once more turned. Italy, compelled by the logic of facts and by the force of Italian public opinion, outraged by countless provocations, has, through the Swiss Government, declared that she "considers herself to be in a state of war with Germany as from August 28;" and Roumania has definitely ranged herself upon the side of the Allies, thus justifying the gloomiest forebodings of Germany and Austria-Hungary. Both in Italy and in Roumania the taking of the momentous step has given rise to demonstrations of popular enthusiasm, while in the Allied countries the news has been received with very natural satisfaction.

Englishmen have not forgotten, and are not likely to forget, that Italy threw in her lot with theirs at a time when all was not going well with the Allies, and they recognise that she has now struck another blow on behalf of right and freedom, thereby acting up to her best traditions. But they have long felt that the step she has taken was inevitable. In regard to Roumania the case was different, so far at least as the general public was concerned. Roumania's attitude has for some time been a puzzle to most Englishmen, and her co-operation has therefore been all the more warmly welcomed. Now that it has become possible to indicate the considerations that have forced her to follow a policy of seeming inactivity for the past twelve months, it is realised that she has had an exceptionally difficult part to play; and past doubts and misunderstandings lend added enthusiasm to the welcome accorded to her as a new partner in the Grand Alliance.

It was at a Crown Council held at Bucharest on Sunday that Roumania's final decision was reached, and early in the evening the Roumanian Minister in Vienna informed the Austrian Government that his country would consider herself in a state of war with Austria-Hungary from nine o'clock. Fighting actually began the same night, the Roumanian forces on the frontier surprising the Austro-Hungarians in some of the passes of the Transylvanian Alps and gaining initial successes. On Monday Germany declared war on Roumania. The junior partners of the Quadruple Alliance displayed less alacrity to go to the assistance of Austria against her fresh and vigorous opponent. Turkey, however, took the plunge on Wednesday, presumably at Germany's bidding; and it is momentarily expected that Bulgaria will follow suit.

M. Bratiano and his colleagues must indeed have had an anxious time during the past year, and their task of steering the Roumanian ship of State through the shoals cannot have been rendered any the more easy or pleasant by the ill-instructed criticism to which they were almost incessantly subjected from one quarter or another. The greater part of that criticism might certainly have been spared; for many months past there has been practically no room for doubt regarding the course that Roumania would follow. In the earlier stages of the war it was not unnatural that all the smaller States should deem the policy of "wait and see" the wisest one to pursue. Serbia and Montenegro were, of course, unable to follow it; Bulgaria did not follow it long enough; Greece followed it too long; Roumania, in fact, ceased to follow it some time ago, but was forced to seem to follow it still. In the first months of the war, it must be remembered, the waiting little countries were frankly influenced by fear of the Germans, a fear which was enhanced by a very liberal display of "frightfulness." They believed that the Central Powers would probably win; and in any case they desired to keep outside the maelstrom as long as possible.

In the case of Roumania, there were further reasons against taking action, especially against Austria-Hungary. Apart from King Carol's personal influence, there was the fact that—as a result of his policy—she was ill equipped with mountain artillery suitable for use in the Carpathians, and that her military preparations had all been designed to protect her against attack from other directions, leaving her western frontier much exposed. Moreover, it is now an open secret that her supplies of ammunition were utterly inadequate to meet the demands of a war waged on such a scale as that of to-day. Thus, while she had an army of which she was entitled to be proud, she laboured under serious disabilities in these and certain other respects. Those disabilities have now been removed, as the result of steady, patient work; she is free to strike for the realisation of her national ideal at last; and she has already made a highly satisfactory beginning.

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Thus far there has been no fighting on a large scale, but the Roumanians have driven in the enemy outposts over a wide front, and have obtained a footing on Hungarian soil, having penetrated at some points to a distance of twenty miles. The first official *communiqué* issued in Bucharest is extremely modest, but from Austrian reports it is safe to infer that our new Ally is in occupation of Petrosheni and Kronstadt, and possibly of Kezdi Vasarhely. Their advance is apparently proceeding all along the Carpathians, and the enemy is, to quote his own words, withdrawing "step by step, and in accordance with our plans, as had been provided for since a long time ago in case war broke out." On the Danube there have been several exchanges of shots, but no results of importance have been achieved. The enemy lost no time in giving Bucharest an illustration of "frightfulness." On Monday night a Zeppelin and an aeroplane dropped several bombs on the city, and Baltchik and one or two other places received similar attentions. Fortunately, no damage was caused by any of these attacks, and at Bucharest the raiders were driven off by artillery fire.

General Lechitsky's troops have scored another success in the Carpathians, in the capture of Mount Pantyr, a peak north-west of the Jablonitza Pass, the entrance to which on the Galician side is also held by them. The Russians are now astride the Carpathians for a distance of nearly thirty miles, and have a comparatively short distance to go before they dominate the ridge east to Roumania. In the meantime, they are reported to be moving troops into Roumania, obviously for the purpose of an attack upon Bulgaria; but for the present it is better not to attempt any forecast of the steps they are likely to take in this direction.

In regard to the operations of the Bulgarians and of General Sarrail's force little can be said. The Bulgars continue to make desperate assaults on the Serbians in the neighbourhood of Ostrovo, but without success. At Kavalla the situation is somewhat obscure. The Greeks appear to have handed over all the forts save one to the Bulgars, who promptly occupied them, in spite of the German promises given to Greece that no such step should be taken. The one fort left unoccupied owes its immunity to the intervention of the senior naval officer of the Allied patrol, who notified the Greek Commandant that if it were handed over to the enemy he would have to hold up the coast traffic. As a result of the seizure of the forts, Kavalla was last Friday exposed to a brief bombardment by a small British squadron, which is reported to have made excellent practice. The Bulgarians did not reply, contenting themselves with an aerial attack upon the ships in the harbour.

The situation in Greece is still very unsatisfactory. As might have been expected, the action of Roumania has caused a great commotion amongst the Greek people, who are showing symptoms of an anxiety to range themselves upon the side of the Allies and of a dawning understanding that Greece may have missed her opportunity already. That the national spirit is not quite dead, in spite of all the German and pro-German efforts, is shown by the resistance offered to the Bulgarian advance at certain points, referred to last week; and by the assembly on Sunday of a crowd, estimated to number upwards of 50,000, outside M. Venizelos' house, to protest against the Bulgarian invasion. This assembly—described as "the most imposing political meeting held in Greece since the Greek kingdom came into existence"—was addressed at some length, and with his customary eloquence and frankness, by M. Venizelos, who was accorded a most enthusiastic reception. He advised that a deputation should present itself to King Constantine and submit to him a resolution which would enlighten him on the true facts of the situation. His Majesty, said M. Venizelos, had become the victim of military counsellors with but a meagre knowledge of the situation and with tendencies towards despotism; he was also the victim of his own admiration for Germany and of his ambition to concentrate power in his own hands.

The state of affairs existing in Greece to-day, the handing over of Greek fortresses to the Bulgarians, and the danger threatening Northern Epirus, were all ascribed by M. Venizelos to the causes just enumerated; and the people should demand that the King be removed from the influence of vile flatterers. It should recommend the King, with its aid, to arouse the national feeling and to call into being an army capable of defending the vital interests of the country. As to the elections, M. Venizelos declared that it was necessary to hold them in order to create an Assembly truly representative of the nation. Co-operation between political parties had been rendered most difficult; but the Zaimis Cabinet had become a national necessity, and the Liberal Party was ready to extend its confidence to that Ministry so that it could be considered a political Cabinet on which the Entente could rely for very benevolent neutrality.

M. Venizelos' speech was received with boundless enthusiasm, and a representative committee was afterwards appointed to present to King Constantine a resolution of the character suggested. Unfortunately, his Majesty, who has lately been troubled by inflammation of the wound left as the result of his last operation, found himself unable to receive this deputation, though he promised to do so at an early date. It is possible, however, that he will have been acquainted with what M. Venizelos said and the way in which his suggestions were received; and in that case he will hardly have failed to take note of M. Venizelos' remark to the effect that, if the people's voice were not heard, they "must consider what could be done to mitigate the threatening catastrophe." In the meantime, Greece is to be congratulated on the fact that General Dousmanis, Chief of the General Staff, and Colonel Metaxas, his chief assistant, have been relieved of their posts. Both these officers are notoriously pro-German in their sympathies, and both have been active in opposing the interests of the Entente and forwarding those of the enemy. General Mosdhopoulos, who replaces General Dousmanis, and who was formerly in command of the Greek forces at Salonika, is well-disposed towards the Entente. But it is to be feared that his appointment was made only in the hope of forestalling demands for wider reforms of the General Staff on the part of the Entente, and that he will be unable to effect any radical change until he has the full support of a truly constitutional Government.

Such a situation lends itself readily to the spread of sensational reports, and these have been forthcoming in abundance. Yesterday, for instance, a rumour reached London from Athens to the effect that King Constantine had fled from his capital and taken refuge with a guard of Uhlans who had been waiting for him at Larissa. It is, however, contradicted by an Athens message stating that his Majesty conferred with his Minister of War and members of the General Staff at Tatoi, after he was supposed to have fled; and it would be wise to attach little credence to any reports of this character at the present time. On the other hand, there is evidence that the crisis has become more acute. M. Zaimis is reported to have tendered his resignation, and it has been decided that the elections will take place on October 8.

A statement issued by the War Office announces that the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief in Egypt reports that on Tuesday an enemy reconnoitring party, mounted on camels and numbering about one hundred, attempted to approach Bir-el-Bayud, a small oasis some fifty miles east of the Suez Canal, and not far from the northern caravan route. The skirmishers were driven off by our patrols and pursued for a distance of six miles. Apart from this incident, there is nothing of importance to chronicle regarding Egypt; and it would seem that the opinion expressed recently by General Sir Archibald Murray, "that the Turkish attacks on the Canal are at an end, or at any rate have been checked for a considerable time," is likely to be borne out by events. The War Committee has, through the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, telegraphed to General Murray an expression of their

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satisfaction at the complete success of the recent operations against the Turks, and their high appreciation of his efforts and those of his troops "in particularly trying climatic conditions."

In the Caucasus and on the Turco-Persian frontier the tide has set steadily and strongly in favour of our Allies. Having been driven out of Mush, the Turks are reported to have abandoned Bitlis also, and the Russians are now so close to that city that in all probability it will be in their possession by the time these lines appear in print. Be that as it may, the Turks are falling back constantly before General Yudenitch's forces, and all their attempts to stem the tide of defeat have so far failed. At Oghnat, some forty miles north-west of Mush, an attack which they made on Tuesday was repulsed with heavy loss, and similar attacks at other points have likewise broken down, with, in nearly all cases, the loss of numerous officers and men. The report which reached us as we went to press last week is now shown to have been inaccurate in one particular: it was the 4th Turkish Division, not "four Turkish divisions," over which the Russians gained their brilliant victory. But it is confirmed that 2,300 Turks were captured, the 11th Regiment surrendering with all its officers, and the remnant of the 10th Regiment, with two staff officers, following suit.

This surrender took place at Rayat, a point near the Turco-Persian frontier, almost due east of Mosul, and by their victory our Allies seriously threatened communications between the Turkish forces still operating in Persia and those in Armenia. They have since pursued the Turks to Neri, pressing them so close and so hard that they have been throwing away their arms and munitions; while further north the enemy has been forced to withdraw to a position on the heights near the Bitlis Pass. Thus, a situation which, it may now be admitted, at one time looked distinctly unpleasant has developed satisfactorily, and the danger threatening Erzeroum has been removed. Confronted by the new enemy in the Balkans, Turkey will be unable to send further reinforcements to her eastern front, and her resistance there may, therefore, be expected to collapse entirely in the near future.

The Grand Shereef of Mecca has addressed to Moslems throughout the world a dignified proclamation stating his reasons for repudiating Turkish rule and taking steps to free Islam and its Holy Places from the fatal influence of the gang of adventurers who have usurped all authority in Constantinople. He sets forth how "ruin has overtaken the State," how "its possessions have been torn from it, and its place in the world has been lost" since the Committee of Union and Progress seized the reins of government; how he hesitated to take action until "it was open to all men to see that the rulers of Turkey were Enver Pasha, Jemal Pasha, and Talaat Bey, who were doing whatsoever they pleased;" and how these men and their assistants have affronted Islam, hanged Moslems, desecrated tombs held in peculiar veneration by all good Moslems, and actually bombarded the *Beit Allah* itself. The document is not only a damning indictment of these self-appointed leaders of the Moslem world; it unmasks also the attempt to Turkicize the Arabs, to which reference is made elsewhere in these pages; and shows that if only the Arabs will be for once united and true to themselves they have it in their power to throw off the yoke of their "Turanian" conquerors. "We have," says the Grand Shereef, "attained independence from the rest of the Ottoman Empire. . . . Our independence is complete and absolute, and will not be affected by any foreign influence or aggression. We fortify ourselves on our noble religion, which is our only guide." For their own sake, it is to be hoped that Moslems the world over will recognise the ring of truth in these declarations, and refuse hereafter to be misled by the specious talk of paid emissaries of "Young Turks," who are themselves nothing but bought tools of the Potsdam Mountebank, "Hajji" Willhelm.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 10.

War Anniversary Patriotic Meetings.

On Friday last, the second anniversary of the declaration of war, patriotic meetings of the British community were held in Cairo, Alexandria, and Port Said, whilst special services were conducted in the churches. The meeting in Cairo was held at the Anzac Hostel, which was crowded with members of the colony and with a good sprinkling of khaki. The chair was taken by Mr. W. E. Kingsford, the president of the Cairo Committee of the British Chamber of Commerce, who made an introductory speech explaining the purpose of the meeting. He was followed by Lord Edward Cecil, who proposed the resolution in an eloquent speech, and by Mr. A. H. Hooker, to whom, as the oldest British resident present in Cairo, fell the honour of seconding it. A concert followed the passing of the resolution.

In Alexandria the meeting was held at the Savoy Palace Hotel, where Mr. and Mrs. Harry Barker entertained the colony to tea. Mr. D. A. Cameron, the Consul-General, was in the chair, and he and Sir Ronald Graham and Sir Alexander Baird, who followed him, made most eloquent and stirring speeches in support of the resolution. The latter was proposed by Mr. Harry Barker and seconded by Mr. Percy Carver, and the meeting was brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the chairman moved by Mr. Harry Farnall in one of his usual elegant speeches. At Port Said, the meeting took place at the Casino, where Mr. A. Tweedie took the chair and Lord Radstock and the Rev. Thom were amongst those who spoke in support.

The resolution, which was identical at all three meetings, was worded as follows:—"That, on this second anniversary of a righteous war, this meeting of the British community records its inflexible determination to continue to a victorious end the struggle in maintenance of those ideals of liberty and justice which are the common and sacred cause of the Allies."

French Tribute to British Heroes.

The same afternoon there took place out at the British Military Cemetery at Alexandria a touching and significant little ceremony, when, on behalf of the French community, a deputation of French residents, headed by M. Bonzon, the Consul-General, placed wreaths on the graves of British soldiers buried there. With M. Bonzon were the Deputés de la Nation and prominent residents, some of whom had taken part in the 1870 campaign. The deputation was received by the G.O.C. Alexandria district and his staff, Lieut.-Colonel Watson (representing H.E. the High Commissioner) and Judge Halton. Stirring speeches in English were delivered by M. Bonzon and the General, and the simple ceremony then came to an end. The British colony has been deeply touched by this delicate and spontaneous tribute, which was typically Gallic; and this expression of sympathy and admiration will serve further to cement the bond that now unites the two nations through their colonies in Egypt.

The Exhibition of Egyptian Industries.

On Saturday the Exhibition of Egyptian Industries was opened to the public at the Jardin Rosette, Alexandria. The inaugural ceremony was performed by H.H. the Sultan, who was accompanied by the Sultania Princes, the Advisers, and the various Governors and Provincial Mudirs. He was received by H.E. Ismail Sidky Pasha, President of the Commission of Industry and Commerce, under the auspices of which the exhibition is being held; Mr. Sidney Wells, the Vice-President and organiser of the show; and the other members of the Commission. His Highness made a complete tour of the exhibits, and expressed himself as highly delighted with what he saw, especially with the native Mandara (saloon), which was furnished entirely with articles of Egyptian manufacture and production, and which was got together at the suggestion of Mr. Ronald Storrs, the Oriental Secretary to the Residency, who has persistently encouraged the idea of the develop-

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ment of purely Egyptian industries, and who, next to the Sultan, is perhaps the greatest believer in the country in the future lying ahead of them if they are developed along the right lines. The Sultan made several purchases, amongst the articles being thirty pieces of Arabesque furniture for the Palace, some wicker baskets, and a carpet. After his departure the High Commissioner and Lady McMahon visited the exhibition, which since its opening to the public has attracted a steady stream of visitors, Egyptian as well as European. It is generally agreed that the enterprise of the Commission of Industry and Commerce is meeting with the success which it fully deserves, and that it should attain its object, which is to show local buyers what Egyptian industry is producing and in what direction developments could usefully be made. Considerations of space prevent any details of the exhibits being given in this letter.

Enemy Property in Egypt.

On Monday a very important proclamation was issued by General Sir Archibald Murray, extending and completing the measures already provided for dealing with enemy property in Egypt. The proclamation calls for a declaration of all property, real or personal, belonging to enemy persons, and creates the post of Public Custodian, who will deal with all enemy assets and property under instructions from the licensing officer. Fuller powers are conferred on the liquidators and controllers appointed to manage enemy property, and the licensing officer has power on the completion of any liquidation to order all remaining assets to be paid to or vested in the Public Custodian, and may even instruct the latter to take over from a liquidator and continue the liquidation himself. It is to be noted that the term "enemy persons," who are to make the above-mentioned declaration, is defined by the proclamation as including:—(*a*) Persons of Austro-Hungarian, Bulgarian or German nationality who at the outbreak of war resided or were carrying on business in Egypt, with the exception of persons continuing to reside freely in the country, persons carrying on business under licence, and persons whose business is being liquidated by order of the G.O.C. in C.—these exceptions not extending to cover the private property of individual partners or shareholders in such businesses who are not residing freely in Egypt; (*b*) persons resident or carrying on business in enemy territory; (*c*) persons with whom trading is, or may be, prohibited by proclamation. Two notices published with this proclamation decree, first, the appointment of Mr. B. Hornsby, Accountant-General of the National Bank of Egypt, as Public Custodian of Enemy Property in Egypt; and, secondly, that the declarations called for must be sent in to him within thirty days.

Everyone will welcome the promulgation of this proclamation, for it meets in every way the demand that adequate steps should be taken to obtain complete control of all enemy property of every description in the country, and, in addition, makes provision, as far as it is possible to do, for dealing with those people who, under one guise or another, have endeavoured to circumvent the restrictions imposed by the Allies, and to favour the interests of their enemies. This measure should have been introduced much earlier in the war, it is true, but conditions in Egypt are very different from those existing in other countries, and the authorities have only just succeeded in overcoming some of the obstacles which stood in the way of this complete control.

The Katia Victory.

The victory in the Sinai has come as a very welcome relief to all of us, for we have felt that the time had long come when steps should be taken seriously to stop the activities of the Turks in the Peninsula and their air-raids on the Canal stations. We had been led to conjecture that something out of the way was in the wind by the request made by the military authorities to the vernacular Press to send permanent representatives to the Canal zone, and by the sudden succession of *communiqués*, which, after a silence of about three months, made their appearance from the middle of July onwards, and informed us that the position in the Katia district was unchanged, but that we were keeping in contact with the enemy.

Everything points to the whole affair having been managed from start to finish in an admirable manner, and the Turks evidently walked blindly into the elaborate trap that had been prepared for them. Why they should have attacked at this particular point, and have left really strong positions for the purpose, is somewhat of a mystery. It seems highly probable that they and their German taskmasters were under the impression that the Katia district was still our weak point, and that there was a very fair chance of their being able to repeat their effort of Easter Monday last. One has a shrewd suspicion that, if it liked, our excellent Intelligence could tell its own tale of the reason the Turks were tempted to attack at what proved to be our strongest position. Be that as it may, however, all credit is due to those who carried out and participated in the affair, which in many respects is a greater victory than the battle of Serapeum and Kantara in February, 1915, and which is bound to have an excellent moral effect throughout the East, especially in Arabistan. In this respect the victory has indeed come most opportunely.

The Turkish Prisoners in Cairo.

The Turkish prisoners have all been brought up to Cairo, and during the past three days they have marched through the city to Kasr-el-Nil Barracks en route for the war prisoners' camp at Maadi. They are a heterogeneous lot, consisting in the main of Anatolians, with a sprinkling of Albanians, Greeks, Armenians, and Syrian Arabs, the latter chiefly Moslem, from Damascus, Aleppo, Palestine, Latakia, etc. For the most part they appear quite contented with their lot, many of them declaring that they all along expected to be well treated if captured by the British. Crowds of Egyptians watched their progress through the streets, and the sight of them seemed to deepen the impression which the news of the victory had had on the masses. It is rather a pity that the twenty-two Germans captured were not made to join in the procession with their machine guns. That would have constituted the final touch, and would have carried conviction to—against their wills, no doubt—and at any rate have discredited those who maintain that our report of a victory is all bluff, and that the men who have been convoyed through the streets of Cairo during the past few days are really not prisoners made as a result of the defeat of the Turks, but are either refugees or men brought up by us from the desert or from the western frontier to complete the deception which we desire to practise on the Egyptians and the Orient in general!

August 18.

The Death of the Sultana-Mother.

It is my sad duty to record the death of the Sultana-Mother, which occurred at Mamura Palace on Tuesday morning. The body was brought up to Cairo by special train, in which the Sultania Princes and the Prime Minister also travelled, and a State funeral was held here on Wednesday. The cortège started from the station and passed through the city along densely crowded streets to the Sultania burial-ground behind the citadel, where the final ceremony was quietly performed. The chief mourners were Prince Kamel-ed-Dine, the Sultan's son, Princes Ahmed Fuad and Mahmud Hamdi, his brothers, and Prince Daoud, his son-in-law, and behind the bier walked Sir Milne Cheetham, representing the High Commissioner, the Prime Minister, the Ministers, Lord Edward Cecil, the Grand Mufti, and a throng of Egyptian and foreign notables. The funeral was a most imposing spectacle, and the formalities were remarkable throughout for their simplicity. On the day of the funeral the Government offices were closed, but the Sultan has ordered that the Court is not to go into mourning. The Sultana-Mother, who was a very aged lady, and was the second wife and last surviving widow of the late Khedive Ismail, had been ailing in health for some months, and universal sympathy is felt for his Highness, whose deep affection for his mother was well known to everyone, and who never let a day pass without paying her at least one visit.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, July 15
(Delayed in transmission).

From Roumania's Frontiers.

The Bulgarians manifestly entertain increasing apprehension with regard to any changes which might supervene in Roumanian foreign policy. The direction which a military action on the part of this country might take remains perhaps a matter of uncertainty to the Bulgars; but beyond Roumania they see Bessarabia, where a large Russian army has been marking time for many months, and this force's *raison d'être* is no longer a matter of conjecture to anyone. The Bulgarian leaders must be full of grave foreboding at the prospect of having to face a simultaneous attack from north and south, in which the initial contact at least would probably be with Russian troops. We need not wonder at their panic-stricken cry for help; for it would be of paramount importance to the Bulgars that the attacking forces should, in the first instance, at any rate, be met by German troops. To the request that at least four divisions should be sent to their support, the Huns are said to have replied by sending two brigades, one to the Macedonian front, the other to the Dobruja. But according to another version 30,000 German troops arrived at Rustchuk.

The Bulgarian frontier has long been closed to Roumanian travellers. The Roumanian Government has been obliged to retaliate; so that access to Roumanian territory is no longer open to Bulgarian subjects. These reprisals must be a source of considerable inconvenience to the Bulgarian Legation, members of which were wont to cross the frontier almost daily. Orders have since been telegraphed to the frontier points to suspend immediately all traffic with Bulgaria. Precautions have at the same time been taken to move all the Roumanian barges on the Danube down-river beyond Oltenitza and Turtucaia, where both banks are Roumanian.

Bulgarian Provocation.

Bulgarian troops have recently attempted on two occasions to make incursions into Roumanian territory. At the point known as Flamânda, near Giurgiu, there is stationed a picket of frontier guards, and Bulgarian troops occupy a corresponding point on the opposite bank. Between the two is a small island, standing in Roumanian waters, which conceals a portion of the bank from the prying gaze of the Bulgarian military. On two consecutive nights boats carrying Bulgarian soldiers, no doubt bent on espionage, have approached the island of Korea, but being discovered by the Roumanian guards were beaten off by their rifle fire. There are no casualties on the Roumanian side. It is difficult to reconcile these acts of provocation with M. Radoslavoff's assurances to the effect that the Bulgarian people are imbued with a desire to live on terms of perfect harmony with their northern neighbour.

Enormous numbers of trains are reported to be travelling from Russia towards the Bukovina, where the Russians are displaying great activity in alleviating the distress of the local populations. With this end in view the Russian Government is said to have purchased a large amount of wheat from the British Bureau.

Tsar Reviews Serbian Troops.

We hear from Galatz that the localities of Bolgrad and Kantal are occupied by two brigades of Serbian troops recently arrived from Odessa. Before their departure from the latter city they were reviewed by the Tsar, who presented them with their colours. In the course of an address he promised them that they would be the first troops to pass into Bulgaria.

A fire broke out a short while ago in the Austrian town of Itzkaru, situated on the Moldavian frontier, destroying the station as well as a number of warehouses stocked with cereals. This must prove a heavy loss to the Austrians, who, if not on the verge of starvation, yet have to submit to serious restrictions with respect to diet. The price of meat has now reached eleven crowns the kilogramme, and it is significant that the Ministry for Agriculture has issued instructions to schoolmasters recommending them to encourage the slaughter of sparrows among their pupils, "this game constituting a highly recommendable article of diet."

Hopeful Signs.

There is no doubt that up to quite recently the Roumanian Government was regarded with a measure of distrust by the Entente Powers. The fact that the great bulk of the people have been steadfastly favourable to the Allies could only be expected to modify this attitude partly. The view, however, that a change for the better has taken place in Roumania's relations with the Allied Governments has been steadily gaining ground since the first train arrived from Archangel on July 16 laden with munitions, aeroplanes, and machine guns. (The arrival of two further trains has since been announced by the papers.) This view is further supported by the evident preoccupation of the German, Austrian, Hungarian, and Bulgarian Press with regard to Roumania's attitude and their unveiled threats, the coarseness of which has created a feeling of hostile resentment in this country.

Politics at Jassy.

The fusion of the Conservative and Conservative-Democrat parties at Jassy has been accomplished—a fact which is not without weight in view of the political importance of the centre. The members of the Conservative-Democrat Club united under the presidency of M. Canano, and then called *in corpore* at the headquarters of the Conservative Club, where they were received by M. Dem. Greceano, who was proclaimed president of the united clubs.

The Weather.

For several years past I have heard Roumanians complain that the winters of bygone years are no more—winters of clear, crisp cold, with plenty of snow, and the thermometer registering anything between 20 deg. and 30 deg. Centigrade below zero. Hunters will tell you that the wine served between drives, poured, boiling, into a mug, would be cold before it reached the lips, and that the crows, killed by the cold, would fall with dismal thuds from the branches. Whatever may be the matter with modern winters, there are few complaints that the present summer does not represent the genuine article, for we are having hot weather such as few people can remember here. One day in June the mercury rose to 41 deg. C. in the shade, which is 106 deg. Fahr. A number of well-known people created an innovation by entering Capsha's in shirt-sleeves, their appearance being greeted with applause. No blame to them for disregarding the conventional, for during nearly forty years—indeed, ever since there has been a meteorological institute in the country—there has been no such heat. Fortunately, the temperature has since become reasonable and pleasant.

On Tuesday the Roumanian flag was hung from the balcony of the Liverpool Exchange news-room alongside the flags of the other Allied nations. Cheers were given for Roumania.

It was stated at the Roumanian Consulate on Tuesday that no instructions have yet been received to call up Roumanian reservists in this country. Their number is not large, and can probably be reckoned in hundreds.

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THE STATE OF SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 8.

Cholera in N. Syria.

The capture of many Turkish prisoners in the Battle of Katia has afforded an excellent opportunity to test the accuracy of some of the reports already received about Syria, and also of getting further information of interest, partly through personal interviews and partly through diaries found on some of the prisoners. For instance, the diary of a Turkish officer, begun at the time he left Aleppo and kept up to the Katia engagement, confirms the report of the outbreak of cholera in Northern Syria, but adds the interesting fact that it was promptly stamped out in the ranks. In this diary mention is made of the large number of Armenian dead, victims of the massacre, seen on the way from Aleppo; also of the large number of desertions, to put a stop to which the military authorities are said to have resorted to the mild measure of distributing generously money (paper money, of course) among the troops. The large number of these new notes found on the prisoners confirms this officer's jotting. Another interesting fact recorded in the same diary is that Jemal Pasha reviewed the invading force at Beersheba prior to its crossing the frontier.

Many of the illiterate prisoners, questioned on the subject, declared that the total strength of the invading army was about three army corps; that the two divisions engaged in the Battle of Katia formed only the advance guard, and that a further attack was to follow; but a prisoner of the educated class, an intelligent Jew of Adrianople, who acted as chemist, and who saw fighting at the Dardanelles, states that the attacking force is not more than three divisions, and that no further action was contemplated.

The "Invasion" of Egypt.

The statements of the Arab prisoners have a special significance in that they all agree on the point that the Turks look upon all the Arabs as traitors, and treat them as such. Of the 3,000 and odd unwounded prisoners, only about 100 are Arabs, and these declare that they have been employed only on auxiliary work. They unanimously state that all the Arab troops have been disarmed and employed on trench-digging, road-making, transport, etc., and that the Arab officers have been sent away to the non-Arab provinces to do administrative work. This is the reason, these prisoners state, why it became impossible for the Arab troops to attempt a rebellion. The uprising of the Shereef made the Turks more watchful than ever, and led to stricter precautions being taken, in order to forestall any insurrectionary movement on the part of the Arabs, more especially as news of the revolt in Arabia circulated in Syria soon after its outbreak. It has, indeed, been stated that not only the news of the Shereef's rising, but also of the Allies' victories, was received in Syria, thanks to the dropping of newspapers by Allied aeroplanes.

Wholesale Hangings.

From statements made by the prisoners it would seem that the cases of hanging are much more serious than had been previously reported. A man who left Damascus only a couple of months ago states that in one place outside the city no fewer than 150 bodies were left exposed on the gibbet. Such wholesale hangings are said to have been carried out also in two other places in the neighbourhood of Damascus, which Turkish vengeance seems to have singled out from among Syrian towns. The famous tomb of the Emir Abdul Kader, the great Algerian, is said to have been destroyed; and the leading families who have any following, as well as the educated classes, seem to have been special objects of persecution, those who were not hanged being sent away to the interior—with what consequences may be guessed from the Armenian precedent. Even before the war there were evident indications of the Unionists' policy, which aimed at attracting and giving power to the rabble.

As regards the reports of famine, they are, to a great extent, confirmed. In Damascus, for example, the two okes of bread (about 5 lbs.) were being sold a month and a half ago at one Turkish dollar (a little over 3s.). There is no scarcity of grain, but the Government has taken over all the available stock. What is very alarming is that famine and cases of actual death from starvation are no longer confined to the Lebanon and neighbourhood, but now embrace the whole of Syria, including even such towns as Homs, Hama, and Damascus, which have always been regarded as the granaries of Syria. On the other hand, there is the report that the Turkish Government have lately been enrolling Lebanese, but of the southern districts only; and that they have not yet attempted conscription in the northern districts, inhabited solely by Maronites, for fear of an insurrection. But if the people there have been dying off so rapidly as repeatedly reported, how could they be expected to offer any effective resistance to organised military force?

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, August 7.

Passports for Egypt.

Any person who desires to proceed to Egypt must now apply for a form, which is issued by the Commissioners of districts in which the applicant resides, in order to obtain a passport or *visé*. Application must be made at least fourteen days before the date on which the person desires to leave, in order that the case may be submitted to the authorities in Egypt. New regulations with regard to passports in general are in contemplation. A very considerable number of Greek Cypriots, chiefly villagers, are waiting for their passports, and, in spite of recent warnings in the Greek papers, intend to proceed to America, as well as to other countries.

The Greek Church.

According to present information there is likely to be a division over the election of a new Archbishop. There seems, however, to be every desire on the part of leading Greeks, both clerics and laymen, that the will of the majority should prevail, and that there should be an avoidance of all risk of any such scandalous dissensions as arose out of the abortive election in 1900. A letter has been addressed "to the Orthodox Greek people of Cyprus," signed by some of the leading members of the Legislative Council and the mayors of towns, exhorting electors "in these critical times" to carry out the election in such wise that any aggravation of differences may be avoided, unity being now, if ever, essential for the progress of Hellenic ideals. The Bishop of Papho continues to administer affairs relating to the archiepiscopic office, and has had an exceedingly busy time. He hopes to be able before the election to spend a few days for relaxation at the Troöditissa Monastery, in one of the picturesque heights of the Troödos forest.

FLYING FROM SERBIA.

The following graphic incident is recounted by Professor Voyslav Yovanovitch, of the University of Belgrade, in the pamphlet "Kossovo Day (1389-1916)," issued by the Kossovo Day Committee :—

Six months ago I found myself on the Adriatic coast, after having made, like others, the painful retreat through Montenegro and Albania. For sixteen days we awaited the boat that would take us from the little port of Durazzo. Thousands of soldiers, Serbian civilians, and invalids were encamped in that region offering so little hospitality. The Austrian Fleet at the port of Cattaro now and again came out suddenly and bombarded the ports, sinking merchant vessels which were bringing us supplies and which were to convey us to Brindisi. Enemy aeroplanes visited us every day, throwing out bombs; submarines were picking their way among the minefields, and torpedoed the maritime convoys. It was imperative to leave that infernal region and escape from famine and epidemics. Finally, on January 19, we boarded a little Italian ship, without light, like thieves. It was cold and it was raining. At midnight we left in the darkness, accompanied only by the wind and the rain; we left for the unknown, saying good-bye with regret to those who remained behind asleep in their glorious eternal rest in that wild country. Three hundred refugees, officers and wounded soldiers, women and children, were packed on that open boat, creaking and tossing like a nutshell on a raging sea. All night, pressed one against the other, we trembled with the cold and anguish. Would the invisible enemy find us? We did not know. Had we some unseen friend near at hand to protect us against the Austrian pirates? That, also, we did not know. Sleep would not come, and we could see nothing in front of us, only the sparks from the funnel leaving a trail behind us. Tired and exhausted, we awaited the dawn.

And when the dawn broke through the morning mist we saw the eye which had been watching us, the invisible friend who had protected us. She was following from afar, reached us and overtook us. It was a British torpedo-boat joyously flying the Union Jack. The men of the crew greeted us with their coarse, many-coloured sailors' handkerchiefs. She ran past us twice, as if she would say, "Do not fear; Britain is here."

And those haggard faces and strained eyes which followed her, and those feeble hands which returned the greeting, were not afraid. They knew now that the British Fleet was protecting us, and they knew also that there is One who is more powerful than the British Fleet, who was also protecting us.

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THE ROUMANIAN ARMY.

The following particulars are reproduced from an article, by our Bucharest Correspondent, which appeared in our issue of March 17. At the time our Correspondent rightly referred to the Roumanian Army as "the most important in South-Eastern Europe." He also explained that the facts given might be of particular value, "because most of the statements concerning the effectives of this army have been advanced without control, and some of them are very far from representing the truth."

In competent circles the value of the Roumanian troops is highly appreciated. Their endurance, courage, instruction, and spirit of discipline have been fully recognised. One need but recall the campaign of 1877 and the circumstances in which the little army of that day brought about the victory of the Russians.

ARMY CORPS.

The Roumanian army comprises five army corps, which are doubled in case of mobilisation. These are:—First at Craiova, second at Bucharest, third at Galatz, fourth at Jassy, fifth at Constantza (to which must be added the two fortified regions of Bucharest and Fokshani-Galatz).

Each army corps is composed of two divisions (two brigades of infantry, each composed of two regiments, one battalion of chasseurs, one brigade of artillery, comprising two regiments), one regiment of cavalry, one battalion engineers. In addition, special troops and auxiliaries. Divisions of reserve are also ten in number. Independent divisions of cavalry, two (a third is said to be in process of formation).

With regard to troops of the first line, the Roumanian army is organised as follows:—

INFANTRY.

Eighty regiments infantry of the line, three battalions to a regiment, four companies to a battalion, 250 men to a company.

Ten battalions of chasseurs, four companies to the battalion.

Two regiments of Graniceri (frontier guards), three battalions to the regiment.

Armament.—Roumanian Mannlicher, model 1893, calibre 6.5 mm. Machine guns, Maxims.

ARTILLERY.

Twenty-five regiments field artillery, each of six batteries (with four guns), Krupp guns of 75 mm. (1908).

One regiment horse artillery.

Five regiments light howitzers.

Three regiments heavy howitzers (150 mm., three batteries).

One regiment mountain artillery.

One regiment siege artillery, nine batteries to the regiment.

One fortress regiment at Bucharest (twelve batteries), two battalions at Fokshani (eight batteries).

CAVALRY.

Eleven regiments of lancers (Roshiori), four squadrons to the regiment.

Ten regiments of hussars (Calarashi), of five and six squadrons.

One regiment Royal Escort (three squadrons).

Each regiment has attached to it a section of Maxims.

ENGINEERS.

Five battalions pioneers.

One battalion fortress engineers.

One battalion railway engineers.

One battalion "pontonniers."

One battalion "specials" (telegraphy, aerostation, signalling, etc., etc.).

In addition, the aviation service of the army.

GENDARMERIE.

Thirty-five companies.

ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

Five groups, each of two squadrons.

All the auxiliary and transport services.

The effective force in peace time numbers 132,000 men (including 5,750 officers and auxiliaries).

With the reserves of the first line, and adding the militia, the army in time of war numbers over 650,000 men.

There are about 15,000 officers, of which number the 11,500 combatants (active and reserve) are distributed as follows:—

Infantry, 7,200; artillery, 1,900; cavalry, 1,350; engineers, 560; navy, 150; generals, 105. Non-combatants.—Surgeons and other sanitary services, 1,700; commissariat, 1,400.

THE HIGH COMMAND.

There is still a word to be said concerning the high command, which includes many officers of value and tacticians of no mean merit.

King Ferdinand is the supreme head of the army and assumes the chief command in case of war. His sound knowledge of military matters has had a favourable influence on the actual organisation of the army.

In all probability the high commands would be given, in case of war, to Generals Culcer and Yarka (at present army inspectors) and to Lieutenant-General Averescu, formerly Minister of War and Chief of the General Staff, at present commanding the First Army Corps. He is a soldier of great value, to whom important reforms are due. At the time of the Bulgarian campaign of 1913 he was Chief of the General Staff, which had its headquarters at Plevna. He has the further advantage of being one of the few ranker-generals of the Roumanian army.

Generals Coanda, Inspector of Cavalry; Georgescu, commanding the Fifth Corps (a great friend of the English); Aslan, commanding the Third Corps; Presan, commanding the Fourth Corps; and Cottescu, commanding the Second Corps, are all officers upon whose ability the nation can rely when the time comes for her to measure her strength with that of her neighbours. Among the cavalry chiefs must be mentioned Major-Generals Popovici, Bodgan, Bassarabescu, etc.

The Chief of the General Staff is Lieutenant-General Zottu, actively seconded by his subordinate, Major-General Cristescu, who enjoys a high military reputation.

To the Minister of War, M. Jean Bratiano, who is at the same time Prime Minister, aided by his general secretary, Major-General Iliescu, is due in large part the credit for having rapidly brought up the army to its present extremely efficient state.

No account of the Roumanian army would be complete without mention of M. Nico Filipescu, who, as Minister of War in the last Conservative Government, devoted remarkable skill and untiring energy to the needs of the army.

ROUMANIA'S INTERVENTION.

We reproduce below some extracts from the Press which will serve to show how hearty is the welcome accorded to our new Ally, Roumania, in this country:—

The highly important news that Roumania has at last definitely thrown in her lot with the Allies will be hailed with genuine satisfaction by every member of the League of Nations now confronting the Germanic Powers. . . . Through all these anxious two years there has been little doubt of where the sympathies of the Roumanian people lay. They are of Latin race, and they feel their affinity with the French and the Italians, while their constitutional system of Government makes them the natural Allies of Powers who are fighting for freedom, as well as for the right of the smaller nations, to a place in the sun. . . . Roumania to-day is accepting the risks and sacrifices of war on the side of the Allies to achieve natural and legitimate ambitions. She . . . has drawn her sword on the side of Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy, and henceforth they can make no composition to which she is not a party. —*Morning Post.*

The decision of Roumania has long been expected by the Allies, and the indications that it would be made soon have been unmistakable and cumulative within the last fortnight. It is none the less welcome. All the world must recognise that in many respects it is of high importance. It adds a large force of well-trained and well-equipped soldiers, with a proud tradition to uphold, to the military strength of the Alliance, and it adds this force at a time and at a strategical point in the vast "single line" of the struggle at which the entry of this new factor into the operations promises to be particularly helpful to us, and particularly disconcerting to our enemies.—*The Times.*

We assume that the territorial questions involved have been satisfactorily regulated in advance between her and the Allies, including Russia, and that a treaty exists which will prevent any ambiguities or disappointments in the event of Allied victory. We can therefore unreservedly rejoice at the prospect of seeing this industrious and progressive Latin nation, which has given so many proofs of political capacity, entering upon a *rôle* of greatly increased power and prominence in South-Eastern Europe, and bringing under its banner the bulk of the twelve million people who speak the language inherited from Trajan's colonists.—*Daily Chronicle.*

M. Bratiano, like a wise and patriotic statesman, refused to plunge his country hurriedly into the war until his course was clear. There was never any real doubt which side he would adopt if he adopted any, but he cautiously reserved his fire until it was capable of the most decisive and instant execution. The fact that in his judgment, and in the judgment of the leaders of all parties, the moment has come to strike is not merely a military event, but a verdict on the war.—*Daily News.*

Apart from the military aid which she brings to the Entente Powers, the circumstances of her intervention will have a tremendous moral effect. It will do more than anything that has yet happened to shake the confidence of the Germans themselves, and it will probably have an even more marked influence upon at least two of Germany's allies. Bulgaria now finds herself between two fires; Turkey foresees the possible interruption of her communications with Berlin. The relatively loose connection of these two States with the Central Powers is in obvious danger of breaking, and Germany must from to-day begin to reckon upon the possibility of having to face, alone with Austria, a complete circle of foes.—*Daily Graphic.*

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ROUMANIA IRREDENTA.*

At a time when the normal ebb and flow of the Great War makes us turn our eyes eastwards again to the source of the great tidal wave of 1914, it is of more than passing interest to come across an historic work of such sterling qualities as that published by Professor Iorga, of the University of Bucharest, on the Roumanians of Transylvania and Hungary, at least four millions in number. So much has been written and discussed in recent years anent the just grievances of the Slavs and Southern Slavs within the Austro-Hungarian Empire that little attention has been paid to the equally unfortunate victims of German-Magyar oppression in the extreme east of the Hapsburg domains bounded by the Danube, the Theiss, and the Carpathians. Here, in the almost forgotten nook of a crumbling empire, lies Roumania Irredenta, just as, in that other corner of the self-same empire, the Trentino, lies Italia Irredenta. In the case of both countries, the hour has now struck for the deliverance of their oppressed brothers. Kronstadt and Hermanstadt will soon welcome the advance of the Roumanian infantry pouring through the defiles of the Carpathians, the Maras and Theiss rivers will watch the débâcle of the oppressors, and historic Segesvar and Fehervar will join in the Te Deum sung to celebrate "Roumania Liberata."

The Roumanian question within the Austro-Hungarian Empire is as old as the hills—older and, perhaps, even more intricate than the Slav question. As compared with Slavs and Hungarians, relatively speaking, new-comers along the banks of the Danube and its tributaries, the Roumanians are a far older people, descendants of the Dacians who caused such trouble to the Roman Empire and of Italian peasants and settlers who wandered from overcrowded Italy to the fertile lands of Transylvania. The Slavs, in the migratory movement of the early centuries of the Christian era, passed into and across the same territory; they were followed by the Magyars of Finnish extraction, essentially men of war and adepts in the useful art of exploiting the peaceful tillers of the soil. From now on, and with but minor exceptions, the fate of Transylvania, unhappily separated from Moldavia and Wallachia by the natural barrier of the Carpathians, is linked up with that of the Magyars, who were always quick to beseech her aid in times of distress and to bully and persecute her in their hour of prosperity.

But the picture of the country's griefs does not end here. As a result of the Crusades, a colony of Saxons migrated from the Rhine across Germany towards the East and settled in Transylvania. Precursors of the German principle of German Kultur, and backed by powerful influences in Vienna and Bavaria, these Saxon churls created a social caste in Siebenbürgen which did its utmost to keep the Roumanians in a position of social inferiority, in literal bondage, denying them not only political, but even religious rights and the right to speak their own native tongue. They (the Saxons) were to be the landowners of these usurped lands and the Roumanians the bondsmen.

Yet another movement, this time essentially religious, was to wear and tear away the vitality of the Roumanians in Austria-Hungary and thus keep them from progressing as a people. We refer to the struggle between the Church of Rome, the Greek Church, and, later, Calvinism. It was in Transylvania, a boundary district between East and West, and between the north and south of Europe, that the great waves of Catholicism and Orthodoxy sought to drown each other and forcibly to convert all who, in their estimation, were godless unbelievers. The Roumanian inhabitants of the country remained true to the old Church, and they erred in good company—namely, in that of the Slavs and of the Roumanians to the east of the Carpathians. As a matter of fact, this historic range of mountains was the natural wall against which the Catholic wave, in its easterly course, spent itself; it was driven back and foamed and whirled in the vales of Transylvania, where the serfs of the soil were oppressed and tortured by an alien Church hierarchy, whilst, to complicate matters, Calvinism sought, at first with some measure of success, to impose its sway.

Those were the darkest days of the despairing history of the native inhabitants of Transylvania, the origin of whose misfortunes is to be found in the situation of the Carpathians, cutting the land of the Roumanians into isolated halves, Moldavia and Wallachia to the east and Transylvania to the west. The first two, from their very position, were able, with varying success, to oppose the Hapsburg advance across their territory; they organised their own Church, with its Roumanian head, around whom the people gathered; and eventually they were able to acquire and assert their independence as a nation. Not so the Transylvanians. They were buffeted by their oppressors, now Hungarian, now Austrian; they were denied religious and political freedom, and it was not until the middle of the nineteenth century that they acquired an appreciable measure of each. They were pawns in the game of chess played by Vienna against Pest; they were denied a history and a past. Vague promises were showered on them when it suited the purpose of the Imperial Chancellor; a turn of the wheel of fortune, and the promises were as chaff blown before the wind. Finally, and by the compromise between Austria and Hungary, they were embodied in the Hungarian Kingdom and the period of active, unscrupulous Magyarisation of the Roumanians began, and continues down to the present day.

Through it all, and in spite of it all, that sub-conscious feeling of a people which entitles it to claim recognition as a separate entity waxed and grew. Persecution and oppression could not kill it; on the contrary, they only tended to strengthen it, contrary to the hopes entertained at Vienna and Pest, whose Imperial spokesman, Kaiser Franz-Joseph, is reported to have complained that they were "des adhérants zélés de leur religion et de leur nationalité," but not "des citoyens fidèles de l'Etat hongrois." Thus, whilst blaming them for errors which, in our eyes, constitute a virtue, he admitted that in Transylvania there existed a nationality which could, and can, have no community of interests with the heterogeneous masses of the Austro-Hungarian peoples—which is true. The inhabitants of Transylvania (with the exception of a small minority of Hungarians, Saxons, and Slavs) and a great number of those residing in the Banat turn their eyes away from the West towards the East, whence they hope that shortly an army will advance to deliver them from their oppressors. *Que Dieu le veuille!*

* "Histoire des Roumains de Transylvanie et de Hongrie, par N. Iorga, Professeur a l'Université de Bucarest." 2 vols. (Imprimerie Gutenberg, Bucharest. 5frs.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Truth About the Dardanelles. By Sydney A. Moseley, Official Correspondent with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Forces. With Map. (Cassell and Co. 5s. net.)

Trooper Bluegum at the Dardanelles. By Oliver Hogue. (Melrose. 3s. 6d. net.)

John Strange Winter. By Oliver Bainbridge. (East and West, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

Pro Patria. Vol I. Edited by T. N. Kelynack, M.D. (Bale, Sons, and Danielsson. 3s. 6d. net.)

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Letters written by officers who took part in the fighting at Katia show how satisfactory the operations were from our own point of view, and at the same time give a vivid impression of the difficulties with which both sides—but especially the enemy—had to contend. One of these writers says: "Fighting is hard work here, as the heat is very great and thirst immense. The scenery consists of miles of baking desert, dotted with little isolated palm groves. . . . I walked over the battlefield yesterday. The Turks seem to have been badly caught by our artillery and retired in great haste. They seem to have suffered greatly from lack of water, as in every likely spot small holes have been dug in the ground in the vain attempt to get water. In a few cases they succeeded in getting a little brackish stuff, but most of the holes were as dry as a bone." That is a vivid little picture, which helps us to realise the conditions of the fighting fairly well. One can see the harassed, thirsty Turk or Arab scratching desperately in one of these "likely spots," possibly under fire, and then—drawing a blank. And remembering that they were pushed on to the mad venture by their German taskmasters, one can almost pity the poor wretches!

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As a matter of fact, it is pretty clear that the writers of the letters from which I am quoting find no difficulty at all in pitying the Turks or in recognising their good qualities. For the one already quoted says: "The Turks are still fighting as fairly as ever, and some time ago, before they made a bombing raid on us, one of their 'planes dropped a message warning us to move our Red Cross Station out of the way, as they intended to bomb us." And here is a reference to the Germans' treatment of their "allies":—"The prisoners we have taken are mostly very badly clothed in nondescript uniforms, with a touch of German about them, many without any boots at all, and all very spiritless, hungry, and thirsty, armed mostly with German ammunition. From what they say their German officers treat them very badly, and in this scrap many of their officers apparently cleared off on horseback, leaving their men to manage for themselves as soon as they saw the game was up."

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The writer of another letter mentions the interesting fact that "one of the Arab prisoners was the coachman of the German officer in command, who hurriedly retreated when he saw his men surrendering." Another item of interest in connection with the great "invasion" is that, according to

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prisoners' reports, the light railway built by the Turks in Sinai was not made use of in the transport of the guns and other heavy material, carts drawn by oxen being employed for the purpose. It would be interesting to know how far this apparently somewhat ineffective light railway has been constructed, but none of the letters I have seen make any mention of the point.

***

A writer in the *Birmingham Post* remarks that "one of the minor mysteries of the war is the disappearance from sight of Abbas, late and last Khedive of Egypt," and, after paying that discredited tool of the Central Powers the compliment of a paragraph, concludes by stating that he "can scarcely have found his stay in Constantinople a pleasant one." As a matter of fact, there is no real mystery about the ex-Khedive's present whereabouts. He did not find the "climate" of Constantinople to his liking, and he is now in residence in a villa not very far from Lausanne. There, I am told, he is in regular intercourse with the so-called Nationalists (Egyptian brand), especially their leaders. Whether he still dreams dreams it is impossible to say. But if he is not being kept under careful observation I should be much surprised.

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The report given to the *Echo de Paris* by "a high Spanish personage, just returned from Vienna," to the effect that King Ferdinand of Bulgaria recently sent his son and heir to the Austrian capital, and that Prince Boris there adopted the policy of "facing both ways," is interesting and suggestive. The Crown Prince, we are told, "adopted a very Germanophile attitude, except with a high personage of the Bourbon family, the members of which preserve their French sympathies" To this personage Prince Boris expressed himself in very Francophile terms. Of course, there is more than one explanation of this weathercock business: Prince Boris may, for instance, be heartily sick of the Germans, as a result of their conduct in Sofia, and may have been honestly glad of a chance of airing his real views. But that does not seem likely. It looks much more as if Ferdinand of Coburg, who has a keen scent for danger, was preparing for the end which is now inevitable, and, realizing that he will have to go, is endeavouring to pave the way for Prince Boris to succeed him. But the Allies are likely to have a good deal to say on that subject.

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A correspondent sends me a cutting from the *Globe* of August 19, referring to the present activities of Lord d'Abernon as Chairman of the Central Control Board, which, as I understand, regulates the liquor traffic for the duration of the war. For a moment, I must admit, I was puzzled to know why this cutting was forwarded without any comment. Then I remembered that in former days Lord d'Abernon was known as Sir Edgar Vincent, whose work in Turkey as President of the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt, and later as Governor of the I.O.B., and in Egypt as Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, must be familiar to most of my readers. His lordship has always enjoyed the reputation of doing well any work he took up, and, though I cannot pretend to know just what duties he is called on to carry out in his present capacity, I feel sure he is making a success of them, and that he will perform them with tact and firmness. His experiences in Moslem lands, which are, of course, practically free from the curse of drunkenness that makes one so often blush for one's own country, should stand him in good stead, and if only he and the Control Board could make London and Glasgow (say) as sober as Constantinople and Cairo, they would deserve the thanks of all of us. But I, for one, hardly dare hope for anything of the kind.

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Lest the foregoing paragraph may create a mistaken impression, I hasten to add that I am not a teetotaler, and that I dislike the teetotal fanatic as much as I dislike the fanatic of any other variety. But I recognize that the state of this country in regard to "the drink question" is not calculated to enhance our prestige amongst the Moslem nations. And never did I feel this more forcibly than when, one Sunday evening, I passed through London with an Arab newly arrived in the country. His surprise at the number of "drunks" he saw, and his disgust, which he was unable to conceal, at the sight of a very drunken woman being led off to the police station, left a lasting impression on my memory. My Arab, with desert-bred politeness, suggested that the "lady" was "very ill." But the experience was not calculated to make one feel proud of the civilisation of the West.

CORSAIR.

Excavation in Alexandria for the purpose of the new drainage scheme has brought to light a large and excellently constructed conduit, obviously of Roman origin, through which flows a stream of clear water. Another discovery is that of a splendidly built road, 13 ft. below the surface, paved entirely with blocks of rough marble

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

GORDON STREET, ALEXANDRIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of July 28 your own correspondent, writing from Cairo about the proposed memorial to Lord Kitchener, page 295, states:—

> We have no wish for a repetition of what has happened in Alexandria, where the street named after Gordon Pasha has become one of the most disreputable in the city.

I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the name of the street originally called after Gordon Pasha was changed some time ago, and the name of that eminent soldier was given to another street.—I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER GRANVILLE,
Director-General, Alexandria Municipality.

"SUPERSTITIONS" IN SYRIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of July 21 an article appeared under the title "Superstitions in Syria." The authority of your journal lends an importance to this article which otherwise it could not claim, and which, therefore, warrants the present rejoinder.

If the author had confined himself to a mere record of the various forms of superstition observable in Syria, no comment would have been called for; but when he seizes this occasion to indulge in unwarrantable generalizations and conclusions, he lays himself open to the charge of inaccuracy—to put it mildly—and, indeed, gratuitously invites ridicule.

The Syrians are known to be an eminently adaptable race, and the wholesale emigration that has been going on for the last few decades, by bringing hundreds of thousands of them into contact with the Western world, and then with their own people at home, has wrought such a revolution in their habits of thought and life as to determine, indeed, a swing of the pendulum in the opposite direction. As a matter of fact, even to a superficial observer, the reaction is apparent in the general prevalence of freethinking, with a collateral relaxation of the priestly authority, even in such districts where the priesthood, with its medieval preachings, held powerful sway. The same may be said of other adherents of the different sects, including the Druses. That a certain section—and a very small one—still entertains superstitious ideas is undoubted; but one might as well qualify the whole British nation as superstitious and ignorant because some—one may say many—still consider Friday as an unlucky day, and the number 13 as an unlucky number, or because some officers, even of the highly educated class, happen to be seen wearing talismans.

But the writer of the article does not only commit the absurdity of passing sweeping judgments on the ground of isolated individual cases, but betrays also a poor knowledge of his subject from the folklore standpoint. He says: "When muleteers are obliged to travel by night they tie bells on their animals, the noise being supposed to frighten away the evil spirits." He seems to ignore the fact that the real reason is of a more practical nature and reveals more intelligence than the "generous" writer seems disposed to credit the people with. Bells are used to serve as a warning in case of attack by brigands, who infest the wild regions sparsely inhabited, and also as a stimulant to the animals in their long and weary marches.

But even if all that the writer of the article states were true, he has surely ill-chosen the moment for giving it publicity. It is indelicate, and singularly lacking in chivalry, to pass ill-considered and offensive reflections on a people's intelligence and degree of instruction at a time with such people are traversing the most tragic crisis in their history.

Cairo, August 16, 1916. VERITAS.

A new pro-Ally Cabinet has been formed in Persia.

Under date of August 28, Reuter's Bucharest Correspondent reports:—King Ferdinand has addressed to the army the following order of the day: "Soldiers, I have summoned you to carry your standards beyond the frontier where our brothers are waiting for you impatiently and with hearts filled with hope. The memory of the Great Voivodes Michael the Brave and Stephen the Great, whose remains lie in the earth which you are going to set free, call you to victory as men worthy of the victors of Razboeni, Capugareeni, and Paehna. I have summoned you to fight side by side with the men of the great nations to which we are allied. A desperate struggle awaits you. We shall bear these hardships manfully, and with God's help victory will be ours. Show yourselves worthy of the glory of your ancestors. In the centuries to come the whole race will bless you and sing your praises."

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Sept.	1916. Aug.		1334. Julkada	5676. Ellul
1	19	Friday	3	3
2	20	Saturday.....	4	4
3	21	Sunday	5	5
4	22	Monday	6	6
5	23	Tuesday	7	7
6	24	Wednesday	8	8
7	25	Thursday	9	9

Next Monday is the birthday of the Queen Dowager of Greece.

By command of the King, the Hon. Sir Arthur Walsh, Master of the Ceremonies, called on the Roumanian Minister to offer his Majesty's congratulations on the occasion of the King of Roumania's birthday.

Under date of August 28, Reuter's Athens correspondent reports:—King Constantine is indisposed, suffering from inflammation of his wound as the result of the last operation. A later report states that his Majesty is better and hopes to receive a deputation of the Liberal Party shortly.

The Court Circular announced on Monday that Prince Andrew of Greece had arrived at Windsor Castle, attended by Major M. Metaxas.

Prince Antoine Bibescu, of the Roumanian Legation, who arrived in London last Friday from Russia, left town for the country on Sunday.

The Hellenic Minister visited the Foreign Office on Wednesday.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier, arrived in Athens from Corfu on Saturday. He will visit King Peter at Chalcis.

Lord Cromer left London for Ardgowan, Greenock, last week.

Mlle. Tatiana Lahovary has returned to Paris.

Among recent visitors to Harrogate are Major-General Sir Edmund and Lady Leach.

The Marquise de Pallavicini, who is the wife of the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Constantinople, is an Englishwoman by birth, says the *World*. Her four sons are all fighting in the Austrian Army, and up to the present only one, the youngest, has been even wounded. The Marquise is now back in the Turkish capital, where she used to be very popular with the British colony.

M. Michel Boerescu, of the Roumanian Legation, left London for the country last Friday.

Mirza Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Counsellor to the Persian Legation, arrived in London on Wednesday from Scotland, where he had been paying a series of visits.

M. Levitch has returned to London.

Mahomed Ali Khan Ehtesham Homayoun, First Secretary to the Persian Legation, has returned to London from Eastbourne.

M. Slavko Grouitch, the Serbian Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, returned to London on Monday from a brief visit to Eastbourne.

Brigadier-General Hubert Cecil Potter, who is reported wounded, saw service in the Sudan in 1908. He has risen from the rank of captain during the present war.

Mr. Evelyn Grant Duff, C.M.G., British Minister at Berne, is returning to England on September 15 for reasons of health, and will be succeeded by Sir Horace Rumbold, Bart., M.V.O.

Mr. Duff served from 1892 to 1895 at Teheran, first as third Secretary, and subsequently as second Secretary. He was in attendance on the Shah during H.M.'s visit to this country in 1902, and was Secretary to Viscount Downe's Special Garter Mission to the Shah in 1903. The same year he was promoted Secretary of Legation at Teheran, and he acted as Chargé d'Affaires there in 1904, and for over a year in 1905-1906.

Sir Horace Rumbold, also, has served in Teheran (1895-1897). He served as Attaché in Cairo, and was appointed to Athens, but did not take up the post. In 1900 he was sent to Cairo again, and in 1904 was promoted to be first Secretary. Since 1906 he has not served in the Near East.

Hunter Pasha, Director-General of the Egyptian Coastguards Administration, has arrived in England on leave.

Captain R. C. Cumberbatch, of the Rifle Brigade, B.E.F., was slightly wounded in the arm on or about August 18, and is now in hospital at Boulogne. His brother, Lieut. H. D. Cumberbatch, The Buffs, B.E.F., who was wounded and invalided home, has now recovered and has left to rejoin his battalion at the Front.

A Reuter's message from Salonika, dated August 27, reports the arrival there of Essad Pasha, the Albanian leader.

Captain H. W. Stock, who took over the post of Government Secretary, Lemnos, a short time ago, is returning to the island after a brief visit to England.

On August 19, at Territet, Switzerland, a daughter was born to Mr. G. E. Iles, of the Sudan Civil Service, and Mrs. Iles.

Yesterday, at the ancient Chapel Royal, Savoy, Captain Hugh Massie Blomfield, 1/5th Battalion The Buffs, attached Political Service, Mesopotamia, married Ida Marie, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Chancellor, of Overstrand, Bognor. The bridegroom is the only surviving son of Rear Admiral Sir R. Massie, late Controller-General of Egyptian Ports and Lighthouses, and Lady Blomfield, their two other sons having been killed in the war. The bride entered the church leaning on the arm of her father, who afterwards gave her away. The bridegroom was in khaki.

The best man was Mr. Harold Holding. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Hugh B. Chapman (Chaplain of the Chapel Royal), assisted by the Rev. Miller Haggerty. The service was a choral one, with Mr. Colin Campbell at the organ, Dr. Bromley Derry being on war service. The hymns "Lead Us, Heavenly Father," "O Perfect Love," the 67th Psalm, and Handel's "Angels Ever Bright and Fair" were all excellently rendered by the choir.

The wedding was a very quiet one. Among those present were Mr. Charles L. Graves, Mr. Gerald Graves, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Noel Smith, Miss Germains, Miss Fothergill, and Mr. F. G. Chancellor and a group of wounded soldiers from the bridegroom's regiment. The Corps of Girl Guides (of which Lady Massie Blomfield is one of the London Commissioners) furnished a guard of honour, and strewed red, white, and blue flowers in the path of the happy couple as they left the church. After the ceremony there was a reception at the Hotel Russell.

The marriage between Mr. William S. Edmonds, Levant Consular Service, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edmonds, Lymington, Hants, and Miss A. Lindo Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Johnson, of "The Mount," Seaton, Devon, will take place in October at Alexandria.

Dr. Walter Leaf, who is one of the members of the committee appointed to inquire into the position of modern languages in the system of education in Great Britain, is a former president of the Hellenic Society and a well-known writer on Hellenic subjects. He has also translated "A Modern Priestess of Isis" from the Russian, and is the author of "Versions from Hafiz, an Essay in Persian Metre."

At the last American Zionist Congress, held at Philadelphia in the first week of last month, one of the resolutions passed was as follows:—"The Congress expresses its profound thanks to Mr. William C. Hornblower, of the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, and Administrator of the Refugees Department, for the eminent services rendered by him to the unfortunate victims of the war, residents in Syria and Palestine, who fled for refuge to Egyptian soil."

Although all the decorations and medals belonging to Lord Kitchener were lost when he perished in H.M.S. "Hampshire," on June 5, off the Orkneys, the Field-Marshal's baton presented to him by King Edward VII. remains as a relic. It has recently been deposited with the Royal United Service Institution for exhibition in the museum at Whitehall.

The estate of the late Mr. Stanley Dorling, of Henrietta House, Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, W., formerly of Croydon and Alexandria, engineer and contractor, has been proved at £12,575.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

M. Ventila Bratiano, the brother of the Roumanian Premier, has been appointed Minister of War, the Premier himself remaining at the head of the Government without portfolio.

It is understood (says the *Egyptian Gazette*) that Judge Halton, of the Mixed Court of Appeal, will be appointed Vice President of the Native Appeal Court, instead of Judge Bond, who retired recently from the Egyptian Government service.

The Ministry of Public Works in Egypt has announced the following promotions and transfers consequent upon the retirement of Mr. Williams, Inspector-General of Irrigation:—Mr. A. P. Tottenham, Inspector-General of Irrigation, Lower Egypt, succeeds Mr. Williams and is in turn succeeded by Mr. Adamson, Inspector, 1st Circle of Irrigation; Mr. Boxwell, Inspector, 4th Circle of Irrigation, transferred to the 1st Circle; Mr. O'Sullivan, Inspector, Zifta Circle, to the 4th Circle; Mr. de Smith, Director, Delta Barrage, to the Zifta Circle; and Mr. Parker, Inspector, Dongola Irrigation Works, to the 3rd Circle. Mr. Roberts, Director of Works, Assiut Barrage, to be Director, Delta Barrage.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the 3rd class of the Order of the Nile on Miralai R. G. Anderson Bey, Assistant Adjutant-General, Recruiting. The 4th class of the same Order has been conferred on the following:—Kaimakams P. B. Stafford Bey, officer commanding 2nd Battalion; P.C. Joyce Bey, officer commanding 3rd Battalion; F.W.L. Edwards Bey, Assistant Adjutant-General and Aide-de-Camp to the Sirdar; H.S. Wilson Bey, Assistant Director of Stores; and E. Gibbon Bey, M.B., Senior Medical Officer, Cairo District; Bimbashis A.C. Hewitt, 12th Sudanese; the Hon. B. A. Forbes, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General; C.C. Godwin, General Staff Officer (III.); F. Ferguson, Director of Music; G.F. Mishalany Bey, Department of Stores; and Mr. C. Wiseman Bey, Department of Ordnance.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (August 7):—

Fuad Bey, Turkish Judge at Limassol, has been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the judge at Nicosia. Fuad Bey, who, before his appointment to the bench, was for some time in the police, is an excellent English scholar, speaking our language like an Englishman.

Khalid Bey, Turkish Judge at Papho, has been appointed to Limassol.

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OBITUARY.

THE LATE DR. BLISS.

As briefly announced last week, the death has taken place, at the age of 92, of the Rev. Daniel Bliss, D.D., the venerable ex-president of the famous American College of Beyrout.

Dr. Bliss was the last surviving member of the American Mission which arrived in Syria in the middle of the last century and which played a leading part in the moral and intellectual development of the Syrians. He landed at Beyrout with his wife by sailing vessel in 1855. A few years afterwards he returned to the United States with the object of raising funds for the establishment of a college in Beyrout, as he found from his few years' experience in Syria that the country was in more need of such an institution than anything else. His efforts in this direction were crowned with success, and he was greatly assisted by some members of the wealthy Dodge family of New York, who played a leading part later in the advancement of the college. Subscriptions were collected and invested in securities of the Northern States while the Civil War was in progress. The final success of the Northern States increased the value of these securities, and Dr. Bliss found at his disposal a fairly large sum with which to start his institution. In 1866 he bought a large plot of land at Ras Beyrout, facing the sea, and subsequently added to it other plots in the vicinity. He established a Preparatory School, a Collegiate Department, and a School of Medicine and Pharmacy, and in 1900 a School of Commerce was added. A few years ago a branch of dentistry was also established. Dr. Daniel Bliss continued to preside over the faculty of the College until 1902, when he retired on account of old age, and was succeeded by his son, Dr. Howard Bliss.

The students of the American College numbered about 1,000 before the war. It was the intention, had the war not broken out, to add branches of law and engineering, and to call the institution a University.

"C. N. T." writes from Cairo:—One of the few pioneers in the missionary field in Syria, Dr. Daniel Bliss left his country on August 13, 1855, on board a sailing ship, and arrived in Syria in the following year to lay in Beyrout the modest foundations of the S.P.C. In less than three decades the small school became the leading educational institution on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean. Not only has the college been the medium for the wide diffusion of modern culture and the raising of the educational standard in Syria, but its rapid and signal success has contributed to the creation of such a healthy rivalry among the French missionaries working in the educational field there as to make of Beyrout an Eastern Athens. The S.P.C. is now represented by an imposing group of buildings on a high hill overlooking the sea, veritable monuments of moral might, above which will ever loom the venerable and powerful figure of Bliss. He was one of the privileged specimens of humanity, combining nobility of looks with nobility of character. His movements were majestic and measured, and his words were brief and always to the point. His eldest son, the well-known writer, Dr. Frederick Jones Bliss, once made the remark, "The governor is like Nature; his work is silent, but mighty." Few men have seen their work blessed in such full measure. When the burden of time weighted his hand he passed the heritage of a lifetime of labour in its full fruition to his son, Dr. Howard Bliss, than whom no fitter successor could be found. A brilliant orator, armed with the new weapons of modern culture and the boundless energy of that vigorous race of the New World, he was eminently fitted to carry on the work left by the father under the new and singularly exacting conditions of modern educational endeavour. The pang of sorrow that every child of this great and cherished alma mater must feel at the passing away of the beloved patriarchal figure is tempered by the consciousness that his great and loving spirit endures through the son. May his life be as long and as full of rich fruits for the great good of Syria and the glory of the Christian ideal!

The death from typhoid of Mr. C. W. Olphert, which occurred in the Anglo-American Hospital, Cairo, recently, robs the Ministry of the Interior of one of its most promising and efficient inspectors, says the *Egyptian Mail*. First at Kena and Assuan, and more recently in the Behera, Mr. Olphert proved himself a capable official; he always made it his business to know his province and its officials well, and his death has been the cause of deep sorrow to Europeans and natives alike. His Highness the Sultan showed his appreciation of Mr. Olphert's services by sending one of his chamberlains from Alexandria to represent him at the funeral.

We regret to announce the death, which occurred suddenly on Saturday last, of Mrs. Marshall, widow of the late Mr. George Bishop Marshall, formerly of Constantinople. Deceased was in her 69th year.

Lieutenant-Colonel James Atkinson Longridge, who is reported killed in action, took part in the operations in Somaliland in 1903-1904, acting as transport officer to the First Brigade. He was present at the action at Jidballi, and was mentioned in despatches in September, 1904, receiving the medal with two clasps. He was promoted brevet lieutenant-colonel on the Staff in July of last year, and was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George on the occasion of the King's Birthday in June of this year.

Captain William Jardine Maxwell, Cameron Highlanders, attached Egyptian Army, who died on August 26, was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Herries Maxwell, of Munches, Dalbeattie. He was born in June, 1882, and entered the Cameron Highlanders in August, 1904. Promoted in March, 1910, he was appointed for employment with the Egyptian Army in August, 1914, and received his captaincy in the following October.

It is announced that Brigadier-General A. Stewart Buckle, R.A., died on August 18 from cerebral meningitis. Born in 1868, he joined the R.A. in 1888, and ten years later took part in the Nile Expedition, being present at the battle of Omdurman. He also served in the South African War, when he was twice mentioned in despatches, and received the Queen's Medal, with three clasps, and the King's Medal, with two clasps. For his services in the Sudan he received the Queen's and the Khedive's medals.

The death has occurred at Lichfield of Colonel R. B. Riland Bedford, at the age of eighty-six. He was the son of the late Rev. W. R. Bedford, of the Rectory, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire. He was invalided home from the Crimea.

M. Michel Theotokis, President of the Greek Chamber, has died at Corfu.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

SMITH.—On August 11, in Cairo, the wife of Major Leonard Kirke Smith, D.S.O., The Royal Scots—of a son.

MARRIAGE.

LOVELL—MARRIOTT.—On August 23, at All Saints' Church, Hereford, by the Rev. C. Treherne, assisted by the Rev. A. Wynne-Wilson, A. Gordon Haynes Lovell, of 37, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, son of Mr. and Mrs. Haynes Lovell, of Hans Crescent, to Dorothy Constance, daughter of the late Rev. Canon Marriott, of St. George's College, Jerusalem, and of Mrs. Marriott, of Ellesmere, Hereford.

DEATHS.

MARSHALL.—On August 26, at 26, Formosa Street, London, W., Malvina, widow of the late George Bishop Marshall, formerly of Constantinople, in her 69th year. (No flowers, by request.)

PEARSON.—On August 27, at Walmer, George Cullen Pearson, late of Constantinople, aged seventy-four years. Cremated, Golders Green, August 30. Any communications, Capt. R. J. White, Candahar Barracks, Tidworth.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

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OUR NEW ALLY.

A place in the Grand Alliance has long been reserved for Roumania; but the welcome which she now receives from the Allies is none the less whole-hearted on that account. Much water has flowed down the Danube since the late King Carol summoned a Crown Council on August 3, 1914, to discuss the situation created by the declaration of war between the Central Powers and Russia. He was a Hohenzollern, but he was true to the country of his adoption. Having been throughout his reign his own Foreign Minister, he had come to regard his personal understanding with Germany and Austria-Hungary as the only policy consistent with Roumania's interests, for it seemed dictated at once by statesmanship and by military instinct. With both the European groups Roumania had questions outstanding, and a quarrel between them offered the sole chance of her coming into her own. King Carol was too shrewd a statesman not to realise that sooner or later the Dual Monarchy must fall to pieces; but he had satisfied himself that it would outlast his generation, and he was convinced that in this war German preparation and organisation would triumph over the crude undeveloped strength of Russia. At that moment, be it remembered, Great Britain had not declared her intentions. Roumania, if she had been guided by her ruler, would have thrown in her lot unreservedly with the Central Powers and claimed Bessarabia as the reward for her services. At a later date, King Carol trusted, she could make her peace with Russia and be ready to strike for her rights in Transylvania when the break-up of Austria-Hungary seemed imminent. The decision of the Crown Council proved that he was out of touch with Roumanian public opinion. He had failed to appreciate the intensity of the feeling against Austria-Hungary, and had not grasped the fact that a nation acts more readily from impulse than in accordance with some far-sighted policy. The leaders of Roumania refused to side with the Central Powers. There was no special reason why at that moment the country should take part in the quarrel between the Central Powers and Russia, and therefore the natural alternative to King Carol's proposal was not that it should at once join the Entente, but that the Roumanian Government should proclaim its neutrality. This course was adopted, and it was not until the progress of hostilities brought out the real issues of the European struggle that Roumania felt called upon to reconsider her decision.

There is a natural tendency among those who have borne the heat and burden of the day to find fault with those whose contribution is only timed from the eleventh hour. For this reason, and because Roumania's entry into the Grand Alliance has been long expected, the feeling has gained ground that it has been unduly delayed. It would be an injustice to our new Ally to allow this view to go unchallenged. Roumania's belief in the justice of her declaration of neutrality received striking confirmation when the Russian Government, misunderstanding, in common with its Allies, the situation in the Balkans, and overwhelmed by the formidable nature of the task it had on hand, made lavish promises to the Bucharest Government in return for the maintenance of that neutrality. As the war progressed Roumania found it impossible to continue the pose of a disinterested spectator. The quarrel over Serbia had resolved itself into a conflict over fundamental principles in which Roumania was deeply interested. The more the Allies made it clear that it was their intention to seek a solution of Europe's troubles in the permanent enforcement of the principle of nationality, the more necessary did it become for Roumania to prove how vitally this very question affected her. Her readiness to join in the war was made known to the Allies at an early date, and it was not altogether unnatural that she should consider herself entitled to a bigger reward for her military co-operation than had been offered for her maintenance of neutrality. But in the meantime the Russian Government had benefited by a fresh orientation of the position in Europe. It was not prepared to concede the Roumanian demands, and, in view of the success attending Russian arms in Galicia, was not altogether convinced of the necessity for Roumanian assistance. There is no need to recapitulate the whole story of the negotiations between Roumania and the Allies. They have been prolonged, partly from misunderstandings on both sides, and partly for sound military reasons. At one time the Bucharest Government hoped that its own declaration of war would coincide with that of Italy. But Italy took the step without notifying its intention to Roumania. Robbed of this opportunity, the latter decided that her course of action should be determined solely by a very critical consideration of her own interests. As a coincidence, it will be noted that Roumania's declaration of war against Austria-Hungary ultimately synchronised with Italy's declaration against Germany. It is more than probable that the postponement of Roumania's participation in the war has been in the interest of the Allies as well as in her own. Whether her support would have sufficed to prevent the Russian retreat last year must be doubted. Certain is it that Roumania was not then in a position to carry on a long war, and the Allies would have run the risk of seeing her overwhelmed, while they were unable to help her, and thus they would have been permanently deprived of the help they can now count upon from the Roumanian Army.

Unless all the signs of the times are at fault, it is difficult to overestimate the value of Roumania's co-operation at this juncture. She enters the war with the forces she is prepared to place in the field admirably equipped and with great traditions to uphold. Her chief enemy is across the Carpathians; but the co-ordination of the Allies' efforts will require her to co-operate with the movement now launched from Macedonia, unless, indeed, Russian troops are available to be dispatched to Bulgaria from the north, while the Roumanian Army is left free to confine its attention to one front. The value of the wedge driven between the Central Powers and their vassal States south of the Danube has become an axiom in the strategy of the Allies. Neither Bulgaria nor Turkey is likely to maintain a prolonged resistance when once cut off from Austro-German support. Their elimination from the struggle will in turn deal the first decisive blow to the confidence felt or affected by Germany in ultimate victory. The significance of their two Allies to the Central Powers has consisted not so much in the accession to the total fighting strength of the combination—valuable as that has been—but in the appearance of solidarity attaching to a united and well-organised Central European Block, which has gone far to confirm the belief in the impossibility of defeat at the hands of the Allies. Roumania's entry into the struggle should quickly be the means of shattering this house of cards, for Bulgaria's capacity to resist attack on two fronts must be strictly limited, and her defection will be the beginning of the end. But with the declaration of war the great bulk of the Roumanian people will be looking beyond the immediate military prospects to the dawn of the Greater Roumania, which will come with the inclusion in the kingdom of their kinsmen in Transylvania. The national goal is at last in sight.

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THE NEO-TURANIAN MOVEMENT IN TURKEY.

(From a Correspondent.)

This important movement, known in Turkey as Yeni-Turan, "New Turan," first became noticeable in Constantinople in 1913; allusions to it are now beginning to appear in various quarters. It may be defined as a movement in favour of Turkish nationality and away from Islam. Its objects are said to be as follows:—(1) To make the Turkish national soul independent of Islam (the phrase is that of Dr. Alfred Nossig, reporting in *Der Tag* an interview with the Committee of Union and Progress); (2) the development of the military spirit among the Turks; (3) the establishment of good commercial *and other* relations with the Moslems of Northern Persia (Azerbaijan), Russian Asia, and Southern Russia; and (4) the freeing of the Turkish language from Arab and Persian elements. It has, however, another object, not quite so openly avowed—the denationalization of the Arabs. The design of its authors is to make the Ottoman Turk think of himself primarily as a Turk and only secondarily as a Moslem. The movement is worked by a society subventioned by the State, known as Turk Oidjaghy, "The Society of the Turkish Hearth," and an important propaganda is being carried on; the younger generation are to be influenced by the creation of Neo-Turanian schools; the teaching of the history of the Turkish and other "Turanian" races in the higher schools is to be improved; and a large force of Turkish boy scouts (Izdjis), under the auspices of Enver Pasha, has been created. These boys receive a military training intended to fit them in due course for the army; their badges and titles are purely Turkish and Pre-Islamic, and boys with Arab names receive Turkish scout-names. There is also a literary side to the movement; many scientific and historical works are being translated into simplified Turkish; it was proposed also to translate the Koran, but this was dropped owing to the opposition of the Ulema. Numerous works in support of the movement have also been published, including a novel, "Yeni-Turan," written by the suffragist Halida Hanum in favour of the movement and of women's rights. The combination of women's rights with a "Back to Turan" movement will appear notable to those who reflect that the Turanian races have probably in their time worked more harm to women than all the rest of the world put together.

The movement is said to have had its origin in several causes. One is the language question; the composite Turkish language, written in Arab characters, is becoming more and more unintelligible to the ordinary man. With this we are not here concerned. Another cause is found in the Moslems of Russia and the Caucasus, who urged the strong "Pan-Islamic" element among the the Young Turks to acquire the sympathies of the Moslems of Central Asia, Northern Persia, and the Caucasus, as they either were, or could be, converted into "Turks"; otherwise, the Ottoman Turks, even if they could successfully exploit Pan-Islamism, would eventually be absorbed by the Arabs. A third cause was a book. The time being ripe, the actual genesis of the movement appears to have been the perusal by Nazim Bey, the Secretary-General of the Committee of Union and Progress, and said to be its strongest member, of M. Leon Cahun's historical work "Introduction à l'histoire de l'Asie; Turcs et Mongols; des origines à 1405" (1896). This work, crowned by the French Academy, is at once learned and well documented, and also brilliantly, even fascinatingly written; whether some of its judgments are sound is another matter.

It is clear that a movement which aims at making the "Turkish national soul independent of Islam" must be an important matter, not only to all the great Moslem communities, but also to France, Russia, Italy, and Britain, who all govern many Moslem subjects; and it merits, and will doubtless receive, much attention both in the East and the West. The movement is said to appeal particularly to the Young Turks on the ground, briefly put, of Vambery's old thesis, that Islam is anti-national. Islam, they say, has tended, in combination with Arab, Persian, Greek, and Byzantine influences and traditions, to convert the Turks into a race of "Moslem Levantines" without any "Kultur" of their own. This appears to be such a reversal of the facts that it is worth while considering what they are and where they lead to. What *is* the Turkish national soul, and what is its relation to Islam?

At the Christian era Turkish tribes stretched across Asia from China to the Oxus. Their religion, if any, was Shamanism; their culture, the simple rules imposed on all nomads of Central Asia by their geographical and economical environment. The distinguishing characteristic of their existence was their military aptitude and virtues; they were the universal condottieri; their honour was the honour of the mercenary, allegiance to him who led and fed them. Beyond this the Turk, of himself, has never gone. He has founded no religion of his own, evolved no civilisation. No Turk has ever even tried to unite the whole race, though the Mongol Ghenghiz dreamt of it. He has merely been the great borrower, taking the impress in turn of every society with which he has been in contact—China, Persia, Arabia, East Rome, Germany. It is not the case that his borrowings, of which Islam is the chief, have prevented his attaining to any "Kultur" of his own; the fact is that he has never shown any symptoms of forming any culture apart from his borrowings.

And of all the Turki races the Ottoman is the least representative. It is not at all the case that they constitute a definite people, governing conquered races and territory. This was once largely true of the Ottoman in Europe and Armenia. But of the kernel of the Ottoman power, Anatolia, it has not been true for centuries. Omitting the nomad Yuruks and Turkmen, there is little of the Turki about the Anatolian Turk of to-day. His Turkish nationality is a political expression; a dwindling modicum of Turkish blood mingles with a large measure of the blood of many peoples who were old when Constantinople was founded—Greeks and Phrygians, Galatians and Isaurians, Carians and Hittites. It is his European blood which has turned him to agriculture; his brief sea power in the sixteenth century was sustained by admirals of European blood; differently dressed, he looks like a European. Two things have kept him together as a people: Islam and his habit of military obedience. He is not interested in the other borrowings of his rulers, in Persian speculation, or Byzantine rules for dealing with younger brothers of the Blood; but for Islam he does, in a way, care; and for all essential purposes Islam, however much altered in the borrowing, *is* the Turkish culture, the thing that has held the State together. For if the Turk cares for Islam, it is because there is involved with it his strongest feeling, his military virtue. He adopted Islam at the word of command; he has not reasoned or felt deeply on the subject; but throughout history he has fought for those who did; he has been Islam's sword. Take away Islam, and what is left of Turkey?

Turan is left, say the Neo-Turanians, and Islam also will remain in a new form, as a national religion. But Turan has nothing creative to show, nothing of its own. Its history has been a history of destruction. The Yue-chi, destroying the Greek settlements in Bactria; the Huns, attempting to bleed both Romes to death; the Avars, attempting by the most abominable methods to destroy the young Slav race in its cradle; Hulagu, destroying the canals of Babylonia and reducing to its present sterility the most fertile region of the globe; the Ottomans, destroying that Byzantine culture on which they were actually feeding—these are Turan. Attila, the "Scourge of God"; Ghenghiz at Bokhara, proclaiming himself the Wrath of the Most High, the Rod of God's anger—these are Turan. The German, driving Belgian captives before him into battle, merely copied what was done daily by Mongols, Avars, Huns, save that these gave their victims swords. And this is where one may express distrust of some of M. Cahun's judgments. The world will hardly believe that Timur was a knight or Ghenghiz a statesman; and while M. Cahun rightly insists on the military virtues of the Turks, he does not lay equal stress on their military abominations. The omission has been remedied by a later writer, Dr. Th. Peisker, who has carried further that view of the Turks and Mongols which has been traditional since Gibbon; few more terrible indictments have been penned than his account of how these people systematically and permanently, by the most terrible methods, debased and ruined the races subject to them. It is too late in the day to idealise the mere destroyer; even Prussia, for all her Turanian blood, pretends that where she destroys she will recreate.

The Turk has no religious imagination; he has never worked any development in Islam, or even created a heresy; Islam in his hands is set and rigid. It is impossible to imagine that he could create a national religion, which seems to require that some one somewhere shall feel strong

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN

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religious emotion. Apart from this, however, it may well be that, if the Ottoman Turk were confined to his own country, Anatolia, it would not matter much how he formed his national State, provided that he did no harm to his neighbours, and that he did not continue to be an appanage of Germany. But, as a matter of fact, this is not at all the Turkey which the Neo-Turanians contemplate. They mean the whole Turkish Empire, and, perhaps, something over, for the relations advocated with the Moslem subjects of Russia aim at something much more to the point than commercial intercourse. And there is no question that they also aim at the denationalisation of the Arabs. The Turk is afraid of the Arab; he is such a very big proposition. The Turk says openly that if he does not deal faithfully with the Arab, the Arab will soon deal faithfully with *him*. Therefore, the Arab shall be Turkicised, after the best Prussian models; such as were exhibited in Prussian Schleswig Holstein when no Danish child might say its prayers in its own tongue. One fears some writers have been rather indiscreet over this matter. Thus Jelal Noury Bey in a recent work says: "The Arab lands—Irak and Yemen above all—must become Turkish colonies, in which we shall spread our own language, so that, at the right moment, we may make it the language of religion. It is a peculiarly imperious necessity of our existence for us to Turkicise the Arab lands; for the idea of particularism, of nationality, is waking among the younger generation of Arabs, and already threatens us with a great catastrophe. Against this we must be fore-armed." And Ahmed Cherif Bey has written in the *Tanin:* "The Arabs speak of their own language, and are as ignorant of Turkish as if their country was not a dependency of Turkey. It is the business of the Porte to make them forget their own language and to impose upon them in its stead that of the nation which rules them. If the Porte loses sight of this duty it will resemble a man who digs his grave with his own hands; for if the Arabs do not forget their language, their history, and their customs, they will seek to restore their ancient empire on the ruins of Ottomanism and of Turkish rule in Asia." Again, the author of a pamphlet distributed in the Caucasus, at the expense of the Ottoman Government, actually says, "The Arabs have been a misfortune to us; a Turkish conqueror's war horse is better than the prophet of any other nation."

We have here the deliberate programme of the ruin of a nationality. The Allied Powers stand firmly for the principle of nationality; no people that desires a separate life of its own shall be denied that life by another people. Their sympathies, and a good deal more than sympathy, in this matter, will go with the Arabs. And the sympathies of the great Moslem populations governed by France and Britain are not in doubt. They will be with the Arabs, chiefly because these gave birth to Islam, partly, in the case of French North Africa, through a belief in kinship in blood. The Moslems of the world outside Turkey, though they have not always loved the Turkish variation of Islam, have acquiesced in the Khalifate of the Sultans in the belief that the Sultans were strong enough to make Islam respected abroad. The time is at hand when they will be able so to acquiesce no longer.

The lot of an ally of Germany is a hard one; for the German appears to believe that a thing can both be and not be. He invokes international and every other law while he breaks it; he works for Islam with one hand and against it with the other. In the East the Kaiser has posed as the true friend of the Moslem, and has even been claimed as a convert; a Holy War (which failed) was proclaimed to raise the Moslems of all the world to fight for Germany; and great efforts, which have equally failed, have been made to seduce from their allegiance captured Mohammedan subjects of France and Britain, on the ground that it was their duty to fight for the Turk and all Islam against the infidel. This is one side of the picture. But the other side is instructive. The first glimpse given to the world of how Germany was also working *against* Islam was the capture at Moshi by General Smuts of the now famous circular addressed by the German Government to its colonial agents in Africa, and sent out in October, 1913, asking for an immediate report on the best means to be adopted to arrest the spread of Islam in the German colonies, and whether the agents thought that it would be possible for the German Government by legislation to suppress the Mohammedan religion in its colonies and to forbid anyone to follow the teaching of that religion. The knowledge of this extraordinary document should be spread wide through the Moslem world. Following on this comes this movement of Yeni-Turan. Germany has only herself to thank if her hand is suspected everywhere. But the leaders of the Committee of Union and Progress are certainly behind this movement to make the Turkish national soul independent of Islam; and it is obvious that it could not continue to flourish openly were it disagreeable to Germany, the real power behind the throne.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Turkish Dupe.

In an article entitled "The Position of Turkey," the *Daily Graphic* remarks that, in view of the Turkish defeats in Armenia, and in the direction of Mosul, the news of the dispatch of Turkish troops to Galicia, to aid the Austro-Germans, seemed so incomprehensible as to be, at first, incomprehensible. It has, however, since proved true; and the *Graphic* continues:—

The German Headquarters Staff can hardly have been ignorant of the critical position of the Turkish forces in Asia. To weaken Turkey by transferring Turkish troops to another theatre of war was an act which must have been prompted by other than military motives. If the Germans felt the need of more troops in Galicia, the obvious military course was to recall the German regiments now installed in Constantinople. But the German Government knows only too well that it would be dangerous to leave Turkey without a German garrison. The Turks have suffered a succession of disasters since they threw in their lot with the Central Powers. Enver Bey may, perhaps, still be personally loyal to the German alliance; but there is abundant evidence that the Turks generally realise the blunder their Government has made, and if the German garrison were withdrawn from Constantinople there would probably be an entirely new orientation to Turkish policy.

Honour Where Due.

In welcoming Roumania's appearance in the field as an Ally, the *Morning Post* (August 29), in its leading article, "Enter Roumania," touches lightly on the part played by the King (and Queen) of Roumania and certain leading politicians:—

In this country we do not forget that the Queen of Roumania has English blood in her veins, and we recognise that King Ferdinand, though of the House of Hohenzollern, has proved himself first of all a good Roumanian, and has identified himself completely with the people over whom he rules. No doubt opinions as to the best policy for their country to adopt have not been entirely unanimous among Roumanians. Such public men as M. Carp, M. Marghiloman, and M. Maiorescu have done their utmost to keep their country at least neutral. But, now that the die has been cast, it may be assumed that such differences will disappear, and all parties will be united in support of what has become the national policy

Those who best know the difficulties of the situation in Bucharest must acknowledge the wisdom of the cautious policy pursued by M. Bratiano, the Roumanian Prime Minister, while they cannot requite too handsomely the indefatigable efforts of such patriots as M. Take Jonesco and M. Filipesco to fulfil their country's destiny in the direction in which it is now promised fulfilment.

Plain Speaking.

In a leading article, "Greece and the War," the *Manchester Guardian* (August 25) poses a question which the Greeks have probably been asking themselves quite anxiously during the past fortnight. It says: "The King of Greece, it is to be supposed, still believes in the eventual victory of the Central Powers. In that case, if Bulgaria chooses to keep the Greek territory which she has seized or may hereafter seize, who is going to eject her from it?" And the writer continues:—

King Constantine may once have thought, in the days when Germany's star was brighter than it is at present, that Germany would see him through. But when he looks about him now, even he can hardly suppose that Germany will fight a war to make Bulgaria disgorge Greek territory, and none knows better than he that nothing short of the threat of war would move Bulgaria. The fact is that Greece now depends on the Allies for the recovery not only of Salonika and the Ægean Islands, but of all the districts seized by Bulgaria, and that she is abandoning without a blow to the myriad uncertainties of war both her national territory and her aspirations farther afield, as in Southern Albania. It is said that Greece regards the presence of an Italian contingent at Salonika with misgiving, because Italian ambitions on the Adriatic coast and in Asia Minor conflict with those of Greece. The misgiving is reasonable. In this war those peoples who have aspirations are most likely to see them realised if they make sacrifices for them.

A "Queer Situation" Indeed.

The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* of Monday's date concludes a leading article, "On Greek soil," as follows:—

The suspicion is inevitable that some highly-placed Greeks are playing into the hands of their country's hereditary enemies. It is certain that M. Zaimis, the Greek Premier, is not among these. He is showing that he is a statesman who runs straight and is loyally adhering both to the letter and the spirit of his understandings with the Allies. It is not his fault that Greece is now in a difficulty as severe and painful as any she has encountered—and she has encountered not a few—since M. Venizelos relinquished his national leadership. The further course of

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events in Greece by no means depends wholly upon Greece herself. The future military purposes of the Allies must have an immense bearing upon it. What these are, even if anybody knew, would not be a matter for present discussion. In any case, they can involve no menace to Greece's independence, integrity, or neutrality. The enemy's purposes seem to involve an almost undisguised menace to all three. Taken altogether, the situation is the queerest that has yet arisen in this area, and, considering what the area is, that is saying a very great deal.

We agree with the writer; but it is certainly not saying too much.

A Dramatic Moment.

The *Spectator* (August 26) concludes an article on "The Situation in the Balkans" as follows:—

It will be intensely interesting to see what happens when the Bulgarians recognise that they are fighting against the Russians, the creators and the chief protectors of their nation. It will be one of the dramatic confrontations of history. One wonders what the feelings of Bulgarians will be who remember the history of forty years ago when Russia sacrificed more than a hundred thousand men—huge losses in those days—and spent £120,000,000 for the sake of the Bulgarian people. Russia took up arms for Christian Bulgaria then in a passion of unselfish enthusiasm which carried the Russian people away. The issue must soon be joined. For ourselves we regard it as a convenience that the Bulgars should come to meet the Allies rather than leave it to the Allies to search them out in very difficult country. If they come further, the Serbians, on the Allied left along the Moglena Hills, the French in the middle along the Belashitza Range, and the British on the Struma will be simultaneously engaged in the next few days. To immobilize practically the whole Bulgarian Army by holding it to its ground will be a great service to the Allies' united plan of campaign. If more than that should be accomplished—well, it will be all very positive gain.

Bulgaria's Despairing Move.

In a leading article *The Times* last Saturday referred as follows to "the desultory movements of Bulgarian forces on the Macedonian front":—

They are essentially the outcome of fear. The hope of injuriously affecting the Greek elections in certain areas may have been a contributory cause of Bulgarian activity, but the principal motive is evidently apprehension of the intentions of the Allies. The Bulgarians are well aware of the reinforcements which have reached Salonika, and they know that the troops of five nations are now arrayed against them. They find themselves in a position of isolation which they never expected. They are left, as one always knew they would be left, to bear the brunt of the war in the Balkans alone. Turkish units are hurried to the aid of failing Austria, but the Turks show no great eagerness to help the nation which deprived them of so much territory in Europe. The Austrians are calling out for assistance, and can give none. Germany needs every man she can put into the field on the main western and eastern fronts. . . . Bulgaria has, in short, been left in the lurch at a critical moment by her cynical patrons, and her movements just now are the outcome of feelings akin to despair. She fears she is about to be attacked. She has drawn down all the troops she can muster to the Macedonian area, and is attempting to anticipate the possible action of the Allies by a demonstration on a dangerously wide front. Her objects have been already correctly gauged, and it is plain that they leave General Sarrail unperturbed. The Allies never intended at this stage to occupy the areas into which the Bulgars are now penetrating, to the accompaniment of pretentious and misleading bulletins recalling their achievements with the pen in the first Balkan War. The true intentions of the Allies in Macedonia will be disclosed at the right moment, and meanwhile the discursive marches of the Bulgars are contemplated with more than usual serenity.

Great Britain and Her Allies.

There are some telling touches in an article, entitled "What the English Think of Their Allies," which Mr. Lewis R. Freeman contributes to the *World's Work* (August). Two of these we cannot refrain from quoting, even though they have no connection with the Near East. Both, curiously, are canine in character. Writing of British admiration of France's fine spirit, Mr. Freeman remarks:—

It was when the French poodle turned bulldog and displayed an unguessed ability to hang on as well as to snap that the heart of the British public was won entirely, and their normally repressed affection went out to their gallant Ally without reserve.

And again, after referring to the difficulties we encountered in getting seriously to work in the early stages of the war, he writes:—

Then that paradoxical brute, the British bulldog, who seems never to use his teeth so well as when his legs are tangled in his own chain, began settling down to business, and the wholehearted confidence of the French and British in each other soon became reciprocal.

As to our feelings towards Serbia, Mr. Freeman says, very truly:—

Serbia started badly handicapped in English popular esteem, for she had a rather sinister political record behind her, while the fact that she had furnished the spark to set off the bomb of the war was hardly calculated to predispose sympathy in her favour. The fine fighting qualities of the Serb, his dauntless single-handed defence against the might of Austria, won him ready admiration in England, however, and when, driven back by the overwhelming combination of both the Central Powers with Bulgaria, he still refused to ask for peace, it was no longer possible for the sport-loving Briton to deny him the recognition of a worthy Ally.

Most Englishmen, too, have a sort of sneaking idea that a more vigorous diplomacy and readier military measures in the Balkans might have saved Serbia, and this has inclined them more and more to bracket that country with Belgium as one of the small nations whose wrongs must be fully righted as a condition precedent to any sheathing of the sword of battle.

Turk v. Arab.

In a note upon the proclamation issued by the Shereef of Mecca, the *Daily Graphic* (August 26) says:—

Arabs have never loved the Turks, and Arabia has been the scene of many rebellions. Indeed, a large part of Arabia has never been fully subjected to the authority of the Sultan of Turkey. But as long as the Sultan remained effectively the head of the Moslem religion no general revolt against his authority was possible. Spiritual loyalty outweighed the evils of temporal misrule. The advent of the Young Turks altered the whole situation. Several of these so-called Turks were not Moslems at all, but Jews; others were frankly Atheists. To this group of adventurers has passed the real sovereignty of the Turkish Empire, and the Sultan is little more than a prisoner in his own palace.

The writer concludes by expressing the opinion that "unless the Turks can put into the field a stronger force than appears to be available the Arabs may very soon secure their main objects—the liberation of Arabia and the preservation of Islam."

Corpse Smuggling.

The *Lancet* of August 19 contains the second part (the first appeared in the issue of August 12) of an extremely interesting article on "The Shiah Pilgrimage and the Sanitary Defences of Mesopotamia and the Turco-Persian Frontier," by Dr. F. G. Clemow, Physician to H.M. Embassy, Constantinople. Along two-thirds of the frontier, the southern section, "the only existing sanitary defence consists of a lazaret at Khanikin and of health offices at Rayet, Suleimanieh, and Mendeli; an office formerly existing at Revanduz was done away with a few years ago." But apparently these defences are more nearly adequate than they would seem to be at the first glance, for "the danger to public health offered by the small amount of through traffic along the various minor routes" was held by a commission of investigation "not very great"; and, on the other hand, "any attempt to subject to proper sanitary control the unruly tribes in their seasonal migrations was foredoomed to failure, while the practical obstacles in the way of establishing sanitary stations in these remote and mountainous districts would have been exceedingly difficult to overcome." Assuredly the lot of any official charged with carrying out the work would be an unenviable one! The Khanikin station, however, on the most-used route, is a very useful and very necessary institution; for "an average of 34,000 travellers and 3,900 corpses pass through Khanikin every year." The "corpses" are, of course, those of good Shiahs, who wished to be buried in Kerbillah or Nejef. Here is a paragraph of somewhat uncanny interest:—

Hitherto the sanitary office and the lazaret at Khanikin have been two separate establishments, situated at some distance from each other. Pilgrims and passengers, with their pack animals, flocks, and dead bodies, were directed to the former when there was no epidemic disease in Persia, and to the latter when there was. The "office" consisted of a large caravanserai, of the usual type found in these regions—that is to say, of a series of arched recesses and enclosed chambers, built round the sides of a large square enclosure. It was here that the sanitary taxes were collected and the dead bodies inspected. It should be explained that for many years past no dead bodies were admitted to Turkish territory if death had not occurred at least three years before and the bodies been reduced to the skeleton state (*en état d'ossements*). Attempts at contraband—to be discussed more fully in a later article—have, however, always been frequent, in order to avoid the payment of the sanitary dues. When detected at Khanikin, the bodies were confiscated and kept in a special depôt prepared for the purpose until claimed by the relatives or bearers, when they were delivered up on payment of the dues. All bodies found to have been buried less than three years ("fresh" bodies) were seized and buried in a cemetery situated some 200 metres from the office. The Commission proposed to do away with this sanitary "office" altogether, and to concentrate the entire sanitary service in the reorganised lazaret. An annual

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rental of P.20,000 (£166) would thus have been saved to the Turkish Government.

In Turkish Waters.

The *New Armenia* of August 1 contains an article entitled "Raiding the Turks," contributed by M. Armen S. Delalian, an Armenian who "volunteered and was accepted as pilot" of a British submarine. The following passages are of much interest, and seem to show how utterly unlike the methods of the German U-boats are those of our own submarines:—

On May 22, we started for Ereghli, on the northern shore of the Sea of Marmora. I warned our commander that the water front of Ereghli is mostly populated by Christians, and that if he should bombard this section he might kill either Greeks or Armenians. He informed me that even if the water front were inhabited by a purely Turkish population he would not fire on it unless there was a military store or troop depot there.

We saw another object on the horizon moving southward toward us. We approached her until we were within signalling distance, and then we again emerged and ordered her to halt. I boarded this sailing ship with one of the subordinate officers of the submarine, and found her to be a very small sailing vessel on her way to Mudanya in Asia. There was not much of a supply of provisions on board, and the skipper, who was her owner as well, had his entire family and the families of several of the crew on board. Her captain, an Albanian Moslem, was very much frightened. The women and children, some fifteen or twenty in number, were crying, and even some of the crew showed abject fear for their lives.

The submarine officer told me to inform them that we were not fighting them, and that if they could spare any he would like to buy some of the provisions they might have on board. This proposition sounded like a grim jest upon the ears of the Albanians. The owner of the ship said, with well studied hypocrisy, "Everything on board is yours, including the boat and our lives. You do not need to offer to buy, take all you wish." The British officer smiled and told me to inform him that we were fighting their Government, not them. After what we selected of their provisions was lowered into one of the boats we asked him how much we owed him. After long hesitation he asked two liras.

Articles to Note.

"Transylvanians in Bondage: Roumania's Mission," in the *Morning Post* (August 30).

"Kavala: Centre of Turkish Tobacco Trade," in *The Times* (August 30).

"A Little Talk to Anzacs," in the *World's Work* (August).

"The Darfur Campaign: How the Transport Difficulties were Overcome," by C. H. S., in the *Field* (August 26).

"Ferdinand the Butcher: Official Record of Bulgar Atrocities on Serbians," by Claude Askew, in the *Daily Express* (August 28).

"The Dust of Nineveh: In Mosul To-day," by Louise Peralta, in the *Daily News* (August 22).

Count Bosdari, the Italian Ambassador in Athens, has officially informed the Greek Government that Italy has declared war against Germany.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

I understand that the Banque Franco-Serbe, the head office of which is at 14, rue Le Peletier, Paris, will shortly open an office at an address in Throgmorton Street. This important step is being taken, of course, by way of preparation for the day when Serbia will once again be in the possession of the Serbians. I am informed that very shortly before the enemy occupation began, the bank successfully removed all its cash and securities from the central office in Belgrade, and from its branches at Skoplje (Uskub) and Bitolia (Monastir). Since it was established in 1910, this bank, with its powerful French directorate, has rendered signal service to Serbian finance and commerce. It is a reasonable belief that when peace has been restored Great Britain will play a larger part in the Balkans than she has done heretofore, so that a London branch of the bank should find, without difficulty, a very useful sphere of activity.

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Hail to our new Allies! Roumania has been long-headed enough to avoid the mistakes of her neighbours, and has dropped down on the right side of the fence. The political point of view is not one with which I am concerned; but in an article elsewhere in this issue attention is paid to some of the commercial aspects of the situation created by the advent of our new Ally. After all, her decision is a business proposition, and I think we may comfort ourselves with the reflection that after two years of careful consideration the Bucharest statesmen are not likely to have underestimated whatever chances the Huns have of coming out of this fight on top.

***

For some days past all has been fish that has come to the net of the London Press in the way of Roumanian news, but, unfortunately, it has not all been good. One leading paper, I noticed, published on Monday, without comment, a cablegram from its Paris correspondent, who in turn quoted from the Swiss paper, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, in which it was stated that "the National Bank of Roumania has been authorised to issue notes up to 75,000,000 frs. (£3,000,000) and 8,000,000 lei (£320,000)." This statement is absurd on the face of it. The bank is authorised generally, and legally, to issue notes up to a sum representing three times the amount it holds in gold. On June 26 the bank held gold to the value of 514,000,000 frs., and could, as a matter of fact, have had in circulation notes to the value of rather more than 1,500,000,000 frs. On that date the notes out were less than 1,000,000,000, which left a pretty good margin without need to talk of special authorisation.

***

There is much comfort to be drawn from the desperate attempts that are being made to bolster up Turkish finance. The Young Turks are credited with another frantic appeal to Berlin for more money, that is, if they have received any at all from their impecunious masters. The story goes that "the Sultan has been made to sign an iradé granting permission to the Turkish Finance Minister to issue a new lot of Treasury bills to mature five years after the end of the war. These Turkish Treasury bills will be 'covered' by German Treasury notes of the same value. Thus, a well-known chronic bankrupt gives a note of hand for a loan endorsed by a coming bankrupt, who has not yet filed his petition. Turkey and Germany, without mentioning bankrupt Austria-Hungary, keep on piling up worthless bills and bonds drawn on the 'bank of fortune in war.'"

***

There is only one possible end to this business. Turkey will find that she has joined a firm that has not the means to carry on, if, indeed, she has not already made the discovery. It may be possible to carry the partnership on for a short time longer; but with the best will in the world the Huns will not be able to give away what they have not got themselves. I do not suggest that the German people are starving; they may not even be tired of the war; but there is plenty of evidence that so far as general resources are concerned Germany has plenty to do to keep her own armies going. In those circumstances the time is not far distant when Turkey will have to look after her own funeral, as the saying goes. As I have said before, Bulgaria and Austria will have nothing to give away, and the Turks will then be "between the devil and the deep sea."

***

One of the outstanding features in English produce markets this week has been the feverish tendency on the Liverpool Cotton Exchange. There was a great deal of excitement last week, but it was then thought that the conditions were temporary, and that they would soon disappear. On Monday, however, the market opened as excitedly as it closed on the previous Saturday, and prices were soon soaring upwards. After three hours' operations American futures stood at the remarkable level of 9.84d., which represented an advance of about 40 points. On the same day Egyptian futures opened strongly, at 45 points to 50 points higher. Three hours later they were 75 points advanced—or three farthings a pound! Needless to say, conditions were irregular and unsettled, and, necessarily, unhealthy from the point of view of sound dealing.

***

Meanwhile in Manchester general business has been in a state of almost complete dislocation, at which I am not surprised, for nobody seems to know what exactly is going to happen. Until the price has been placed on a more or less fixed basis, whether it be high or low, inactivity will continue. It cannot be expected that consumers will be keen buyers in the circumstances. It would seem that the situation has been caused by the "end-of-the-season" tendency which is always in evidence to some extent at this time, and that until the new crop begins to show the excitement will continue. At the moment the bulls are in a strong position, and they may find it possible to send prices higher still; but the sooner the temperature of the market becomes normal, or approaches normality, the better it will be for all concerned.

***

For a sane view of the position nothing better has been forthcoming than that of the special correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette*, who wrote on Tuesday as follows:—"Speculation and gambling in raw cotton is at its height, and it is a long time since such violent fluctuations in prices occurred in the New York and Liverpool markets. The conditions at the moment are unparalleled, and quotations are fast approaching the level which prevailed during the American Civil War, nearly fifty years ago. . . Amongst Manchester traders there was a decided disposition to look on and wait for further developments. Trading in yarn and cloth cannot be successfully carried on when raw cotton prices are fluctuating wildly."

***

The other day I referred briefly to certain railway projects which Russia may undertake in Asia Minor after the war. It appears now that other schemes are being spoken of, at present with some reserve, it is true. Some of the Black Sea harbours are to be improved, both as regards port facilities and the approaches. Whatever may be uncertain, a revival in Russian shipping is among the certainties, especially in the Black Sea. A new steamer line is once more spoken of, the service, so it is proposed, linking up Odessa with United Kingdom ports. Hitherto the Turkish Government has been a back number in the matter of communications; but just before the war broke out she was busy with projects for the improvement of some of her harbours on the Asia Minor coast, notably Trebizond. This port is now in Russian possession, and if it remains so—as we all hope it will—there is no reason why the Russians should not revive these harbour projects as they are doing with those of the railways.

***

Among company meetings reported in this issue of the NEAR EAST will be found that of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways. The report will repay perusal by all who are interested in the development of Egypt. The chairman's statement regarding the position and working of the company was clear and encouraging, and leaves no doubt but that all is well, despite the fact that war conditions have interfered with whatever prospects there were of a dividend. With this point we have dealt previously, and it only remains to say that nothing has occurred to lead us to change the opinion we expressed then. In our City Letter a rise in the price of Delta shares in London is referred to.

***

The high price of coal is responsible for great laments at Malta. Our friends are grumbling just now because the price of gas has been increased from 6s. 8d. to 8s. 8d. per 1,000 cubic feet. I admit freely enough that even the former price is stiff as compared with the increased price at home. I fear, however, that if I were to say that people in Malta were merely finding that the burden of empire-building is more than a nominal task they would be far from satisfied. But in the correspondence that has appeared in the *Daily Malta Chronicle* one of the writers has raised a very important point. "I think," he writes, "the price of coal gas out here could be made ever so much lower if the local gas company would give up its fossilised methods of production. As far as I know, only coke and tar are extracted from the coal used, the other valuable by-products being thrown away. There would, of course, have to be machinery to extract such by-products; but in neglecting all these years to provide the necessary plant, I think the gas company sins not only against its shareholders but also against its customers."

COMMENTATOR.

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Germany and Roumania.

What the Enemy Stand to Lose Economically.

The message received from Berlin to the effect that "according to an announcement by the 'Upper Command,' due to the existence of a state of war with Roumania, all the State property of Roumania in Germany will be sequestrated" sounds sonorous and menacing. As a matter of fact, it need not worry Roumania's friends in the least.

Discussing last week the exploitation of Roumania by Germany, we remarked that the decision of the former regarding the side she would take when she entered the war would mean a great deal to some people. It will mean a great deal to Germany, which up to this time has had free scope amounting in some directions almost to a monopoly in the country of the youngest member of the Grand Entente.

It is too early in the day to say how far the Roumanian decision will compromise the enemy's sources of supply of food grains; but in view of the transactions reported to have taken place during the two years in which the war has been proceeding, Germany will now have a considerable gap to fill. In justice to our new Ally, it ought to be explained why they have continued to supply Powers, against which she was destined to declare war, with important articles of military value. We believe it is no secret in some quarters that Roumania could not help herself. She has not been a willing seller; unfortunately, the Central Powers—in the absence of the ability of the Entente Powers to interfere—were in a position, for a time, to formulate demands, while Roumania was not in a position to resist them. Consequently, she had no alternative but to make friends with "God and Mammon," and we may be grateful that she has been able to do so and, while providing her future enemies with various articles of produce, also able to avoid compromising her position.

Industries.

The principal industry of the country is really agriculture. There were in the year 1914 something like 13,000,000 acres of land under grain cultivation, responsible for the production of, approximately, 175,000,000 bushels of maize, wheat, barley, oats, and rye, of the estimated value of £50,000,000 sterling. It is not too much to say that the Central Powers (and Turkey and Bulgaria to some extent) have depended to an important extent upon this vast source of supply. The fact is too essential to be overlooked, and while it would, perhaps, be undue optimism to say that our enemies will not be able to do without Roumanian corn, on the other hand it would be sheer folly to insist that they will not suffer grave inconvenience through this source of supply being shut off.

There is an equally important matter, however, that comes up as a result of Roumanian intervention. Agriculture is far from being Roumania's only activity. Her mines, oilfields, and timber also constitute important industries, and although in the present circumstances statistics would only be misleading, these industries are very considerable, and have attracted an enormous amount of foreign capital into the country. Needless to say, the great bulk of that capital belongs to Germany. As we pointed out last week, for many years Germany was engaged in the "peaceful penetration" of the country, exploiting every industry that could be developed, and providing the money for the working of them. We do not suggest that Roumania will ever repudiate a debt of honour, but it will be difficult to persuade the most inveterate purist that it will be possible to wage war and, at the same time, preserve your enemy's property intact.

The Oilfields.

Both Germany and Austria-Hungary stand to lose a vast sum in invested capital. In the oilfields, as we showed last week, German "enterprise" ousted nearly every other competitor from the market. The Deutsche Bank alone controls many groups, representing large investments. In the year 1914 the output of petroleum reached the huge figure of 1,895,384 metric tons. The total capital invested, in 1913, was something like £16,000,000, the principal companies being:

	Capital.
Steaua Româna	100,000,000 francs
Astra Româna	60,000,000 ,,
Concordia	25,000,000 ,,
Italo-Româna	15,000,000 ,,
Româna-Americana	12,500,000 ,,
Orion	11,000,000 ,,
Roumanian Oilfields	9,375,000 ,,
Aquila Franco-Româna	6,000,000 ,,

There are other concerns of less magnitude, among which are the comparatively small British companies.

Smaller Industries.

Third in importance among Roumanian industries are forestry and sawmills. The capital invested in these enterprises amounts approximately to £4,000,000 sterling, export values in a normal year running up to about £1,200,000. There are also prosperous sugar works and refineries, breweries, wire-drawing and nail factories, oil factories, paper mills, glass works, brick works, textile factories, cement, lime and balsalt works, pulp, etc. Not a bad list when all the possibilities of the industries are taken into account. Salt is another of the mining industries, as is coal. There are metals, too, the mining of which has not received a great deal of attention, such as copper and iron. At the same time it is worth mention that considerable German capital has been expended upon these latter potential sources of mineral wealth.

German capital has been employed, too, in works of public utility. Railways, tramways, quays, electric-lighting, waterworks, etc., have all come under the heavy hand.

Banking Interests.

In purely financial affairs the Germans and Austrians have established some powerful banking concerns—some independently, some in conjunction with each other, and others in co-operation with French and Belgian houses. The Banque Generale Roumaine was established in 1898 by the Disconte-Gesellschaft and the Maison S. Bleichroder, of Berlin. Its capital is 15,000,000 frs., and in 1912 it paid the remarkable dividend of 125 per cent. The Banque de Credit Roumain was established in 1910 by the Laender-bank and the Niederoster Reichische Bank of Vienna, with a capital of 20,000,000 frs. At the end of 1912 it had a reserve fund of 10,000,000 frs., and paid a dividend of 50 per cent. The Banque Commerciale Roumaine had French, Belgian, and German interests, having been established in 1907 by the Union Parisienne of Paris, the Crédit Général Liègeois of Liège, and the Weiner Bankverein. This concern had a capital of 12,000,000 frs. Another bank, the control of which was controlled by opposing belligerents, was the Banque Marmorosche Blank and Co., founded in 1905 by the Pester-Commercial Bank of Budapest, the Darmstadter Bank of Berlin, the Banque de Paris et des Pays of Paris. The capital of this concern was 20,000,000 frs.

From these figures an idea may be gained of the amount of capital belonging to enemy interests which war with Roumania places in jeopardy. Taken in the aggregate, the amount of German invested capital in the grip of her latest enemy must represent a vast sum, and in addition it will be recalled that a great portion of Roumania's national debt is held in Berlin. We presume Roumania will know exactly what steps she will be entitled to adopt to bring all these great interests under safe control, and since the Germans are not likely to be ignorant of what may happen—of what they themselves would do, and, indeed, have done in similar circumstances—there must be some uncomfortable investors in the Fatherland to-day.

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MOROCCO NOTES.

Openings for British Traders

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, August 19.

The Moroccan event which at present deserves most attention is the Fair, which will be held in Fez from October 1 to 15 [referred to elsewhere in this issue.—Ed.]. That statement does not imply that nothing interesting is or has lately been taking place in other directions, however. French columns have lately been very active on both sides of the Atlas, and, indeed, far away to the east of the Atlas. The line of communication through the Atlas at Taza, between Eastern and Western (Fez in particular) Morocco, is strongly and securely held. The main work of the troops is now directed towards the gradual domination of all the mountain tribes between the two Moroccos, and in the plan pursued the opening and holding of another road across the Atlas south of Taza, thus isolating a large block of difficult country, is one of the chief features. The general scheme of occupation is being carried out steadily and successfully, despite at times vigorous opposition, due in great measure, it seems, to the intrigues by which Germany still attempts to keep alive and render effective the hostility of the tribes.

Disturbed Areas.

In the north an advance is daily, though not too confidently, expected on the part of the Spanish troops, and their disreputable but useful instrument Raisuli, to complete the occupation of the Anjera country, the tribesmen of which continue till the present time, and almost within range of the guns of Gibraltar, to have the effrontery to attack any vessel which may go ashore on their coast, and to seize any boat's crew which may be imprudent enough to land. On some of these occasions members of the crews concerned have been killed or wounded, and others have been held to ransom. The Anjera country being in the Spanish zone, the duty of putting an end to this interesting but most inconvenient anachronism falls on Spain, which has not, however, up to the present been able to carry it out. These military activities, it is necessary to repeat, only affect the districts in which they take place, and do not disturb or excite the Morocco of commerce and travel. They have been in varying degree, for years past, part of the country's daily round, and it is only when they result in the throwing open for traffic or development new districts that they attract general interest.

The Fez Fair.

The Fez Fair, on the other hand, in itself a commercial exhibition of limited scope, is a significant novelty. It will mark a definite stage in the process of extending the coast development inland; it will assert strikingly the tranquillity, even in this time of stress, of districts recently very intractable, and will help to establish a current that may before many years have important consequences of trade and traffic across the Atlas between Algeria and Morocco. As in the case of last year's exhibition at Casablanca, the entries will be limited to products of France and Morocco; but the Fair should, nevertheless, be worth the attention of British visitors.

Travellers for pleasure cannot this year be expected to visit Morocco; but it is to be hoped that business men, with the knowledge of the need for developing old markets abroad and finding new ones which will be felt after the war, will find means to make use of the unusual opportunity this Fair will give of judging of Morocco's old and growing requirements. Fez itself is a wealthy city with which, chiefly through the hands of rich native merchants, many of them with partners in Manchester, a very large import trade with Great Britain is done, and the reputation of British manufacturers and business methods stands very high. The present import trade consists very largely of the old staple articles of Moroccan trade, and little attempt has yet been made to develop the market for the very numerous new requirements of the country, or to capture a share of the considerable trade (especially in broadcloth, once a regular import from Great Britain) perforce dropped by the enemy Powers. It is felt by those on the

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spot who are qualified to judge that there is a great need and opening in Fez for business men from home to establish themselves there as agents for British houses, and there could be no better chance of judging of the opportunities than at this Fair.

It is now partly realised by those at home that Great Britain has, as she has long had, important commercial interests in Morocco, and that the Moroccan market is likely to become rapidly more and more valuable. Morocco is, indeed, under French protection; but the circumstance under which that position has been reached, the parallelism between British privileges in Morocco and French privileges in Egypt, apart altogether from existing guarantees, and the strong probability that after the war trade relations between the Allies will be very intimate and unhampered, seem to give every reason to expect that British trade in Morocco will be free to develop to the full extent to which it proves itself able to supply Moroccan needs.

Communications.

Fez a very short time ago was only accessible to those who were prepared to ride and to take with them camp equipment. That method has now, for Europeans, almost become obsolete. At any of the ports, Kenitra, Rabat, Casablanca, visitors to the Fair will be able to take the military railway, now available for civilians, which will land them at Fez, where the authorities are preparing accommodation. From the same ports and in less time the journey may also be done, especially in fine weather, by motor car. A few weeks ago, for the first time, a motor-car, American, indeed, but owned by a British motor-car company in Tangier, the managing director of which organised and made the journey, reached Fez from Tangier direct by road. The success—the easy success—of the attempt makes it probable that motor-car from Tangier will soon become a very favourite way of reaching Fez from Europe. There is not at present, except for a very short distance, a permanent road, but the track on the whole is very good, and until the heavy rains come, which as a rule is not till after October, there could be no pleasanter or quicker way of visiting Fez than by traversing the three zones—international, Spanish, French—which lie between Tangier and the chief of the Shereefian capitals.

ROUMANIAN HARVEST.

Writing on July 15, our Correspondent in Bucharest said :—

I hear that only 42,000 wagons of wheat (out of the 80,000 stipulated) have up to the present been sold to the British Bureau. Part of the remainder will be made up with the wheat which is in the possession of merchants, this class having been authorized to sell to the British Bureau, and with a quotum of the 1915 wheat reserved for internal consumption, which is still in the care of the growers.

Germany has been making overtures for the purchase of the coming harvest, overtures which have been repulsed on the ground that the Commission of Export will not be able to determine what proportion is exportable before the end of August.

At the time of writing the harvest of Indian corn seems to be heavily compromised as a result of the very hot weather and the lack of rain. Measures have in consequence been taken to prevent the exportation into Germany of any further maize. Up to the present 30.000 wagons have been sold to the Germans in fulfilment of the terms of the second purchase, that of the "hundred thousand wagons."

The quantities of cereals sold to the Central Powers up to July 1 were as follows :—

First Contract.	Tons.	Second Contract.	Tons.
Wheat	26,276	Wheat	50,970
Rye	1,665	Rye	1,280
Indian corn	8,770	Indian corn	30,695
Barley	9,519	Barley	12,280
Oats	4,156	Barley for brewing beer	1,812
Beans	3,308	Beans	1,255
Peas	825	Peas	2,014
		Flour	1,444
Taxes, 30,000,000 francs.		Taxes, 25,000,000 francs.	

EGYPTIAN FINANCE.

Accounts for April: Improvement Maintained.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 4.

The State accounts for April, the first month of the new financial year, were published last night. The improvement evident during the concluding months of the previous year is being maintained. The revenue amounted to £E1,329,037, as against £E1,064,598 in April, 1915, or only £E31,788 less than in the same month in 1914. The expenditure came to £E1,610,138, as against £E1,470,743 in April, 1915, or £E115,908 less than in April, 1914. There is, therefore, an excess of expenditure over revenue of £E281,101, as compared with £E406,145 in 1915 and £E365,221 in 1914.

Land tax and direct taxes came to £E275,376, customs to £E185,783, tobacco dues to £E185,033, legal fees to £E108,498, railways to £E378,519, telegraphs to £E14,488, post office to £E24,479, rent of Government land to £E23,727, domains to £E31,302, investment of funds to £E20,378, and divers receipts to £E40,075. It is interesting to note that, compared with two years ago, the chief increases in revenue during the month were direct taxes £E55,671, customs £E12,653, tobacco dues £E23,994, railways £E67,333 and domains £E21,233; whilst the more important decreases were in port dues £E31,460, investment of funds £E49,739, divers receipts £E21,726, and extraordinary receipts £E109,152.

Under expenditure the main increase has been under railways, which jumped from £E202,164 in 1915 and £E282,590 in 1914 to £E323,430. The War Office rose by £E5,172 and the Moukabala Annuity by £E13,748, but expenditure on irrigation fell off somewhat by £E6,710 and drainage by £E8,999. All things considered the prospects continue to be excellent. During the earliest months of the financial year expenditure always exceeds the revenue, and it is a matter for intense satisfaction that the deficit should be so much less this year than normally.

SUDAN TRADE.

The following table is of interest as showing the prosperity of trade in the first six months of this year, especially in exports. Compared with the first six months of the "record" year 1911, exports in the same period in this year have increased in value by 61 per cent., and the value of imports, exports, and re-exports has increased by 54 per cent.

Both in 1915 and 1916 the trade balance, viz., excess of exports and re-exports over imports has been very satisfactory :—

Year.	Exports.	Re-exports	Imports.	Total.
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
1909....	436,732	31,847	941,660	1,418,239
1911....	910,771	45,009	1,234,749	2,190,529
1913....	812,013	51,787	1,056,627	1,920,427
1915....	777,973	56,154	745,250	1,579,377
1916* ..	1,443,454	95,616	1,178,755	2,717,825

* Statistics are provisional.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

TRADE NOTES.

Openings in Egypt.

The following notes are taken from a report written by a representative of a London firm who visited Alexandria, Cairo and Khartoum in May, and are published in the Board of Trade *Journal* :—

The wants of the Arabs, who form a large proportion of the population, are not extensive as regards either food or clothing. Nearly all these Arabs wear cotton overalls and trousers, the business done in Manchester goods amounting in value to several million pounds sterling annually. Very little or no meat is eaten, but a large demand exists for dried fish, such as bloaters, red herrings, kippers and mackerel. A good business is done in cheap gaudy jewellery and also in cheap cutlery, earthenware and ironware. Paints, white lead, linseed oil, general ironmongery such as nails, screws, bolts, etc., and also ropes and string, are in good demand, especially the cheaper qualities. Domestic machinery, such as coffee mills, mangles, knife cleaners, etc., would probably sell well. A large business is done in all kinds of sacks and bags.

It is stated that, with few exceptions, all the products of the Sudan would find a ready market in the United Kingdom. Many kinds of grains such as *dukhn* and Egyptian oats have not hitherto been shipped to this country. Feathers, native-made mats and baskets would, when freights permitted, find a ready sale in the United Kingdom.

Fair at Fez.

The Acting British Consul at Fez writes that a Franco-Moorish fair is to be held at Fez from October 1 to 15 next, and, although the fair is open to French and Moorish goods exclusively, it is hoped that British merchants and manufacturers will profit by the occasion to ascertain the classes of goods likely to prove successful at Fez. Mr. Dawkins has forwarded a leaflet showing (a) goods which are much in demand at Fez and are almost totally lacking, and (b) goods not in actual demand, but for which a ready sale might be found. The goods classified under (a) include the following : Enamelled ware; porcelain, crockery and glassware; ironmongery; millinery; toys and fancy goods; woollen goods; tarbouches; felt squares and building materials. The goods classified under (b) include the following :—Travelling cases; clocks; plated goods; leather goods; machinery; agricultural implements; cotton goods; silks; passementerie; coarse and fine linens; tobacco; confectionery; mineral waters; perfumery; jewellery; optical instruments; groceries; and paraffin candles. The leaflet referred to above, which contains more detailed information as to goods in actual demand and goods for which a ready sale might be found, together with two other leaflets containing the general regulations for the fair and the approximate transport rates from the coast to Fez, may be consulted by British firms at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

[Our Morocco Correspondent deals fully with the Fair on page 430.—Ed.]

BULGAR PIRACY IN SERBIA.

According to *La Lumière Electrique*, the German-Bulgarian Union, of Dresden, has published the results of Bulgarian mineral researches carried out in the eastern part of Old Serbia. According to these researches, there are extensive coal basins between the Mava and the Peck, to the south-east of Porareva. The Dobra mine has a capacity of about 25,000 tons per year. On the Mirotch Mountain, to the south of Tetkia, there is a coal bed 30 kilos (18.7 miles) in length. At Zaietchar, a colliery which has been working for the last twenty-five years, and is connected by rail with Radujevac, on the Danube, supplies from 30,000 to 40,000 tons per year.

The Malakaon Reka bed is given a length of 3 kilos (1.8 miles), and an estimated capacity of five million tons. Sonich, located at a distance of 22 kilos (13.7 miles) from the Belgrade-Sofia railway line, can yield a large coal output. The coal basin at Alexinats is given a length of 6 kilos (3.7 miles). Coal is also found at Rtani, near Kniajevats, and in the Morava Valley, at Tzidilie.

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ENEMY BUSINESSES.

Amended Liquidation Rules in Egypt.

The General Officer Commanding in Egypt has, by proclamation, completed and extended the measures already provided by a previous proclamation with a view to preservation of enemy property in Egypt pending arrangements to be made at the conclusion of peace, and to the protection of the interests of creditors and other persons interested.

The following are among the rules that relate to the liquidation of enemy businesses:—

Every liquidator shall be deemed to have been invested with full power to sell all or any of the assets of the business in liquidation, including real property, trade-marks, and other property of whatever description, and every such sale shall convey a good and complete title to the purchaser.

The liquidator shall be clothed with all the rights of the person whose business he is liquidating; he may institute and defend proceedings at law, and may grant a valid discharge of any mortgage or other charge registered by way of security in favour of such person. He shall have all such powers as are necessary to enable him to wind up the business.

The distribution of the assets realised in the course of any liquidation shall be subject to the ordinary rules, provided that as between unsecured creditors the liquidator shall satisfy the claims of creditors who are not resident or carrying on business in enemy territory in priority to the claims of persons who are so resident or carrying on business.

No bankruptcy petition shall be brought by a creditor in respect of any person whose business is being liquidated by order of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief. A judgment obtained against any such person or against a liquidator, ordering the payment of money, shall be executed only to the extent of any dividend or dividends which may be declared by the liquidator.

The Licensing Officer shall, at such time as he may consider it desirable to do so, terminate the appointment of the liquidator, and order that all remaining assets of the liquidation be paid to or vested in the Public Custodian, who shall deal with the same in accordance with the provisions hereinbefore set out concerning the property of enemy persons. The Public Custodian may be instructed to continue a liquidation which has not been completed.

Controllers are appointed by the Licensing Officer and will follow his instructions. In general it is their duty to supervise the operations of the business placed under control, to make sure that the terms of any licence granted in respect of the business are strictly observed, and that no breach of any of the Proclamations in force is committed.

All judicial proceedings to which the Public Custodian or any liquidator appointed under Military Authority is a party shall be considered by the Court as urgent matters, and shall be disposed of with the least possible delay.

It shall be the duty of the Public Custodian, or the Liquidator as the case may be, to take the necessary steps for the immediate service of all judgments liable to opposition or appeal.

The following appointments are notified:—

Central Control.—War Trade and Licensing Officer, Col. Lord Edward Cecil, D.S.O.: Assistant War Trade and Licensing Officer, Major Hon. A. G. V. Peel.

Enemy Trading Section.—Director, Mr. H. Ward-Boys; Assistant Director, Mr. J. M. Marshall.

Import and Export Section.—Director, Mr. A. T. Loyd.

Public Custodian's Office.—Public Custodian, Mr. B. Hornsby.

The Black List.

The following Receivers of enemy firms in liquidation in Egypt have been appointed:—

Mr. C. W. Green, of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank: Business—Fernus Frères, Alexandria.

Mr. F. H. Russell, Gresham House, Cairo: Business — Austro-Orientalische Handels-Aktien-Gesellschaft.

The licences of the firms to trade have been cancelled.

NEWS FROM PERSIA.

Big Drop in Exchange.

(From a Special Correspondent.)

Ispahan, July 27.

A noticeable effect of the war in this country is the tremendous fall in the exchange. The £ sterling, which was worth about krans 50 before the war, is to-day worth less than krans 38, and is steadily going lower, while the rouble, which was worth about krans 6, is to-day worth about krans 2¼. These rates are for bills on London and Russia; but the prices of gold currency do not seem to have suffered. The English gold sovereign is worth krans 52, while the 5-rouble gold piece costs slightly over krans 25.

Piece Goods Trebled in Price.

In spite of this considerable fall in the exchange, piece-goods are trebled in price, and all imported goods have risen in price, varying from 50 to 200 per cent., but the most noticeable rise is in the prices of sugar and paper. Sugar costs about £14 per cwt., while ordinary foolscap paper of a medium quality is worth about £2 a ream. The rises are due, not so much to the enhanced prices in Europe—because this rise would be amply compensated by the fall of the exchange—but to the disturbed states of the roads which are infested by bandits; also by the tremendous increase in mule-hire. The hire from Ahwaz to Ispahan is nearly krans 400 per mule; before the war it was less than half this amount.

Quite a large number of mules are being bought here for transport purposes, and it is hoped that the presence of British troops at Shiraz will have the same beneficial effect in restoring order in the Fars province as the presence of Russian troops had in the Ispahan province.

The road from Ispahan to Ahwaz is in a fairly safe condition; so is the road from Ispahan to Shiraz; but beyond Shiraz to Bushire the mercenaries hold the road, which is absolutely impassable to caravans. By the way, the German Wassmus is still at large there, and it is hoped that the arrival of British troops at Shiraz will soon put him to right-about.

Locust Visitation.

The Ispahan province has been visited by large swarms of locusts which are several inches thick in some places. Fortunately, they arrived when the wheat and barley crops were too far advanced to be damaged; but they have destroyed the entire crop of potatoes and cotton. This, combined with the fact that, owing to the war, last year's cotton crop was not exported to Russia, and, therefore, the cultivators have not sown the usual quantity, and, again, with the prices of European piece-goods having so risen, a large number of local handlooms have sprung into existence once more, so it seems that when the war ends there will be little left for export.

On account of various restrictions placed on opium by the Opium Restriction Office, very little has been sown, and with a steadily increasing local consumption for smoking, the supply of this product, like that of cotton, will fall short of the demand.

EGYPTIAN COTTON "MORATORIUM."

A Reuter telegram from Alexandria, dated August 29, says that considerable excitement and indignation has been occasioned there by the Bourse Corporation's decision not to deal in cotton, till September 20, higher than 23 dollars. It is understood that the decision is due to the uncomfortable position of the jobbers who have been selling short, anticipating a fall, and are now unwilling to meet the big differences, as prices are still rising. The Government is actively inquiring into the matter, as the so-called moratorium is likely to stop the Fellaheen's sales and end in serious loss when the fall comes.

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PRODUCE REPORT.

London, August 31.

Currants.

There has been considerable activity in the spot market this week for all qualities, although the supplies are deficient and prices slightly higher. Transactions on new crop for September shipment are taking place at higher rates than those reported last week.

Sultanas.

The demand has been better this week, with good business in Afghanistan and Indian fruit at advanced prices. Australian sultanas are also selling well; while Greek fruit is held for higher prices.

Figs.

There is only a moderate demand, but prices continue steady.

Dates.

The demand is very good, but prices are very high, and only small business has been done during the week in spot fruit, while new crop is quoted at much higher prices.

Seeds.

Linseed has been dull and easier this week. London-Calcutta, spot, was sold at 76s.; August-September, 76s. 6d.; September-October, 77s.; while Bombay ordinary, August-September, is quoted 78s. 6d.; and small grain, ditto, 77s. Rapeseed is closing quiet, Toria, September-October, 69s.; and bold Ferozepore, ditto, 68s. 6d. Cottonseed is quiet, London-Egyptian, spot, is quoted £12; October, £12 7s. 6d.; November-January, £12 3s. 9d. per ton.

Oils.

Linseed oil is easier, spot pipes £36 10s.; barrels, ditto, £37 10s. landed. Rape is firmer, ordinary brown marked spot is nominal; whilst English refined barrels, £46 10s. to £48 10s. Cotton oil is quiet, crude spot pipes is quoted at £34 10s.; refined pipes, pale, £41; and barrels, sweet, £48 to £51 10s., as to make.

Oilcakes.

Cotton cakes.—There is still a scarcity of Egyptian cakes, but some parcels that are now on the way are offered at £9 15s., ex ship, which is also the price asked for November-January shipments; while English makes are dull and unchanged at £9 15s. to £9 17s. 6d. per ton. Linseed cakes.—Prices have a hardening tendency. London made, best, are firmly held at £13 10s. to £13 15s. East India, seed purer, are selling at £13 to £13 15s. ex ship afloat.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Roumanian moratorium with respect of debts due abroad has been extended for a further period of four months as from August 23.

The telegraph money order service, which was instituted on July 1 last, with certain of the British Oversea Dominions, will be extended on September 1 to other British possessions, including the Sudan.

Mr. Stanley Atter had gained a reputation as an artist in black and white before he left the London office of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the Army. Recently he has designed an effective and cleverly drawn cover for the programmes of concerts given by the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps at Berkhamsted.

The *Gaceta de Madrid* of August 5 published an announcement, issued by the Ministerio de Fomento, granting the concession for the construction and working of an electric tramway in Melilla to Don Ramón Prendes Rodriguez. Construction work must be commenced within three months, and completed within two years, from the date of the award of the concession.

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ALEXANDRIA EXHIBITION.

How Egyptian Industry is Being Stimulated.

[*We are now able to publish a description of the Alexandria Exhibition, specially written for* THE NEAR EAST, *which amplifies the account published in our last issue.*]

(By Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, August 12.

In the winter of 1914 the Jardin Rosette, Alexandria, was the scene of a ball given by the European community in honour of the visit of the British Fleet, a memorable spectacle for those who were privileged to witness it. To-day the premises are being utilized for an Exhibition of Egyptian Industries, for which they are almost equally well adapted.

The Exhibition was formally opened on Saturday, August 5, by his Highness the Sultan in the presence of the Ministers and a distinguished assembly. On the following day the High Commissioner and Lady McMahon, accompanied by Mr. Ronald Storrs, the Oriental Secretary, were received there by Adly Pasha Yeghen, Minister of Education, and Ismail Pasha Sidky, President of the Industrial Commission, who attended them during a lengthy visit.

As the first National Exhibition of its kind in Egypt, the enterprise has aroused much public interest since its conception, and for some weeks past Mr. Sidney Wells, the Director of Technical, Industrial, and Commercial Education and chief organiser of the Exhibition, together with his staff, has been busily engaged in perfecting the arrangements which, it may be said at the outset, are admirable in every respect.

Had the Exhibition been held in Cairo, in the height of the tourist season in normal times, visitors from many lands would have carried away with them a knowledge of Egyptian industries, more intelligent and comprehensive than they could otherwise have hoped to have gleaned in the course of a few weeks' visit to Egypt, even though supplemented by a study of guide books, export returns and the like; some of them, moreover, would have been spared the misgivings attendant upon the display for valuation by the hotel porter, or other sympathetic resident, of articles of Egyptian manufacture, purchased casually during the day and paid for in like spirit.

For the ordinary visitor interest centres chiefly around the Egyptian Arts and Crafts Section, and as the space at the writer's disposal is limited, it is proposed to deal with these in the first instance.

In the weaving section, the undyed woollen rugs, in brown and white, known as Assiout carpets and made in the Assiout model workshops, are remarkable for beauty and diversity of design. They are less costly than the multicoloured Persian or Turkish rugs, and should command an extensive sale. Some of the designs are original; others composite adaptations. These rugs would harmonize delightfully with a room distempered lemon yellow with brown stained floors. They are made by youthful students, both rich and poor, and prizes are given from time to time.

The Beni Suef Trade School also exhibits carpets made from Egyptian wool dyed by the weavers. A pile carpet designed by Abbas Kefafi, of the Boulac Technical School, was much admired.

Woollen articles of various kinds, in blue, white, and yellow, represented the work of the now destitute Bedouin women on the Western Frontier of Egypt. They have been collected for the Exhibition by an English lady interested in the welfare of the makers.

Mats made from Egyptian samar from Kafr el Hossr and Esneh, dyed with vegetable dyes, form an alternative floor covering for those who cannot afford the woollen rugs. One of the cleverest weavers of these mats was occupied upon a beautiful specimen with a design in green, and so rapidly did his deft fingers manipulate the material that the mat grew visibly during the ten minutes spent by his side.

Workmen were to be seen weaving carpets in the vicinity of these exhibits.

The silk dress fabrics in colours are, perhaps, not sufficiently modern in design to be easily marketable in competition with European goods.

Some very beautiful Assiout shawls were also in evidence, but as these may be seen in the shops in Paris and London, they are too well known and appreciated to necessitate special mention

The tent work, consisting of pieces of cloth in turquoise blue, brown and other colours, cut in representation of hieroglyphics from Egyptian tombs and temples, etc., and stitched upon a plain canvas background, are also well enough known to have achieved the flattering distinction of being freely copied in Birmingham and elsewhere. The specimens shown are made by the most famous exponent of this craft in the world, and a cursory examination will reveal the difference between the genuine article and the imitation.

On another stall there was a fine display of glazed ceramic ware. These exhibits form the first successful reproduction in Egypt of this ancient ware. They are manufactured in Shoubra, near Cairo. The colours are very pleasing, particularly a peacock blue shade, and the prices are moderate. Indeed, for an outlay of £10 it would be possible to acquire a representative collection.

The plain earthenware water-bottles (goulahs), vases, etc., were being moulded on the spot, by a potter at his wheel. "Shapes of all sizes, great and small," were turned out in full view of interested spectators.

Some frail glassware, in delicate shades of amethyst and aquamarine, etc., after models in the Arabic Museum, Cairo, were the work of Maalim Abdel Latif. Are these the first-fruits of the renaissance of a lost art?

Under a glass case were numerous specimens of "genuine" forged antiquities, the handiwork of the unsophisticated inhabitants of the village of Gomar. These give one furiously to think, and a study of them convinced the writer that, lacking an original, a genuine fake is preferable to—a fake. The "artist" may be imagined, tongue in cheek, plying his craft with not a little of that "joy for the working," of which Rudyard Kipling so feelingly writes.

In the furniture section there were some praiseworthy examples of inlaid (Arabesque) work, mother-of-pearl and ivory on walnut-wood from the Elhamieh School of Art, including a magnificent chair inlaid with "Baladi" mushrabia. There was also a beautifully-turned mushrabia screen from the Assiout workshops.

The Mandara* is a fine conception of the decorative possibilities of the salon of an Omda or Egyptian notable. There is no apparent straining after effect and yet the designers have succeeded in imparting a true Eastern atmosphere to the room.

To the writer's fancy, the fitting approach to such a room would be across a strip of sand. The time, noon of a summer's day; the locality, preferably Middle or Upper Egypt; the host, a dignified and courteous sheikh; the fare, coffee, cigarettes and slices of watermelon served by an ancient Sudanese; the conversation, harvest prospects. The hybrid forms no part in the decoration of this room, and fully to realize its harmony it would merely be necessary to introduce, for a fleeting moment, an example of modern furniture from Vienna or Marseilles. The inclusion of this exhibit was a happy inspiration, and owners of country houses in England, who have a penchant for things Eastern, might to advantage furnish a smoking-room from this model, a complete replica of which could be ordered for something less than £50. It is hoped that the object-lesson furnished by this exhibit will not be overlooked.

All the more important industries controlled by British and European houses employing native labour, are well represented in the Exhibition. Messrs. Compton and Sons, an important firm of clothing manufacturers, who have recently established a branch factory in Cairo, show specimens of the uniforms supplied to the Egyptian Postal Administration, coastguards, police and other public services. Messrs. Lagoudakis, printers, introduce an interesting feature in this section by displaying the actual lithographic stones—nine in number—showing the stages undergone by the poster advertizing the Exhibition, prior to production as a finished lithograph in various colours.

The Egyptian Salt and Soda Company, whose products, including soap and oil, are in universal use throughout the country, and whose oilcake finds a large market in England and the Continent, makes a brave display. The tarboushes turned out by the Kaha factory show good workmanship, and there is no valid reason why the foreign made article should ever regain the ascendency which it held prior to, and indeed for several months after, the commencement of the war. This is an industry capable of great development. Messrs. Cozzika and Company, who have a factory at Tourah for the output of "Sucrapaille," an economical patent food for horses and cattle, enjoy a prominent place. Messrs. C. J. Bolonachi and Son, who have been established in Egypt since 1884, show their various grades of brandies and rum, which have a large sale abroad.

It is evident that the Department of Technical, Commercial, and Industrial Education possesses an interesting sphere of usefulness, and it is well that an opportunity has been afforded the public of realizing what is being done by Mr. Wells and his staff in the way of stimulating the old industries and creating the new.

* His Highness the Sultan has given an order for the furnishing of a "Mandara" on the general lines of this model.

TYPEWRITER ACCESSORIES.

Warning to British Makers.

We take the following from a report by the United States Consul (Mr. John E. Kehl) at Salonika, dated May 26:—

"An unusual demand, now existing, creates a good opportunity for the sale of American typewriter ribbons and carbon paper in Salonika. The small supply of these commodities now on hand is of European origin, and, although of very poor quality, the goods are selling at the following wholesale prices to local dealers:—Ribbons, $5.25 to $5.75 per dozen, with 3 per cent off for cash; carbon paper, $1.75 to $2.50 per box containing 100 sheets.

"Under the Greek customs tariff now in force the practice has varied with reference to classifying typewriter ribbons and carbon paper. The local customs director states that ribbons are usually placed under article 287a, 'typewriter accessories,' paying a duty of 5.80 drachmas per oke ($0.40 per pound), the weight of box and spool not being counted. Carbon paper has sometimes been classified under article 306 as 'coloured paper,' paying 2.90 drachmas per oke ($0.20 per pound), not counting the weight of the container. It has more often been classified, however, under an omnibus clause providing that all commodities not specified in the Greek customs tariff shall pay a duty of 20 per cent. ad valorem, the market price in Salonika serving as a standard of value, after deducting 20 per cent. of the price. In addition to the import tariff there is a municipal tax of 1½ per cent. ad valorem.

"American banks probably would be able to obtain from Salonika banks information as to the financial standing of local firms. Under normal conditions, terms of sale in the wholesale market are from two to four months' credit, with a discount of 2 to 5 per cent. for cash. In view of present local business conditions and lack of transportation facilities, it is recommended that American firms quote prices cash f.o.b. New York at the pier of the National Navigation Co. of Greece."

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ORIENTAL-RUG MARKET.

Evidence of Increased American Interest.

The following information with regard to conditions in the Oriental-rug trade was obtained by letter from five large oriental-rug dealers in the United States, says an American Consular Report:—

Three firms state that they have been unable to get rugs from Asia Minor or even to communicate with that district. One firm is of the opinion, from what little information it has received, that oriental-rugs from this section will be much higher in price after the war, owing to the scarcity of labour and of wool. Wages, it is stated, have multiplied nearly threefold, and wool is very scarce and very high. At the outbreak of the war Persian rugs declined sharply in price, and the exchange value of the silver kran dropped from 0.0875dols. to 0.07dols. There has since been a gradual improvement in prices, and the exchange value of the kran has gone up to 0.11dols.

Most of the dyes used in Asia Minor, one dealer states, came from Germany; but Persia uses its own dyes as well as its own wool. Rugs are still being woven in Persia, according to two dealers, but not in the numbers that were customary before the war, for exporting houses, owing to the risks of shipment, are not ready to make the necessary advances in money to the weavers. The markets were well stocked in 1915, but subsequent purchases by American importers and the shortage of new rugs have made present stocks much lower. The diminution, according to one firm, is noted particularly in the very popular small rugs that came from the Hamadan district. This firm adds that the most disturbed carpet centre in Persia is the Kirman district, from which no goods have been shipped for some time.

The chief obstacle at present in the Persian rug business is the difficulty of shipment, which tends to keep prices lower in Persia. It has been almost impossible to ship goods from Persia by the usual routes through the Persian Gulf or the Black Sea. Shipments through Russia are difficult, and subject to delays, if not impossible, as one firm believes. Any rugs received under present conditions will cost more delivered than they did before the war, on account of additional charges for insurance, freight, etc.

One dealer tells of his personal experience in the rug-manufacturing districts:—

"A little over a year ago, while I was in Persia and Asia Minor, the market was very much depressed. Buyers were scarce, and transportation facilities were lacking. I managed, however, to bring my goods within Russian borders and from there to Russian ports. The merchandise that I bought has been on the way for over a year. I understand that at present it is impossible to secure transportation from Persia and Asia Minor through Russian ports. I would not recommend anyone to purchase goods and send them over the route that mine are taking.

"Market conditions may differ now from what they were a year ago. Since my return two months ago I have been informed that many American importing houses have sent representatives to Persia, the Russian Caucasus, and the Asia Minor frontier to take up all available goods and store them there. As soon as they reach these interior points a considerable rise in prices may be expected.

"There is available a considerable quantity of inferior and undesirable goods, formerly shipped to Europe, but very little of the best quality, such as is purchased by the American market. No manufacturing has been done since the outbreak of the war, owing to lack of labour, material, yarns, dyes, and finance. There are on the way to New York 3,500 to 5,000 bales, which we sold at Basra and various Persian sections."

COMPANY MEETINGS.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.

The annual general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., was held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on Tuesday, Sir William E. Garstin, G.C.M.G. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, you will remember that for the year 1914-15 we were able to distribute a reduced dividend of 2½ per cent., after payment of all charges. In my last year's speech I indicated the possibility, and indeed the probability, of our losing a further sum of £20,000 during the year now under review, owing to reduced traffic returns. I based this forecast upon the fall in our receipts in 1914-15, caused by eight months of war. Had this forecast been fulfilled, we should have been left without any balance to the good as the result of the past year's working, but I am glad to inform you that our traffic returns have, in spite of twelve months of war conditions, been so much better than I anticipated that the available profits for this period amount to £14,216, or the equivalent of nearly 1½ per cent. on our preference share capital. I must here explain that the above figure is independent of the credit arising from the transfer to suspense account of those working expenses that are in excess of 64 per cent. of our earnings. I can, consequently, describe this sum of £14,216 as representing the actual profit derived from the working of the year. A similar explanation is necessary regarding the balance we have carried forward. This is shown in our accounts as £65,228. Of this sum, £25,810 is made up by three years' adjustments of working expenditure, in excess of 64 per cent. of our annual earnings, to our authorised suspense account, thus leaving only a sum of £39,417 at our disposal. The above is clearly indicated in our accounts, but this special mention of it will, I hope, prevent misapprehension as to our available revenue resources.

Our profits for the year under review were affected by: (1) a reduction in the earnings of our light railways; (2) by the transfer to the Government of the Helouan properties; and (3) by the higher charges for fuel. The first of these deprived us of £2,282, the difference between our loss in passenger receipts and our gain in goods receipts. The loss is much less than we had expected. The second is due to the sale to the Government of the Helouan Railway and its subsidiaries, which sale formed an integral portion of the revised conditions of our new concession. The outbreak of war has not only prevented us from undertaking the construction of new lines, from which we anticipated favourable returns, but has also postponed the payment to us of the purchase price of £90,000. Thirdly, the exceptionally high price of coal, which involved an additional expenditure of £10,846 in the year's working, and led to an increase of £1,041 in our working expenses, in spite of the considerable economies that we succeeded in effecting in these last.

Whatever the future may have in store for us, we cannot escape the fact that the cost of our coal, for the time, is enormous, as compared to anything we have previously paid, and it is this fact which, far more than any other, makes it impossible for us to consider at this moment any distribution of profits, or, indeed, to hold out to you hope of such being possible in the current year. For a due appreciation of our position, I may tell you that the additional cost of fuel alone for this year, as compared with normal times, will be the equivalent of something like 6 per cent. to 7 per cent. on our preference share capital. Thus it is that, in spite of the steady and satisfactory improvement in our earnings which is taking place; in spite also of our effecting, or having effected, every possible economy; in spite also of possible assistance from the permission we have obtained to raise our rates and fares, we cannot reasonably hope that this year's earnings will be sufficient to cover our expenses and fixed charges; in fact, we quite expect to be obliged to draw upon our reserves. The position in which we are now placed is entirely due to the war and to causes quite beyond our control. It, I think, fully justifies my warning to you of a year ago, and the conservative policy that has been consistently adopted by the present board. It may, gentlemen, be found impossible to relax this policy of caution until we have made good any sums which we may be compelled to take from our reserves. This no one can foretell. I have, however, such faith in the recuperative powers of Egypt and in the important part to be played by the Egyptian Delta Railways in the development of the country, that I feel confident that a very short time after the termination of this war will suffice to reinstate us in the promising position which I had the satisfaction of describing to you two years ago, when explaining that the Government of Egypt had been pleased to modify our contract with them. I have dwelt at some length upon this question of our fuel supply, and I repeat that it is that, and I may almost say, that alone, which forces us to husband our resources and prevents us from recommending any distribution of our profits. When I tell you that the price of coal in Egypt per ton is now between £6 and £7, and may possibly still rise—whereas in the years previous to the war it averaged some 30s. a ton—you will understand how serious is the situation by which we are confronted. Happily, we are safe as regards our supply for the current year, but who can say when this war will end, and we may be faced by an equally serious situation in the following year. I feel sure you will agree with us that the course we have adopted is the only one to follow.

During the year which we are considering we have parted with the Cairo quarry lines and with the Helouan railway and its subsidiary properties. Neither of these had come up to our expectations, and our revised contract gave us the much-desired opportunity of getting rid of them. The war has, as I have explained, prevented us from utilising the proceeds of either sale, and, for the moment, we must consider that these portions of our undertaking have not been replaced by those corresponding and more remunerative additions which we had confidently contemplated. We, of course, intend to put these additions in hand at the earliest opportunity. To meet urgent military requirements we have consented to the lifting of certain outlying branches of our system on terms which protect us against loss, other than that of being temporarily deprived of these branches. We have also, through different channels, loaned or sold to the Military Authorities some of our engines and rolling stock, as well as some permanent way materials. We have further assisted them in the construction of certain strategic light railways. I am sure you will share in the feeling of satisfaction with which we have availed ourselves of the opportunity of rendering such assistance to the cause of the Allies, even though as a matter of business it has been barren of any actual profit.

The reasons already referred to by me as affecting our earnings and expenses during the exceptional period under review will have shown you that no useful comparison can be made with our working under normal conditions. I may further add that our receipts have been adversely affected by the compulsory reduction of the area under cotton cultivation, although they have been to some extent favourably affected by our carriage of

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the troops and their supplies. Our expenses, apart from the question of fuel, have been reduced all round by a less frequent train service and by the partial closing of a number of stations; also by the absence of some of our staff on military duties and by the abolition of the services of others. Lastly, by the postponement of all work of any kind not absolutely and immediately necessary. Some details of these variations are given in the directors' report, but they are not of lasting interest, because they are due to the abnormal circumstances now prevailing.

The foregoing remarks will, I hope, enable you to appraise at their proper value the following comparative figures: The actual net earnings of the year (twelve months of war) are £50,692, against £54,015 for the previous year (eight months of war), and against £101,246 for the last pre-war year. The gross earnings for 1915-16 show decreases of £2,282, as against 1914-15, and £63,126 as against 1913-14. The decrease in the year under consideration results from a fall in the coaching receipts of £5,023, and an increase of £2,749 in goods' receipts. The former is due to a decrease in the number of passengers carried, but the latter figure is due to increased receipts, in spite of the fact that our goods earnings for 1915-16 were less in tonnage than those of the previous year. Our expenses have exceeded those of the previous year by £1,041, and this, as I have explained, is entirely due to the increased cost of fuel, namely, £10,846, although 2,500 tons less were consumed. The average cost per ton for the year was 57s., as against 34s. It follows that our earnings having decreased and our expenses having increased, we have passed to the debit of suspense account a much larger sum than last year in order to arrive at our fixed proportion of expenses to earnings. The available net profits for the year, after payment of our fixed charges, amount to £14,216, or about 27s. per cent. on our preference capital. Even this distribution we are, as I have shown you, unable to consider, and we are moreover very thankful to have this small addition to our cash in hand to help us through the current year. Our coal at present and for some time to come is going to cost us something like £60,000 to £70,000 extra for the year's consumption above the normal. There can be no doubt whatever, I fear, that the earnings of the year 1916-17 will not cover such an additional charge, but it is hoped that the available portion of our balance carried forward, £39,417, will suffice to do so, so that we may not have to infringe upon another reserve.

Having referred to changes in the directorate, the Chairman proceeded:—There appears to be no chance of much improvement during the current year. The cost of fuel is most unlikely to be reduced, and may even go higher than it is at present. It will take us all that we can do to meet the heavy extra cost of working thus entailed, and every penny that we can carry forward from last year's working will be required to enable us to meet these extra charges. I feel confident, however, that, if we do this, and if we continue to husband our resources carefully, we shall surmount the difficulties before us. Gentlemen, I personally have no fears for the future of our railways. The undertaking is a thoroughly sound one, and the period preceding the war, subsequent to the granting of our new concession, gave us good grounds for confidence in a satisfactory future. I feel complete confidence that when peace shall arrive, and when freights shall be lowered, we shall speedily return to the conditions existing before the war, about which I was able to speak so hopefully to you in 1913 and 1914. Egypt has such powers of recovery that it seems probable that she will rally from the effects of the war more quickly than any other country within the area affected by it. Even now signs are not wanting to show that a commencement of such recovery is almost within sight. The financial adviser's last report was decidedly reassuring in its tone. During the last four months our traffic receipts have attained to a figure nearly £10,000 higher than were those for the corresponding period of last year. The reports of the cotton crop are favourable so far, and the Nile flood is a bountiful one. We must just then carry on through these bad times, confident that prosperity will return to us in a not very distant future. Should any shareholders wish to ask questions I shall be pleased to reply to them to the best of my ability.

The report and accounts were adopted. The Hon. W. B. L. Barrington's appointment as a director was confirmed; Mr. Montagu Sharp was re-elected to the board; Messrs. Meredith and Co. were reappointed auditors, and after the usual vote to the chair had been passed the proceedings terminated.

Bibi Eibat Oil Company.

Mr. Herbert Allen, presiding at the annual general meeting of the Bibi Eibat Oil Co., Ltd., on Wednesday, said the company was mainly, but not exclusively, a holding company, their principal asset being their interest in a Russian company of similar name, of which they held the entire share capital of Rs. 2,500,000, and of which they were creditors for £82,395. Their liquid resources in London were about £44,000, and they possessed other assets besides. Their share capital was only £237,000, and the debenture debt had been reduced to £55,000. In 1912 and 1913 the Russian company made profits of Rs. 739,522 gross, and Rs. 400,000 net, but in the next two years there was a loss of Rs. 251,964, due largely to the damage done to wells during the strike in 1914. The principal cause of their troubles, however, was the intolerable treatment of the Russian company by the Imperial authorities, who continued to exact a royalty of 40 per cent. of the production, although a Government Commission had recommended that these oppressive royalties should be reduced. For what it was worth they were now petitioning the Ministry, but he would believe in a reduction when they got it. The Russian company had paid the Government in the last five years 2¼ million roubles in royalties; in the last two years alone they had paid Rs. 717,378, or about £35,000 a year, and a profit of Rs. 465,414 had thus been turned into a loss of Rs. 251,964. The promising oil fields which had been opened up in recent years in the Caucasus and the Ural-Emba districts were not Government leaseholds, but peasant lands and private freeholds held under conditions attractive to the capitalist. The company held a prospecting licence over 27 acres on the most promising part of the new oilfield at Grosny, almost midway between the immense fountain which had just been brought in by Lianosoffs and the most prolific plots of the North Caucasian Company. Lands in this locality had increased ten- to twenty-fold since they acquired their plot two years ago. The year's income amounted to £16,111, and after meeting all outgoings, including the full debenture service, there was a surplus of £4,509, which, with the balance brought in, enabled them to carry forward £19,532. This was not a paper balance, but hard cash. It was a subject for congratulation that their liquid assets were all in this country, and that when they spoke of pounds they meant sovereigns—or the modern English equivalent. The directors hoped in future to hold the general meetings in the spring of the year instead of in the autumn, and if only the Russian company could get reparation from the Government for the wrongs it had so long endured, they might start their new practice under more cheerful conditions than those prevailing last year.

COMPANY REPORT.

Maikop Pipeline Transport.

The report of the Maikop Pipeline and Transport Company, Limited, states that the profit and loss account shows:—Russian revenue account, £42,500; dividends, transfer fees, etc., £10,976. The expenditure in London and Russia amounted to £12,129; deducting debenture interest, £10,367, there remains a total available for appropriation of £30,979, which the directors propose to place to depreciation account. The items in the profit and loss account and the floating assets, less liabilities, have been taken at the rate of exchange ruling on January 13 last, i.e., 16 roubles per £1. But for the adverse rate of exchange the balance available for appropriation would have been £54,413. The amount of the company's debenture stock redeemed to date is £65,213. The quantity of oil received by the company for pumping during the year amounted to 6,900,360 poods (111,296 tons), as compared with 3,367,968 poods (54,322 tons) in the previous period. Owing to the assistance rendered by the Russian authorities it has been possible to retain sufficient men to carry out the most important operations on the field. Recent drilling activity has been concentrated in the district brought into prominence last year as the result of the fountain well on plot 457. The position at Krimskaya is more adversely affected by the war than at Maikop, and operations in this field have been limited to obtaining production from the old wells. An arrangement has recently been carried through by which the various interests connected with the supply of water on the Maikop and Krimskaya oilfields have been amalgamated and taken over by the Maikop Water Works, Limited. This company is adequately represented on the board of the Water Works Company, in which it holds the majority of the shares, and it is now managing all the Water Works' interests on the oilfields.

COMPANY NOTES.

P. & O.

An extraordinary general meeting of the stockholders of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company will be held at 122, Leadenhall Street, on September 7, 1916, at 12.30 p.m. for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following resolution: "That the Conditional Agreement dated June 30, 1916, between the New Zealand Shipping Co., Limited, and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company be approved and confirmed. That the capital of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company be increased from £1,798,133 deferred stock to £2,704,853 deferred stock by the creation of £906,720 additional deferred stock, thus making, with the addition of the existing preferred stock of the company, the total capital of the company £5,744,853, such further capital (as far as required for carrying out the said agreement) to be issued in the terms as to dividend and otherwise thereby provided."

New Company for Mesopotamia.

The Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia Development Co., Limited, was registered on August 25, with a capital of £50,000, in 25,000 preference and 25,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. The company is to adopt and carry into effect an agreement, dated July 17, 1916, between H. M. Kilby (trading as Kilby and Co.) and Paul Janssens de Varebeke, of the first part, and B. Maimon, of the second part, and, in addition, to carry on in Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, or elsewhere the business of railway or tramway proprietors, ship, dock and wharf owners and carriers; to construct, maintain, and work power stations, and to carry on the business of bankers, financiers, merchants, contractors for public and other works, hotel proprietors, etc. The company is a private one. 12,000 shares are to be at the present disposal of the directors, who may allot or dispose of them as they think fit, subject to the above-mentioned agreement. No dividend is to be paid on the ordinary shares until a preferential dividend of £2 per share has been paid on the preference shares. When the preference shareholders have received the said dividend of £2 per share the company is to pass resolutions converting them into ordinary shares. The first directors are Bernard Maimon, 5, College Court, Hammersmith, W., journalist; Hugh M. Kilby, 20, Harp Lane, Great Tower Street, E.C., merchant; Paul Janssen de Varebeke, Old Mill Company, Eccles Hill, Bradford, wool spinner; Alfred L. Van den Kirckhove, 20, Copthall Avenue, E.C., merchant; and Andre P. M. Magnier, 1, Bloomfield Court, Maida Vale, W., scientist. Their remuneration is £200 each per annum. The secretary is H. W. Kilby, and the registered office Whitehall House, Charing Cross, S.W.

Dividends, etc.

The half-yearly dividend of the National Bank of Greece for the first half of 1916, amounting to 125 drachmæ per share, is now payable at the current rate of exchange on presentation at the Bank of Athens, 22, Fenchurch Street, London.

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Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Production last week:—Gemsah, 11 tons; Hurghada, 536 tons.

Baku Russian Petroleum.—Week ended August 19: 81,100 poods. Estimated gross production for week ended August 26, 82,800 poods. Price of crude oil, 45 copecks per pood.

Bibi Eibat.—Week ended August 20: 61,267 poods.

North Caucasian.—Week ended August 22: 677,604 poods.

Roumanian Consolidated.—Week ended August 19: 844 tons.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended August 19: 60,000 poods. Week ended August 26: 57,200 poods. Price of crude, 45 copecks per pood.

ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Street, E.C.

Business this week has again been on restricted lines. There has been a demand for Egyptian Delta Light Railway shares, and the price has advanced ¼ to 5⅝, at which price some business was done. National Banks have continued in good demand, and are firmer again at 12⅝, but business has been impossible owing to a lack of sellers.

Of New Egyptians, about a thousand shares have changed hands in the neighbourhood of 9s. This company's lands are, generally speaking, in an advanced state of development, and it should be one of the first to benefit from sales of land, should the *fellaheen*, as appears very probable, come into the market as purchasers this year.

Some United Egyptian Lands changed hands as low as 6d.

In Egyptian Markets a fair business was done up to about 25s. 6d., and shares are still wanted.

Khedivial Mail preference shares have improved to 3¾, at which price they are still very much undervalued.

Greek securities, in spite of the disturbing political news, have remained in demand for Athens, but very little business has been transacted in the almost total absence of sellers.

Currant bonds are wanted at 90.

THE GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to June 30, 1916 (New Style: January 14 to July 13, 1916):—

—	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, June, 1916	2,369,243	1,859,000
Do. do. do 1915	2,799,960	1,328,000
Estimated Receipts for 6 months (Law of Control)	14,450,000	5,350,000
Actual do. do. 1916	17,017,169	13,884,000
Do. do. do. 1915	18,412,375	12,500,887
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 6 months 1916	+ 2,567,169	+ 8,534,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 6 months 1915	+ 3,962,375	+ 7,150,887

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the days mentioned:—

	1915. Francs.	1916. Francs.
August 22	190,000	210,000
August 23	150,000	70,000
August 28	360,000	250,000
August 29	320,000	240,000

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Price Aug. 25.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	78	82
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	62½	62½
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	71⅜	71⅜
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	81	81½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	71	71
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	67	67
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	57	57
Do. 5 %, 1894	56	56	56
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	50½	50½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	53	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50½	50½
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	68	68
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	77	77
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	55	55
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	77½	77½
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	xd	xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	85	85
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	78	77½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1903	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	52	52
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	37½	37½
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	4⅜	4⅜
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	6⅛	6⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	69	69
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	71	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11⅞	11⅞
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	2	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	6⅝	6⅝
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6⅜	6⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	75/-	75/-
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6¼	5⅛	5⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	12⅛	12⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	5⅛	5⅛
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	88½	88½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	10	10
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	11½	11½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	59½	59⅝
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	55	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10⅛	10⅛
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	55xd	55xd
LAND.			
Abonkir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	15/-	15/-
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	91	92
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	¼	¼
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8⅛	6½	6½
Do. Pref.	4⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	9/3	9/3
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	87½	87½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	⅛	⅛
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	⅛	⅛
" " Founders	⅛	⅛	⅛
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	96	96
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	7½	7⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	77	77
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	9/-	9/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅜	⅛	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅜	⅛	⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/3	1/-	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11⅜	11⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1⅛	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	25/4½	25/4½
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	95	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	18/3	18/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	26/-	25/9
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3½	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mts.	90	89	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2⅛	1⅜	1⅜

OIL.

	Price on Aug. 23.	Aug. 30.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	6/9	7/-
Anglo-Persian	21/6	22/-
European Oilfields	3/6	3/9
Roumanian	14/9	18/9

PARIS BOURSE.

	Aug. 23.	Aug. 30.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4885	4800
Credit Foncier Egyptien	635	635
Turkish Unified 4%	64	66
Egyptian Unified 4%	90.15	90.15
Serbian, 1895	61	62

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON AUGUST 18.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	12⅜ to	12¾
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	92 ,,	94
Alexandria Water Co.	£	11¼ ,,	12
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5⅛ ,,	5¼
,, priv.	L.E.	3¼ ,,	3⅜
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	130 ,,	132
Bons de Panama	Frs.	98 ,,	100
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	62 ,,	64
,, Privilégiée	Frs.	90 ,,	95
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	75 ,,	77
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2⅛ ,,	2⅛
Comptoir Financier et Commercial	£	⅛ ,,	7/16
Building Lands of Egypt	£	3½ ,,	1
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	10/- ,,	12/6
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	4⅛ ,,	4¼
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	4⅛ ,,	4¼
Unifiée	L.E.	82½ ,,	82¾
Priviligiée		72 ,,	72½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4¾ ,,	5
,, Fondateur	£	24 ,,	25
Pressage et dépôts	£	28½ ,,	29
Nungovich Hotels	£	2⅛ ,,	2¼
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	4⅜ ,,	4½
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅛ ,,	3⅜
,, Ord.		21/- ,,	21/6
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅜ ,,	4½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£	5 ,,	5¼
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	104 ,,	106
,, Jouissance	Frs.	153 ,,	156
Egyptian Markets		24/- ,,	26/-
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,, Div.	Frs.	140 ,,	145
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	115 ,,	120
Egyptian Salt and Soda		18/3 ,,	18/6
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	585 ,,	587
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	304 ,,	306
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	247 ,,	248
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	257 ,,	258
Delta Lands		⅛ ,,	⅜
Port Said Salt		32/6 ,,	33/6
Cotton Ginners		12/6 ,,	13/-
New Egyptian Co.		7/6 ,,	8/-
United Lands	P.T.	— ,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.		26/6 ,,	27/6
,, Deferred	£	5 ,,	6

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended Aug. 26.	1916. Week ended Aug. 24.
Cattle markets	316	465
General markets	315	359
Cattle markets closed	22	2
Receipts (£)	631	824
Total from commencement of year (£)	33,394	34,662

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Receipts for ten days ended August 10, 1916.

	1915. £E.	1916. £E.
Aug. 1–Aug. 10	4,211	5,230
April 1–Aug 10	50,552	61,933

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 279.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Roumanian attack on Austria-Hungary has been launched simultaneously along the whole of the frontier, from Orsova on the Danube to the Bukovina, where contact with the Russian army has been established. Only in the south, at Orsova, have the Austro-German forces been able to make any determined resistance, and here, we learn from enemy reports, the Roumanians were only checked for five days. Elsewhere, in spite of the favourable positions for defence occupied by the enemy in the Carpathian range, they have given ground, and the Roumanian advance has been regulated more by considerations of transport than by the opposition encountered. This unexpected development reveals the shortage of men from which the Central Powers are now suffering. The Austrian line of argument must have been that the Russian advance was a real and instant menace; a declaration of war by Roumania, on the other hand, was at worst a distant contingency. Every available man had to be collected to oppose the Russians; a Roumanian invasion must be left to chance. Common prudence prompted as big a concentration as possible at Orsova, not only for the protection of Serbia and the railway to Sofia and Constantinople, but also for the defence of the Banat and the easiest line of advance on Budapest.

Austria's dilemma has proved Roumania's opportunity. If there remained in any quarter a tendency to blame the Roumanians for a seemingly tardy participation in the war, it will have been dissipated by an appreciation of the advantages accruing from an attack on the enemy on a new front at this precise moment. A year ago the Carpathian passes might well have proved, if not impassable, at least a formidable obstacle for an army advancing from the south or east; and much of Roumania's strength must have been spent in the effort to debouch on to Hungarian territory. To-day this difficult operation has been performed almost without a struggle, the advance in force along the whole frontier leaving the enemy no alternative to a general withdrawal to a shorter front.

M. Bratiano's Fabian policy has been justified by the event. It would, however, be a mistake not to recognize the obligation under which Roumania lies to the stalwarts who have preached intervention from the very beginning of the war. They have at least kept alive the national aspirations, and prevented them from becoming atrophied under a numbing policy of unchallenged neutrality. Further, they have effectually "queered the pitch" of the German agents and their satellites among the Roumanian people, and prevented a repetition of the success attained by Baron von Schenk in Athens. Whether they have achieved more, and may even claim to have won over the Prime Minister to their way of thinking, we have no means of knowing. But it is many months since we had the satisfaction of seeing adopted a policy which had been repeatedly recommended in these columns, that, instead of maintaining an attitude of detachment or antagonism towards M. Take Jonescu and M. Filipescu and their respective followers, M. Bratiano should take them into his confidence and arrive at an agreement which would remove the necessity for an embittered interventionist campaign. The result has been that, when the psychological moment arrived, Roumania entered the war with the nation practically unanimous—a source of great strength in an arduous campaign.

The Roumanian military command has so far been very sparing in the bulletins issued, and it is significant that the world first knew of the occupation of Kronstadt, Hermanstadt, and Petrosheni from enemy admissions. It is no doubt recognised that the real fighting has hardly begun, and in view of the ebb and flow of the various battle fronts in this war Roumania may be resolved to tread warily in the matter of military claims. There is a very general expectation that the Austro-German forces will lose no time in trying to bring about a decisive check of the Roumanian advance. Such tactics would be in keeping with the character of the new Chief of the German General Staff and with the popular wish in Hungary. However divided parties in that country may have been before, they are likely to close up their ranks in a resolve to try to take vengeance on the Roumanians. The last thing the Magyar public will be minded to tolerate is an indefinite "walk-over" for Roumania through Transylvania. In these circumstances the Roumanian authorities may be acting wisely in trying to prevent their countrymen from forming at the outset an erroneous impression of the nature of the task before them. But they must also bear in mind that both in Roumania and abroad interest in the campaign is apt to bear a very close relationship to the degree of publicity extended to the army's doings.

Various explanations are given of Bulgaria's delay in declaring war on Roumania. Any one is as likely as any other, and there is no special reason why we should

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not attribute it to the length of time that must have been required by the Bulgarian Government to draft the formidable document in which it ultimately announced that a state of war between the two countries existed. It will, however, be noted that in the interval the Bulgarian army lost its Chief of Staff. Whatever the cause of his death, the Government may well have hesitated to launch a fresh campaign before his successor had been appointed. German-Bulgarian troops appear to have been quite ready for operations against Roumania, for the Dobrucja frontier was crossed immediately, and some unimportant successes were registered. In this theatre the Bulgarians are destined to meet not only Roumanians, but Russians as well, who have been advancing across this part of Roumania since the latter's declaration of war. In view of all these movements, it is only natural that significant events should be looked for in the Balkans in the early future. The Near East, no longer regarded as a "side-show," has become for the moment almost the chief theatre of the war; not because the final decision of the struggle is looked for in that region, but because it is at last realised that a decision must be sought here, before the final one can be reached in the West or East.

Fighting along the Dobrucja frontier has now become general. On their right flank the enemy forces have been able to penetrate some distance into Roumanian territory, and there have been patrol encounters north of Dobritch. On the Danube their immediate objective is Tutrakan, just inside the frontier, but the Roumanians have so far been able to hold their own, in spite of ten attacks on the bridgehead. The real trial of strength in this quarter is not likely to come about until the arrival of the main Russian army destined to operate against Bulgaria. Meanwhile it is of interest to note the completeness with which the policy of co-operation now established among the Allied Powers is working in the case of Roumania. Not only are Russians and Roumanians fighting side by side in the Dobrucja, but the entry of Roumania into the war became at once the signal for a fresh advance of the Russian front along the Carpathians and further north towards Halicz.

In a week that deserves to be styled eventful, even in the stirring times to which the country has become accustomed, Greece witnessed the outbreak of an informal revolution at Salonika and the arrival of an Allied Fleet off the Piræus in order to support the presentation of further drastic demands to the Greek Government. The whole situation is as obscure as it is complicated, and a visit from Alice's Queen, who would impartially order everyone in authority to have his head cut off, would save Greece much anxiety and heartsearching. Failing this beneficent but drastic remedy, we should like to see the Allied Governments take a firmer grasp of the whole problem, and draw up a plan of action for Greece to adopt, instead of merely emphasising with policemen and big ships the things that she may not do.

The revolution in Salonika is still in embryo. Military-cum-civilian Tweedledum fell out with the purely military Tweedledee. They resolved, apparently much against both their wills, to have a battle; but the French Commander-in-Chief stopped the proceedings. Tweedledee was interned, and Tweedledum remains at large as a Committee of National Defence, which has dispensed with the services of the Central Government in Athens. In so far as Baron von Schenk has hitherto been the Central Government in Athens the Salonika patriots have done very well. But Baron von Schenk has been deposed, and we are by no means satisfied on the evidence so far to hand that Greece really requires a revolution. The prestige of the Crown could hardly be lower, when such rumours as those which have been woven around King Constantine obtain general currency. But there are other people in Greece besides King Constantine who have to be blamed for the existing state of affairs, because M. Gounaris has never been without a following, and many thousands gave him their support at the last elections.

If participation in the war were a *sine quâ non* of Greece's rehabilitation, and a small clique, however highly placed, stood in the way of the realisation of the national aspirations, it might be necessary to remove that clique from power. But the Allies have not asked Greece to abandon her neutrality, and if pressed on the subject, would probably admit that they did not propose to allow her to fight by their side. In such circumstances the Greek people may banish all thoughts of war from their minds, and turn their attention solely to straightening out the constitutional muddle. Some restrictions ought to be imposed upon the capacity of the Sovereign to take the ship of State through the shallows of unconstitutionalism on to the rocks of national disgrace. It may be doubted, however, whether the country would be better off as a republic than as a monarchy. The history of Greek politics lends colour to the belief that a wise monarch can prove of inestimable value to a land in which political divisions turn mainly on personalities and not on matters of principle. King Constantine failed Greece at a very critical moment. He is not likely to be confronted with a similar dilemma again, and if he were, he would probably be found to have learned his lesson. Others proved equally false to the true interests of Greece, and there is no reason why King Constantine's punishment should be greater than theirs. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the King, M. Venizelos, and the Committee of National Defence at Salonika will be able to adjust their differences and set up Greece once more as a nation at one with itself.

On September 1 an Allied Fleet of nearly forty vessels appeared off the Piræus. Three German ships in the harbour were seized, and possession was taken of the wireless apparatus at the Greek arsenal. The following day the Allied Governments presented a formal demand to the Greek Government for the surrender of the control of the posts and telegraphs, including the wireless system, for the deportation of enemy agents employed in corruption and espionage, and for the punishment of Greek subjects guilty of complicity in such corruption and espionage. Greece intimated her readiness to accede to these demands, and the work of arresting the German agents was at once begun. Athens is thus to be rid this week of the notorious Baron von Schenk and his myrmidons, who have been responsible throughout the war for the work of creating an artificial agitation against the Entente Powers and of maintaining the German system of espionage in the Near East. The wonder is not that this drastic step has at last been taken, but that it has been so long delayed.

We have become so accustomed to the ubiquitousness of the help afforded by Russia to her Allies that the extent to which the interchange of services has been carried out by all alike is apt to be overlooked. But the British armoured motor-car, to say nothing of the British ambulance, must now be as familiar an object in the various theatres of war as the Russian soldier. It has figured in Galicia as well as in France and Egypt, and it is now reported in the Mush Valley in Armenia. Its province there seems to be to guard the roads from Kurdish incursions from the mountains, with the special object of protecting Russian supply trains. Recently two of these cars came into action against several hundred Kurds, and were able to disperse them after inflicting considerable losses upon them. In this region the Turkish offensive has been, it is to be hoped, finally checked. The Russians are again advancing, but the nature of the ground has so far prevented any decisive success being recorded.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 18.

Educational Reforms.

The Ministry of Education has just obtained the consent of the Council of Ministers to some very important reforms in the system under which the Government schools are worked. In the first place, three new sections have been created in the Polytechnic School, viz., electrical, mechanical, and Tanzim (town-vestry work). This innovation has been considered necessary for divers reasons. First, the number of students in the existing sections, Irrigation and Towns and Buildings, especially the former, has increased so enormously that the graduates turned out every year far exceed the number of posts offering in the Government and other public and private enterprises. Next, the country has undergone such development that all branches of engineering and municipal work are now being undertaken. And, finally, that there is a demand for instruction of the nature now decided upon is proved by the fact that a large proportion of the students sent privately to complete their education in England take up an electrical, mechanical, or Tanzim course. There is little doubt that the decision taken by the Ministry of Education is an eminently wise one; for henceforward, instead of further overcrowding the irrigation, engineering, and architect's profession, the Polytechnic will be able to produce material which will meet, or at any rate go a long way towards meeting, the requirements of the railways, municipalities, and other similar enterprises for competent non-European engineers. At the same time, it has been decided to make certain adjustments in the syllabus and course of the Elementary Normal School for Female Teachers. This has had to be done in order to provide the necessary staff for the Elementary Higher Schools for Girls, to the creation of which reference was recently made in this correspondence.

The Question of School Fees.

The most important reform is, however, the alteration in the school fees charged hitherto by the Government. The budget of the Ministry of Education, which ten years ago was under £E200,000, is to-day over £E400,000, of which a large portion is devoted to higher education. It was all very well to offer this class of education at low rates, which constituted an attraction at a time when it was politic to encourage Egyptians to take up liberal professions to extend the scope of their instruction; to-day, however, the situation has completely changed, and the ranks of professional men and aspirants for clerical posts have swollen to such an extent that there is no longer any *raison d'être* for the offering of this attraction, and it is absurd, indeed illogical, that those who desire to take up the higher courses should have their tuition expenses almost entirely paid by the State. At the present moment higher education alone costs £E72,000 per annum, towards which but £E11,000 is received from the students, the balance being borne by the State at the rate of £E64 per student. Similarly in the secondary schools, each student costs the State £E33 per annum, or a total of £E46,000. In the circumstances the Government has decided to raise the annual fees per student from £E15 to £E30 in the Polytechnic and Medical Schools, from £E15 to £E20 in the Secondary and Pharmacy Schools, and from £E8 to £E12 in the School of Fine Arts. As things will stand even from now onwards a substantial part of the cost of each young Egyptian's education will still be borne by the State, and seeing that the class of students which this higher form of education is to benefit comes from families who can well afford to pay the entire cost of their children's education, and who are certainly not entitled to receive charity from the State —which is, after all, what the present system amounts to—the Ministry of Education would have been fully justified if it had demanded that all who wished their sons to take the higher course of education and become doctors, lawyers, engineers, and Government servants, should pay fees that would entirely remunerate the State for that part of its educational budget which is devoted to these branches.

An English School for Cairo.

As a result of the growth of the British community of late years in Egypt, and more particularly in Cairo, the want of an English school has been gradually making itself felt. Hitherto, if their children were too young to be sent home, or if they did not want to be parted from them so soon, parents have either had to give them private tuition or been forced to send them to one of the foreign schools in the country. Both courses had their drawbacks. Some years ago, it is true, the Dean's Building School was founded at Boulac in memory of the late Dean Butcher, and there has been, of course, Victoria College at Alexandria, which was established as a memorial to Queen Victoria. But the former, besides being mainly intended to provide for the children of the State Railways staff, only gives a very elementary form of education, quite unsuited, for instance, to boys who might have to go later into an English public school; whilst Victoria College cannot certainly be said to offer the same advantages as those possessed by an exclusively English educational institution.

The Committee of the Dean's Building School some little while back came to the conclusion that the time had come when something might well be done to meet the great want referred to, and permission has been given for the German School in Cairo, which had been taken over by order of the military authorities, to be reopened as an English school. This the Committee propose to do on October 1 next. According to the circular, which has just been issued, the school will be run on English school lines, with a staff of specially selected resident British teachers; it will be for British and American children only, the Committee reserving to themselves the right of admission; it will be divided into two independent sides, for boys and girls respectively, and there will be a limited accommodation for boarders, whilst the fees will be quite moderate.

Provided it is run strictly on the principles outlined in the circular, this school ought to be a great success, and ought to prove a boon both to children and to parents. The latter will find that they will be saved the trouble and expense of putting their children to boarding schools in England at an unduly early age, whilst the former will be able to enjoy up to the very latest date the benefits of home life and home influence, in which respect they will certainly be more favourably situated than their Anglo-Indian comrades. This courageous venture on the part of the Committee is one that should commend the lively sympathy of all those who know anything of the trials which service in the East imposes on British parents in regard to the education and upbringing of their children. It is for the very reason that its firm establishment will prevent Anglo-Egypt suffering in the near future as Anglo-India has done for decades past, that it is sincerely to be hoped that the Anglo-Egyptian colony will give this school its whole-hearted support from the very outset.

Cairo, August 24.

The Festival of the Nile.

On Sunday there took place out at Old Cairo the ancient ceremony of the "Cutting of the Khalig," which, originally fixed for Wednesday, the 16th inst., had had to be postponed owing to the death of H.H. the Sultana-Mother. This ceremony has from time immemorial been annually celebrated on the day on which the Nile flood attained a certain height, recognised as the level permitting the full irrigation of the land, and so justifying the levying of the land-tax. In olden times a dam across the "Khalig"—the canal running from the Nile through the city—was cut on this occasion, and the inrushing water was hailed with rejoicing by the watching mob. To-day the Khalig no longer exists, and the ceremony of cutting the dam is not carried out, the only one of the old formalities that is adhered to being the drawing up and signing by the President of the Supreme Mahkama Sharia of the "hojja," or deed, certifying that the Nile flood has attained its completion, and that it is lawful to collect the land-tax. This formality was duly carried out on Sunday evening last in the presence of H.E. Ali Pasha Zulfikar, the Governor of Cairo, who

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represented H.H. the Sultan, and of the high Government officials and prominent Egyptian notables. The ceremony was preceded in the afternoon by the usual procession of boats from Kasr-el-Nil to Old Cairo.

The Flood.

The local Press has during the past ten days contained innumerable references to the Nile flood—references that give the impression that the flood is an abnormally high one and that considerable anxiety exists as to the effect it will have on the cultivation. This impression is an entirely erroneous one. There has, it is true, been a sudden and somewhat substantial rise in the Nile levels; but this rise has fortunately come during the period when the Upper Egypt basin areas are still drawing water from the river. Had this rise come a little later, when these basins will be full, the result might have been serious, as Lower and Middle Egypt would have had to bear the full effect of the extra volume of water passing Halfa. As it is, the situation is in the highest degree satisfactory, and, provided that the curve of this rise, which is about to reach its maximum, does not drop too suddenly, there is nothing to be feared either way. Of course, it is impossible to foresee what the flood may do later on, but I have the best authority for saying that, as things stand at present, there is absolutely no cause for anxiety on the score of inundations, and that whatever measures are now being taken are merely precautionary.

An Echo of the Bomb Outrage.

When in July last year a bomb was thrown at the carriage of H.H. the Sultan as he was driving to Friday prayer, and difficulty was experienced in finding the authors of the outrage, the Egyptian Government offered a reward of £E500 to anyone who might give information leading to the arrest of the persons implicated in the attempt. Two months ago two men, Mohammed Helbawi and Mohammed Shemseddine, were brought to trial and condemned to death, the sentence afterwards being commuted to penal servitude for life. These two men were tracked down solely through the evidence of a schoolboy, Ibrahim Zaki, who had seen Helbawi, who happened to have been his master, enter the house from which the bomb had been thrown, and of a certain Ahmed Halawa, who had acted as broker for the lease of the house, and who identified Shemseddine as the man who had rented it a few days prior to the attempt. The reward has just been divided between them, Ibrahim Zaki receiving £E400 and Ahmed Halawa £E100.

The Question of Scholarships.

As a consequence of the raising of the tuition fees in the higher schools, referred to in last week's letter, the Government has found itself in a position to extend the scope of the free education which it always gives in certain cases where boys showing marked aptitude cannot afford to pay even the low fees charged hitherto in those schools. It has been decided to raise the maximum amount to be annually allotted to "Bourses" (studentships) from 3 to 5 per cent. of the total fees received, and the Council of Ministers has signified its approval of this proposal, which has naturally been very favourably received by the Egyptian public.

In this connection some recent remarks made by H.E. Adly Pasha Yeghen, Minister of Education, merit attention. His Excellency, after pointing out what the Government had done in the cause of education, said that in other countries free education was greatly, if not mainly, supported by private generosity, and he expressed the hope that the more opulent Egyptians and local commercial enterprises would in the future take a greater and more practical interest in the question than they have done in the past, and would found scholarships, etc., for the assistance of needy but promising young Egyptian students.

In a country like this, where the general spirit of charity plays such a part in the everyday life of the people, and the advantages of education have made themselves so apparent and are so generally admitted, it is indeed surprising that nothing of this description has hitherto been done. True, there have been instances where schools have been founded by individuals, and there are the Sir John Scott and Sir Malcolm McIlwraith prizes at the School of Law and School for Cadis, created in memory of the two last Judicial Advisers, but, whilst the former have been merely isolated cases, the latter are not exactly what is wanted, though they serve to stimulate work amongst the students of these schools. The cost of the foundation of a few scholarships would barely be felt by the large landowners, and, considering the great wealth possessed by many of the latter and the fact that they and their sons have been educated to all intents and purposes at the expense of the State, it is high time that they began to show some public spirit and came to the assistance of their less favourably circumstanced brethren.

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SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, August 17.

There was a shower in Khartoum on the evening of the 16th, culminating in a heavy storm later on.

The Blue Nile continues to rise in a most satisfactory manner. Indeed, it is beginning to cause apprehension of overflowing its banks. The "sea-wall" is practically complete along the front of Khartoum, but there are depressions above Khartoum where the water may enter as it did in the first year of the Occupation. The White Nile is barely up to last year's flood, and this enables much of the Blue Nile water to be carried off. Should the White Nile rise effectively in the near future, and thereby hold up the Blue Nile waters, there might be a record flood and some danger to the town of Khartoum, but this is not seriously apprehended.

A retired officer of the Egyptian Army, who was travelling from Kassala to Atbara, was attacked by two Arabs on the road and severely handled. His wife and two children were kidnapped, and he was left on the road badly wounded, and there found shortly afterwards. The wife and two children were subsequently recovered; but it transpires that they were found not with the Arabs who kidnapped them, but some other Arabs, and it is thought possible that the original marauders themselves fell among thieves, who in their turn were compelled to give up their ill-gotten booty. The officer was taken to hospital, and is rapidly recovering.

The incident is interesting partly because it is comparatively rare for the high roads to be rendered insecure. In fact, it is probable that the incident is due to a desire for private revenge, and is not an attempt to kidnap. In either case it is satisfactory to find that the victims were very quickly recovered, and the strong arm of the law vindicated.

FOR OUR NEW ALLY.

Immediately upon the announcement of Roumania's entry into the war on the side of the Allies the Earl of Lonsdale, on behalf of the Committee of the British Sportsmen's Ambulance Fund, cabled an offer of five ambulance motor-cars to the King of Roumania. The following reply was received on Saturday:

"To Lord Lonsdale, Bettinson, National Sporting Club, London:—Accept very gratefully your generous gift, asking you at the same time to express my most hearty thanks to the Committee of the Sporting Club. Am very much touched at this proof of England's cordial sympathy towards her new Ally.—Ferdinand."

The British Sportsmen's Ambulance Fund has been organised by a body of sportsmen, headed by Lord Lonsdale as president, to send 100 motor-ambulances to the Front. Fifty have already gone, although only about £12,000 has been received in subscriptions. The money is coming in steadily, but not fast enough to keep pace with the necessities. Subscriptions may be sent to Mr. A. F. Bettinson, the hon. sec., at the National Sporting Club, Covent Garden.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 13.

Austrian Railroad Cars.

In the course of recent events in the Bukovina some 1,100 Austrian railroad cars were driven over the Moldavian frontier to prevent them from falling into the hands of the enemy. Some of them were laden with munitions. The Austro-Hungarian Minister has now requested the Roumanian Government to authorize their return into Hungary. The Government have, of course, not been able to accede to this request, except in so far as concerned 300 trucks which were laden with Roumanian grain and had barely left Roumanian territory.

M. de Saint-Aulaire at the Palace.

On August 7 State coaches conveyed the new French Minister and his staff to the Royal Palace, where they were received in audience by King Ferdinand. In the presence of the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and other dignitaries, M. de Saint-Aulaire presented his credentials to the Sovereign, expressing at the same time the great desire of the French Government that existing ties of friendship should not only continue, but grow stronger. The King replied in very friendly terms, and the new Minister was then received by Queen Marie, and presently reconducted home with the same ceremonial. As he drove out through the Palace gates he was warmly cheered by the large crowd which had meanwhile collected, and greeted him with cries of "Traiasca Frantza!" "Traiasca Francezü!"

Speculation Rampant.

Life has become intolerably expensive in Roumania, so that many people, while practising the strictest economy, find it practically impossible to make both ends meet, in spite of incomes which would be considered ample in normal times. This is in part the direct, and what we may describe as the natural, effect of the war; but it is in far greater measure due to speculation carried on to an extent and with a lawlessness never yet witnessed. One would like to mention the exorbitant price of different articles, but once started along this line I should not know when to stop. Suffice it to say that this speculation does not apply only to foreign-made goods, but has been extended with brazen impudence to nearly every form of home produce. Many victims of this abuse have, in self-defence, so to speak, resorted to reprisals, so that a kind of vicious circle has been established. The many who have no wares to sell find themselves unable to retaliate, and are consequently victimised all along the line. The prefect of police has now commenced—somewhat tardily, it must be admitted—to make raids upon the shops and dwellings of dealers who have drawn suspicion upon themselves; and this has led to the discovery of enormous stores. In one case a room in an hotel had been filled up to the ceiling with cloth. Proceedings are to be brought against these would-be monopolists, and it is hoped that their goods will be confiscated and sold to the public at normal prices. The loss of their total stock should prove a salutary lesson to others.

Can You Change Twenty Francs?

The above is without a doubt the question one hears asked most frequently at the present moment. Since 1913 the public have on several occasions found difficulty in obtaining small change, a condition of affairs which seems to repeat itself whenever spirits become excited and the time for mobilisation appears to draw near. Such a moment is now upon us, for the logic of events is too strong not to appeal even to the most stolid or sceptical temperaments. In the present case we must invoke an additional factor to explain the absence of silver and small notes, and this is the lust of gain. It is said that a number of small shopkeepers and tobacconists are attempting to create a kind of "corner" in small change, with the intention of speculating as soon as the time is ripe. In Bucharest great difficulty is experienced in changing a twenty-franc note. In some places of refreshment the customer is asked if he carries small change before the waiter will consent to take his order. Even at the Ministry of Finance they refuse to change anything above a five-franc note. This state of affairs causes the maximum of inconvenience to employers of labour, more particularly in rural districts, where the work of harvesting is in full swing.

Munitions for Roumania.

At the moment of Bulgaria's participation in the war there were considerable quantities of munitions at Salonika. These were destined for the use of the Roumanian army, and were awaiting transit through Bulgaria. We hear that they have now all been shipped to Archangel and Vladivostok, whence they will, it is hoped, shortly find their way into Roumania.

NOTES FROM BULGARIA.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 9.

Relations with Roumania.

Although the Bulgarian Press and Bulgarian politicians continue to prate of the "excellent relations" of Bulgaria with Roumania, the actions of the Bulgarian Government would lead one to believe that it was doing all it could to bring about a quarrel. For instance, all the Roumanians employed at a sugar factory at Rustchuk have been forcibly removed to the interior of Bulgaria with their families, their demand to be allowed to return to their own country being refused on the ground that they might divulge important military secrets! It is known that Bulgaria has constructed important military works at Rustchuk, and has installed guns of large calibre there.

Another significant fact is that Roumanian sailors serving in Bulgarian tugs and lighters on the Danube are subjected to endless persecution and abuse, and if they wish to terminate their services are refused leave to do so.

Conditions in Serbia.

The Austrian military authorities in Serbia have just granted permission for the ringing of church bells once more. As most of the bells from the churches and convents of Serbia have already been requisitioned and despatched to the German gun foundries, the permission is of no great value.

According to statistics collected by a former deputy in the Serbian Parliament, there are now left only three million out of the four million inhabitants in Serbia before the war. Children under ten years of age are a rarity throughout the country, sickness and lack of food having played havoc with them. It is estimated that 45,000 Serbian children died of cold, sickness, and privation in Albania and Montenegro.

An order has been issued from Sofia for the sale by public auction of property found in Serbia of which the owners cannot be found. This is, of course, designed to give an appearance of legality to the looting that has gone on. The *Kambana* notifies the arrival at Sofia of 7,000 kilogrammes of coffee "found abandoned" in Serbia, which is to be sold in quantities of 10 to 100 kilogrammes, "so that everybody may benefit"!

ROUMANIAN FLAG DAY.

The Central Committee for National Patriotic Organisations, of which Mr. Asquith is the Hon. President, has issued the following statement:—

Arrangements are being made for the holding, some time next month, of a Roumanian Flag Day. It is intended to make this a national celebration. The people of this country will welcome an opportunity of paying a tribute of respect and admiration to their new and plucky Ally. The proceeds of the day will be handed over to the Roumanian Legation to be used as it judges best. All willing to help should apply: "Roumanian Day, Organising Offices, 1, Central Buildings, Westminster."

Reuter's Bucharest correspondent reports (September 3):—There has been a splendid outburst of charitable activity on the part of all classes of the population and members of the Allied Colonies. A Committee has been formed, on the initiative of the Queen, under the presidency of the Crown Prince Carol, to provide motor ambulances for the Army. Eight hundred thousand francs (£32,000) have already been subscribed.

The Roumanian Legation in London last Friday announced that a telegram received from Bucharest states that by Royal decree dated August 27 the whole of the Roumanian army has been mobilised, and consequently all the reservists must at once join their regiments. This applies to all classes between the ages of twenty and forty-five.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, August 14.

Turkish Prisoners for Cyprus.

Some thousands of enemy prisoners captured in Egypt are expected in Cyprus, and will be taken to a camp where arrangements have been made for their accommodation.

Arrest of Turks.

A Turk named Faik Bey, well known in the island, and who has been for a considerable time residing at Nicosia, has been arrested by the police for holding communication with the enemy. At Larnaca five members of a Turkish family named Kenán have been arrested for the same reason, proof of their offence having been obtained by the detective department of the police.

New Passport Regulations.

Passports for Southern Europe are now not issued except under special circumstances, such as those of persons who are leaving for medical advice or treatment, or in order to continue studies already begun in certain countries. There is no restriction in the case of those proceeding to America, if the Commissioner of the district is satisfied as to the real destination. Those going to Egypt are subject to the regulations mentioned last week. Passports issued to Cypriots no longer contain the words "British subject," but "native of Cyprus," the form being entirely altered.

General News.

The weather in general has been less oppressive. Hardly any visitors have arrived, owing in large measure to passport difficulties. The hotels at Troodos and Platres are, however, well filled, chiefly by native families. There are about 600 convalescents at Troodos. It is improbable that any more will be sent next winter.

Agricultural Progress.

The courses of instruction in agriculture, opened for village teachers, are being carried on at Nicosia and Limassol, and will last for three weeks. At Nicosia the Director of Agriculture, Mr. W. Bevan, supported by the Chief Inspector of Schools, Canon Newham, opened the term, but as the Acting Archbishop, members of the Synod, and the Commissioner, Mr. Cade, could not attend, an official reception will be held at the end of the course. At Limassol speeches were made by the President of the District Court, Mr. Alan Stuart; the Mayor, Mr. S. Araousos, and others. At Nicosia sixty-three Greek and twenty Turkish schoolmasters are attending the course, and at Limassol fourteen masters and (a new sign of progress) ten schoolmistresses.

THE OUTLOOK FOR TURKEY.

Discussing the topic of "Roumania and the War," the *Spectator* (September 2) takes a side glance at the future of Turkey:—

When we have dealt, as we shall have dealt before long, with Bulgaria, we shall be able to turn our attention to Turkey. The "peasant Republic," as Bulgaria has been called, will be compelled by the force of circumstances either to commit suicide by a hopeless struggle against overwhelming odds . . . or else to find her senses and her soul by freeing herself from the emasculating and fatal rule of Ferdinand. . . . In either event, Turkey will find herself face to face with a situation of extreme peril. The lands from which she has been drawing supplies of all kinds will be separated from her by a barricade of steel, and she will have to live both as regards money and munitions on her own resources—a regimen which we can hardly think will be found to the liking of either Talaat Bey or Enver Pasha.

The *Daily Telegraph* (September 1), in an article "The Fate of Turkey," declares:—

Turkey is no longer governed by the Turks. Since 1908 her destiny has passed into the hands of an extremely motley and heterogeneous body composed of infidels, renegades, military free-lances, and other elements, in whose hands the Sultan of Turkey is a helpless cipher.

Surveying the disintegration of national forces in the Near East, says the writer, "we begin to realise how absolutely ruinous to the Balkan Peninsula has been the sinister ambition of Germany." But he thinks that "Turkey has only herself to thank for her downfall."

She has listened to Enver Pasha, who compassed the murder of his master, Nazim, and has never taken much trouble to conceal the purely personal interests which animate him. She has put herself into the hands of the Committee of Union and Progress, which has outraged some of her deepest convictions and played fast and loose with her traditions. She has been ungrateful to those who have benefited her in the past, and especially, perhaps, to Great Britain, who has been so constantly her friend and ally. She has thrown away chances which will never return, and has taken her stand with a beaten cause. And since the disastrous influence of Marschall von Bieberstein she has allowed herself to become a mere puppet in the hands of the Pan Germanists.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

"SUPERSTITIONS IN SYRIA."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I am sorry to find your correspondent "Veritas," from Cairo, taking exception in your last issue to an innocent and diverting chat which appeared a few weeks ago in The Near East about superstitions in Syria. Let me assure him, from my knowledge of the facts, that no insult or disparagement was intended by the writer or read into her words by the British public, as we all know the class of folk missionary ladies come in touch with in all countries, not excepting this land, where superstition is as common as anywhere.

For myself, I rather take exception to the manner of dealing with Syria and the Syrians by Turkish as well as European diplomats. Here is a country, the Holy Land of Christendom for all time, most favoured by nature in every other respect, too, whose people have given the Old World its civilisation, and modern Turkey and Egypt their best men, which the Turks, after mismanaging for centuries, are now foolishly trying to starve and to oppress because the term of their fortuitous Empire is, through their own misdeeds, on the point of expiring, and which European diplomacy is treating as of small account, and as a proposition to be solved by minor officials and second-rate Chancelleries! Here is an injustice and a danger to see to for the sake of all concerned.—I am, etc.,

September 2, 1916. Alexander Sefi.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I am exceedingly sorry that my article on "Superstitions in Syria" should have conveyed such a wrong impression to one of your readers. Your correspondent "Veritas" seems to think that I intended to ridicule the Syrians, for so I understand the following sentence to mean, "to pass ill-considered and offensive reflections on a people's intelligence and degree of instruction." Anyone who knows me would never charge me with that. The subject I wrote about was "Superstitions," and I, having lived in close touch with the Syrians for sixteen years—not in one district only, but in many, both in Lebanon and the vilayets—felt myself competent to judge. Possibly "Veritas" has only come across a certain section of the people, and therefore cannot be supposed to know the true facts of the case. Be that as it may, what I wrote was simply the fact that the people, before enlightenment and education, were superstitious.

I heartily endorse what "Veritas" states as regards the adaptability and intelligence of the Syrians. Both these points were dealt with by me in previous articles in The Near East (and in other papers). Few have had such opportunities as I have had of judging of the intelligence or otherwise of the Syrian muleteer.

It would take too long to enter into a discussion with "Veritas," and I must not trespass further on your valuable space. The facts given by me in my article to which such exception has been taken only serve to show that there is still great need in Syria for more light. I may add that I am proud to count among my friends many educated—yes, and uneducated—Syrians, who are to be found in all the five continents, and to say again that nothing was further from my thoughts than to speak slightingly in any way of the people I love.

Thanking you, sir, for your courtesy in allowing me space for this letter, I am, etc.,

Acton, September 3, 1916. G. M. Farrell.

TO HELP ARMENIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The Rev. J. K. Greene, of Constantinople, who has spent fifty-one years of his life in Turkey, and has himself been an important factor during the country's most critical and revolutionary period of its modern history, has lately published his book, "Leavening the Levant." It is a volume of 400 pages, 70 pictures, and three maps, describes the land and peoples of Turkey, and states the political, racial, and moral problems involved. The book is as much up to date as the author could make it, and especially helpful to those who work for or take interest in the cause of Armenia.

The author is giving all the profits of the publication to Armenian relief, and, as advance orders have ensured the cost of the edition, the entire amount now realised will go to save life and relieve desperate suffering. The cost of the volume is $1.65, or approximately 7s. in English money, including postage. A money order for that amount forwarded to the Rev. J. K. Greene, Oberlin, Ohio, U.S.A., will at once ensure a copy.—I am, etc.,

(Mrs.) Mary Hickson,
Hon. Sec. Friends of Armenia.

47, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.,
September 1, 1916.

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THE MECCA MOVEMENT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 25.

The Shereef of Mecca has just issued through his newly appointed agent in Cairo a proclamation to the Moslem world, in which he explains the motives that prompted his secession from Turkey, and sets forth the aim and object of his present attitude. It is a most remarkable document, as convincing in its simplicity and obvious sincerity as it is outspoken in its criticism of the Young Turks. In view of the historic interest that will attach to this proclamation and of its quaint phraseology, I append a full translation from the original Arabic:—

"In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate."

This is our general proclamation to all our Moslem brothers.

"O God, judge between us and our people in truth; Thou art the Judge."

The world knoweth that the first of all Moslem princes and rulers to acknowledge the Turkish Government were the Emirs of Mecca the Blessed. This they did to bind together and make strong the brotherhood of Islam, for they saw the Sultans of the House of Osman (may the dust of their tombs be blessed, and may they dwell in Paradise), how they were upright, and how they carried out all the commandments and ordinances of the Faith and of the Prophet (prayers be upon him) perfectly. Therefore they were obedient to them at all times.

For a token of this remember how in A.H. 1322 I with my Arabs helped them against the Arabs, to save Ebhah from those who were besieging it, and to preserve the name of the Government in honour; and remember how again in the next year I helped them with my armies, which I entrusted to one of my sons; for in truth we were one with the Government until the Committee of Union and Progress rose up, and strengthened itself, and laid its hands on power. Consider how since then ruin has overtaken the State, and its possessions have been torn from it, and its place in the world has been lost, until now it has been drawn into this last and most fatal war.

All this they have done, being led away by shameful appetites, which are not for me to set forth, but which are public and a cause for sorrow to the Moslems of the whole world, who have seen this greatest and most noble Moslem Power broken in pieces and led down to ruin and utter destruction. Our lament is also for so many of its subjects, Moslems and others alike, whose lives have been sacrificed without any fault of their own. Some have been treacherously put to death, others cruelly driven from their homes, as though the calamities of war were not enough. Of these calamities the heaviest share has fallen upon the Holy Land. The poor, and even families of substance, have been made to sell their doors and windows, yea, even the wooden frames of their houses, for bread, after they had lost their furniture and all their goods. Not even so was the lust of the Union and Progress fulfilled. They laid bare all the measure of their wicked design, and broke the only bond that endured between them and the true followers of Islam. They departed from their obedience to the precepts of the Book.

With the connivance of the Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire, the Sheikh el-Islam, the Ulema, the Ministers and the Notables, one of their papers called the *Ijtihad* published in Constantinople unworthy things about the Prophet (The Prayer and Peace of God be upon him) and spoke evil of him (God forbid!). Then the Union and Progress rejected God's word, "A man shall have twice a woman's share," and made them equal. They went further, and removed one of the five corner-stones of the Faith, even the Fast in Ramadan, by causing the soldiers in garrison in Mecca, Medina, and Damascus to break their fast for new and foolish reasons, taking no account of the ordinance of God saying, "Those of you who are sick or on a journey. . . ." Yea, they went further. They made weak the person of the Sultan, and robbed him of his honour, forbidding him to choose for himself the chief of his personal Cabinet. Other like things did they to sap the foundation of the Khalifate.

For this it had been clearly our part and our necessary duty to separate ourselves from them and renounce them and their obedience. Yet we would not believe their wickedness, and tried to think that they were the imaginings of evil-doers to make a division between us and the Government. We bore with them until it was apparent to all men that the rulers of Turkey were Enver Pasha, Jemal Pasha, and Talaat Bey, who were doing whatsoever they pleased. They made their guilt manifest when they wrote to the Judge of the Sacred Court in Mecca traducing the verses in the Surah of the Cow, and laying upon him to reject the evidence of believers outside the Court and to consider only the deeds and contracts engrossed within the Court. They also showed their guilt when they hanged in one day twenty-one of the most honourable and enlightened of the Moslems, among them Emir Omar el Jazairi, Emir Arif el Shahabi, Shefik Bey Moayyad, Shukri Bey el Asli, Abdel Wahab, Tewfik el Bassat, Abdel Hamid el Zahrawi, Abdel Ghani el Areisi, and their learned comrades. To destroy so many, even of cattle, at one time would be hard for men void of all natural affection or mercy. And if we suppose they had some excuse for this evil deed, by what right did they carry away to strange countries the innocent and most miserable families of those ill-fated men? Children, old men, and delicate women bereft of their natural protectors were subjected in exile to all foul usage and even to tortures, as though the woes they had already suffered were not chastisement enough. Did not God say: "No punishment shall be inflicted on anyone for the sins of another?" . . . Let us suppose they found for themselves some reason for ill-treating the harmless families of their victims; why then did they rob them of their properties and possessions, which alone remained to keep them from death by famine? And if we suppose that they had also some excuse for this evil deed, how shall we find pardon for them for their shattering of the tomb of our most righteous and upright Lord and Brother, El Sayed el Shereef Abdel Kader el Jezairi el Hassani, whose bones they have polluted and whose dust they have scattered abroad?

We leave the judgment of these misdeeds, which we have touched upon so briefly, to the world in general and to Moslems in particular. What stronger proof can we desire of the faithlessness of their inmost hearts to the Religion, and of their feelings towards the Arabs, than their bombardment of that ancient House, which God has chosen for His House, saying, "Keep my House pure for all who come to it," . . . a House so venerated by all Moslems? From their fort of Jyad, when the revolt began, they shelled it. The first shot struck a yard and a-half above the Black Stone. The second fell three yards short of it, so that the flame leapt up and took hold upon the Kiswa. Which, when they saw, the thousands and thousands of Moslems first raised a lamentable cry, running to and fro, and then shouted in fierce anger and rushed to save it. They had to burst open the door and mount upon the roof before they could quench the flames. Yet a third shell fell upon the Tomb of Abraham, and other shells fell in and about the precincts, which they made a target for their guns, killing every day three or four who were at prayer within the Mosque, till they prevented the people coming near to worship. This will show how they despised His House and denied it the honour given it by believers.

We leave all this to the Moslem world for judgment.

Yes, we can leave the judgment to the Moslem world; but we may not leave our religion and our existence as a people to be a plaything of the Unionists. God (Blessed be He) has made open for us the attainment of freedom and independence, and has shown us a way of victory to cut off the hand of the oppressors, and to cast out their garrison from our midst. We have attained independence, an independence of the rest of the Ottoman Empire, which is still groaning under the tyranny of our enemy. Our independence is complete, absolute, not to be laid hands on by any foreign influence or aggression, and our aim is the preservation of Islam and the uplifting of its standard in the world. We fortify ourselves on the noble religion which is our only guide and advocate in the principles of administration and justice. We are ready to accept all things in harmony with the Faith and all that leads to the Mountain of Islam, and in particular to uplift the mind and the spirit of all classes of the people in so far as we have strength and ability.

This is what we have done according to the dictates of our religion, and on our part we trust that our brethren in all parts of the world will each do his duty also, as is incumbent upon him, that the bonds of brotherhood in Islam may be confirmed.

We beseech the Lord of Lords, for the sake of the Prophet of Him who giveth all things, to grant us prosperity and to direct us in the right way for the welfare of the faith and of the faithful.

We depend upon God the All-Powerful, whose defence is sufficient for us.

Shereef and Emir of Mecca,

25 Shaaban, 1334. Hussein.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* reports that the Moslem community in Egypt is deeply affected by the Shereef's proclamation. All, even those hitherto Turcophile, are aghast at the revelations of Turkish cruelties and disregard of the precepts of Islam.

THE MESOPOTAMIA INQUIRY.

The following official statement was issued at the close of Tuesday's session of the Commission appointed to inquire into the circumstances attending the Mesopotamia Expedition:—"The Commission met in the House of Lords. All the members were present. Evidence was taken from Surgeon-General Sir Alfred Keogh, K.C.B., D.G.M.S., also Captain the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., also Captain Cross, I.M.S. The next meeting will be held on Thursday."

A Greek named John Faseless was fined £100 at Cardiff last Friday for failing to register.

The War Office on Monday issued the following statement:—The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief in Egypt reports that an enemy aeroplane dropped three bombs on Rahah (about four miles east of Katia) on the morning of September 3. We suffered some casualties, but no damage is reported.

A Cairo telegram states that General Altham, Inspector-General of Communications, has received a letter from the American Diplomatic Agency testifying to the humanity with which Turkish prisoners are treated at the camp at Sidi Bishr. The camp is within a few yards of the sea, and the prisoners are permitted to bathe. A special superstructure covered with matting keeps the place cool. The officers seemed to be delighted with the place, and there were no complaints.

Under date of September 5, Reuter's Athens correspondent telegraphs:—It is reported that a British transport bound from Chios to Mytilene was fired at from a Turkish battery on the Asiatic coast without result. A monitor in Chios harbour went to her assistance and bombarded the Turkish batteries. A violent explosion ensued, and it is presumed that a shell struck a powder magazine. A British detachment effected a surprise landing at Tchesme and took prisoners thirty Turkish soldiers and one Austrian officer.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I referred recently to the lawsuit brought against the proprietor of a native journal by a certain sheikh of Cairo, who considered himself entitled to a prize offered by the said journal for the best Arabic rendering of "Tipperary." The case, I gather from Egyptian papers received recently, has advanced another stage. For a moment my hopes were raised high by a lively writer in the *Egyptian Mail*, who reported: "It is stated that Sheikh Ahmed Soliman Ashur is going to sing his version of 'Tipperary' when he goes into the box, and he has also cited as witnesses all the other competitors, who will also sing their versions."

***

That, you will admit, opened up a delightful prospect. One usually associates ideas of great dignity with the mention of any "sheikh," and the picture conjured up by the writer just quoted was piquant to a degree. But, alas! it melted away all too soon. The case attracted a large audience; but, as far as I can ascertain from the Press reports, it proceeded along sufficiently humdrum lines. Instead of a sporting competition of the kind hoped for—an Egyptian Eisteddfod in miniature—the Court listened to an address by counsel—learned, no doubt, but highly technical—and Sheikh Ashur contented himself with an equally conventional appeal for justice—and the £E2 which seems to be the prize. Then there was an adjournment for a fortnight. One almost fancies that some of our own judges would have contrived to give things a more lively turn; and, judging by certain proceedings in our Law Courts, counsel seems to have missed his opportunity, too. The eminent legal gentleman whose thirty-one days' speech recently led one of our papers to head its report of the case, "Mr. —— Day by Day," would surely have seen his chance in this "Tipperary" suit to secure the heading, "Mr. —— Month by Month."

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Unless I am much mistaken, the Kaiser promised, about a year ago, that he would honour the Sultan of Turkey with a visit. The fulfilment of that promise is surely overdue, and though I am not a betting man, I should be willing to wager that Wilhelm is unlikely to pay his visit this year, if ever he pays it. He has a liking for playing the part of patron; and, even with his extraordinary power of seeing things as he would like them to be rather than as they are, he would find it a little difficult, one supposes, to sustain that rôle in Constantinople just now. Indeed, if any kind-friend-in-need part is to be enacted to-day, it would seem that Sultan Mohammed should play it—in Vienna or Budapest. With appeals for help from Hungary, rather more than gentle hints from Berlin, and blunt requests—for 200,000 men, is it not?—from Sofia, raining in upon her, Turkey must be quite bewildered.

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The surrender of Dar-es-Salaam has afforded me enormous satisfaction, not so much because the place is—or was—the official capital of German East Africa as because it was also the scene of a bit of treachery as bad as anything the Germans have been guilty of anywhere. This was in December of 1914, when H.M.S. Goliath and H.M.S. Fox anchored in the roads for the purpose of destroying German shipping, as a reprisal for the sinking of H.M.S. Pegasus by the Kœnigsberg. The Germans agreed that if the town were not bombarded they would not fire upon the demolition party. Then, with the white flag still flying, they suddenly opened fire on the party. We suffered several casualties, and though the town was punished by a heavy bombardment, the Germans were able to keep a few officers prisoners. You can read all about it in that splendid little book, "From Dartmouth to the Dardanelles," which was recently reviewed in THE NEAR EAST. And if you do so, you will rejoice exceedingly over the fall of the treacherous Huns' stronghold.

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Some time ago the papers told us how, in Africa, the enemy had actually pressed the wild bees into his service. Now it seems to be the turn of something bigger—the rhinoceros, to wit. At any rate, Reuter's Agency last week reported that one day recently at dawn our camp at Dakawa, German East Africa, was "charged by a family of rhinoceroses." I have never seen a "rhino" charge, but I have had a vivid description of such a charge from a friend who had to receive it; and I feel sorry for our sentries at Dakawa. The rhinoceros is a blind, blundering kind of a beast when he "sees red," and, therefore, a fitting ally for the Hun; but he can get up a terrific speed, and his weight will carry him almost anywhere, so to say. In the "engagement" referred to, I note "the cow and a calf were killed by rifle fire, and the bull hastily retired to the bush." It looks as if the bull had adopted the truly Prussian method of allowing the other sex and the children to form a screen for his advance!

***

A Cypriot has, I see, been writing to the papers protesting against "Turks" in Cyprus being kept to-day in confidential posts in the Cyprus Government. By so doing he raises a rather ticklish question. I am not concerned to defend the "Turks" against the charges of murder, robbery, "and every kind of evil-doing" which the writer referred to brings against them. But it seems to me that the officials whom he wishes to see dismissed are unlikely to be guilty of the crimes he catalogues; and that, therefore, even assuming for a minute that *all* the criminals in Cyprus are Turks, and that *all* the virtues are possessed by the Greek Cypriots, it would still be unfair to dismiss these officials. Moreover, he might remember that, in spite of the carefully engineered agitation for "Union with Greece," Cyprus is not yet Greek. That being so, we still have some obligations towards the "Turks" of Cyprus; and until we can replace the "Turkish" officials by British (not Greek) we may naturally feel rather loth to make any change. In a word, the Cyprus "Turks" are at least as loyal to Britain as many of the Cypriot "Greeks"; and in view of recent events it is possible that we shall consider British interests even before "Hellenic" aspirations.

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Says the *Westminster Gazette*:—"It is delightful, of course, to have Roumanian 'officials' to read, but all the agonies of Galicia are outdone by Thursday's effort, and it might be more merciful if a general arrangement could be made by which Transylvanian towns should have numbers given them. Places like Bodzafordullo Bodzavama, Torocsvarbran, and Meterezele are a little too much! Life must be leisurely in those regions." Apparently the Austro-Hungarian troops are not finding it exactly "leisurely." But that is by the way. The *W. G.* is right enough about the terrors of some of the names we are invited to tackle in these days, though the examples it selects as illustrations do not strike me as very difficult. It is names that begin with such a combination of consonants as Lrz and finish off with a lot of dz's and cs's, without any vowels at all to speak of, that floor me. You will find a choice assortment of such puzzles in the German official map of Central Europe.

CORSAIR.

"WOE TO TRAITORS."

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (August 17):—We read in a Roumanian daily: "Although it is known that the Russian troops have had to face Bulgarian regiments at Baranovici, there are none to be found among the prisoners. 'Asevski' writes on this subject in the *Ruskoye Slovo*: 'Our wounded report that in their engagements they have had to deal with Bulgarians. The situation of the Bulgars is indeed tragic, but a fitting one for traitors. Thrown on to the Russian front against their will, they were loath to face the Russians, but the Germans urged them on from behind with the mitrailleuse. Driven to despair, they asked no better than to be made prisoners. But woe to traitors! For them there is no salvation. Our soldiers say: "How can we take prisoner this betrayer of Christ?" And we must sorrowfully admit that Bulgarians have not been found among the prisoners.'"

The Greek Metropolitan at Florina has been arrested by Bulgarians at the village of Exisou, while on his way to Kotchani.

Messages received in Athens from Constantinople report that in order to fill the gaps in the Turkish Army the age limit for mobilisation has been extended to fifty-five.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief in Egypt reports:—On the morning of September 4 the Royal Flying Corps carried out a further raid on the enemy's encampment at Mazar. One anti-aircraft gun was put out of action and a number of bombs were dropped with good effect on camps, supply depots, and camel lines.

According to the latest news received from Syria, the Maronite Patriarch, who ever since the war began has been under supervision, has now returned to his summer residence at Bkerki, and is living there unmolested, says the *Egyptian Gazette* of August 23. Mgr. Butros Shibly, Maronite Bishop for Beyrout, and Mgr. Gerasimos Mesana, Greek Orthodox Bishop for Beyrout, and other bishops who had been exiled to the interior, have been permitted to return to their sees. It is stated that this has been done on the intervention of the Pope.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

LINGUISTIC STUDIES IN RUSSIAN.*

That the key to a nation's soul must be sought for in its mother-tongue is a commonplace in the infant science of collective psychology. This law applies in its fullest force to the Russian people, whose language reflects every mood of which their primitive yet complex nature is capable. Until recent years they were severed from us by distance, and by radical divergences of history and environment. Moreover, between us was ensconced a bitterly hostile race which, ever since the "reforms" imposed on Russia by Peter the Great, had held her in a strangling grip. Yet, strange to say, the unlike attracts the unlike; Russians have always felt a lurking sympathy for Britons. It survived the Crimean War, which is now admitted to have been one of the greatest blunders in our history; it persisted in later years, despite the intrigues and calumnies of a school which saw in Russian expansion eastwards a direct menace to our Indian Empire. Happily for the future of civilization, the clouds which hid the real Russia from British vision are rapidly disappearing. United with her in death-struggles against a common foe, we yearn for deeper knowledge of our mighty Ally. In the flood of literature produced by this demand we may fairly single out for special commendation a book which explains the psychology of the Russian race by means of illustrations taken from their language.

The author is a Russian lady who has lived long enough amongst us to have acquired the gift of regarding her own countrymen objectively. Writing as she does in English, her work escapes the innumerable pitfalls which beset the difficult art of translation. An Italian proverb warns us that "Translators are traitors," and it must be admitted that the most perfect command of an alien tongue does not qualify a man for rendering its shades of meaning in his own vernacular. In the case of Russian, the translator's task is impossible. If we compare the best English version of Gorki's romances with originals, we find whole pages omitted, and the grim humour of others entirely absent. It is as though an Englishman were to repeat an Irish witticism without its characteristic brogue. Nor is the reason far to seek. The Russian language surpasses Greek and even Sanskrit in analytical subtlety. By dint of affixes and suffixes to a root-word it is capable of recording *nuances* which no other living tongue can convey. The suppleness of Russian prose is increased by transpositions which we associate with poetical licence. Take the following passage from Gorki's "Childhood":—

> Square, broad-chested, he would come in, trim in his golden silk shirt, velvet trousers, and pleated top-boots. Glittered his hair; shone his gay, somewhat squinting eyes under their thick eyebrows; sparkled his teeth under the black stripe of his young moustache; glowed his silk shirt, reflecting the light of the ever-burning *lampadka*.

Russian readers would at once conjure up the homely vision of a log-hut interior, faintly illumined by a lamp suspended before its *ikon*, and revealing a huge white-washed stove, with wooden benches along the walls, suggesting a night's rest for casual wanderers.

But it is in its bewildering wealth of untranslatable words that the fecund genius of the Russian people stands disclosed. What English equivalent can be found for *chutki*, implying responsiveness, sympathy, friendliness? Such antinomies as this—and their name is legion—explains the fact that Russians used to find our fellow-countrymen "heavy to lift." "With us," writes our author:—

> every new idea, plan, or invention, every change in the old routine, is welcome and appreciated. The New has always been accepted with outstretched arms in all branches of science, art, and literature, to say nothing of the individualistic development of social life. Even amongst peasants one never sees the spirit of "our parents did it this way, so it must be right!"

Consider, too, the epoch-making dissyllable *prostor*, which connotes the yearning for expansion bred by Russia's limitless plains.

> It is the seed-bed of creative impulse, it pours into Russian art the power of witching charm, and fills the Russian heart to overflowing with the power of love. His sense of size and space impels a Russian to throw out his arms, to embrace Nature, brothers, foes, and friends. At this time, indeed, embracing foes does not particularly appeal to the Russian mind, but it needed much appalling cruelty to weaken this characteristic of all-forgiveness.

A race which uses such expressions in its everyday talk must be capable of brotherhood in the highest sense, and is, perhaps, destined to raise the level of the world's civilization. But its great emotional power has volcanic elements which require repression. It is an unconscious law of civilization that everything should be said and done with a certain restraint; but the course of history proves this law to be more honoured in the breach than in the observance by Russians of the *Intelligentzia* class.

With this Slavonic capacity of yielding oneself wholly to one's ideas and emotions, it is not surprising to find an everyday definition very seldom used in England, whose people are more conservative and refuse to be swept off their feet—which, at times, must be more effective in the long run than a hearty yielding to that fascinating sensation! This definition is *uvlecheniye*, and it means "the state of being carried or swept away." Living amongst Russians, you would see people glued to work which they are not in the least bound to do, not merely for hours, but day and night for many months on end. That is why Russians wear themselves out physically much sooner than the British.

The war now raging has produced an outburst of *uvlecheniye* which will prove the salvation of the Russian people.

A few years ago Russians were thrown by reaction into a state of *marasme*. There was almost a standing still in the one-time keenness for social interests. Russian society seemed to be dozing off, tired to the verge of indifference with regard to our future place in the world. But here comes the war, and all is awake and throbbing with genuine, intense love for homeland, to be freed from the German yoke, for the people represented by the *soldatik*, that wonderful grey hero, for the *prostor* of Russia that gives a chance to the unsophisticated heroism of her folk-lore to unfold itself—*Rasvernutsa*—again for a great cause.

Mme. Jarintzov's work is, indeed, a revelation of the genius of her race. It may help to banish the stodgy insularity which clings to us as a legacy from the Victorian era, and to realize that now, as always, light comes from the East.

F. H. S.

* "The Russians and their Language." By Mme. N. Jarintzov. (Oxford: B. H. Blackwell. Price, 6s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

Amongst the autumn announcements of the Oxford University Press is "A History of the Eastern Question from the Advent of the Ottomans to the Outbreak of the European War: A Study in European Diplomacy," by J. A. R. Marriott.

Messrs. P. S. King and Son publish in this country, on behalf of Columbia University. "The Origins of the Islamic State," a translation from the Arabic, with annotations, geographic, and historic notes of the "Kitâb-Futûh Al-Buldân of al-Imâm abu-l'Abbas ibn-Jâbir al-Balâdhuri," by P. K. Hitti, of Columbia University. The price of the volume is 16s.

We have received from Edward Stanford a copy of the Luck sheet in their series of Central European maps, reproducing part of the German official map (1:300,000), enlarged to a scale of four miles to the inch. The map is wonderfully clean and "readable," though full of detail; and the complete series is invaluable for studying operations on the Eastern front. The present sheet, which is issued at the price of 3s., covers the area between 42° and 44° east and west and 50° and 51° north and south, and shows all the principal roads, railroads, and natural features, and is produced in the high-class style we expect from Messrs. Stanford. It is perhaps a pity that the German terms of reference are not translated.

A book, entitled "Lord Kitchener in His Own Words," is shortly to be published by Messrs. Fisher Unwin, Limited. The authors, Mr. J. B. Rye and Mr. H. G. Groser, have aimed at constructing a narrative of Lord Kitchener's life told as far as possible in his own words. The book will give many of his pronouncements on Egypt and the Sudan, on Turkish misrule in Asia Minor, on the cotton industry, etc., and will also contain opinions expressed about Lord Kitchener by Lord Cromer, Lord Roberts, and other famous men. The price is 6s.

Two books announced by Messrs. Dent are "Songs of Ukraina," translations from the Russian by Florence R. Livesay, and "Armenian Legends and Poems," by Zabelle C Boyajian. The profits from the latter work will go to the Lord Mayor's Armenian Relief Fund.

Messrs. Black announce for publication "Peeps at Ancient Assyria," by the Rev. James Baikie.

Sir R. S. Baden-Powell contributes a preface to "With a B.-P. Scout in Gallipoli," the first volume of a series of "Experiences of the War by Soldiers," which Messrs. Routledge and Kegan Paul will issue.

We have received from Messrs. Luzac and Co., the well-known publishers and booksellers, of 46, Great Russell Street, a catalogue of second-hand books on Arabia, Persia, Turkey. It contains over 2,500 items, and is of much interest to all students of the Near East, the Orient, and El Islam.

Messrs. Duckworth and Co. have published (3s. 6d. net) "With the French in France and Salonika," by Richard Harding Davis, completed just before the author's death.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Population of the Polish Commonwealth. By Arthur E. Gurney; with a preface by Ludwik Janowski, M.A., Ph.D. (George Allen and Unwin, Limited. [For the Polish Information Committee.] 6d. net.)

Idea of Southern Slav Unity. No. V. of "The Southern Slav Library." (The Near East, Limited. 3d. net.)

The New Breed. By Andrew Firth. (Fisher Unwin, Limited. 6s.)

Life Cannot Cease and Leaves from the Pilgrims' Way By Marguerite Percy. (East and West. 3s. 6d.)

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Sept.	1916. Aug.		1334. Jilkada	5676. Ellul
8	26	Friday	10	10
9	27	Saturday.....	11	11
10	28	Sunday	12	12
11	29	Monday	13	13
12	30	Tuesday	14	14
13	31	Wednesday	15	15
14	Sept. 1	Thursday	16	16

To-morrow is the birthday of Prince George of Serbia, who was born at Rieka in 1887.

The King of Montenegro, attended by General Matonovitch, left Paris for Italy last Friday to visit King Victor Emanuel.

The *Court Circular* of August 31 announced that Prince Andrew of Greece, who was attended by Major M. Metaxas, had left Windsor Castle.

Princess Bibescu, the cousin of Prince Antoine Bibescu, Secretary of the Roumanian Legation, arrived last week at 114, Grosvenor Road, from Paris.

M. Mathias Boshkovitch, the Serbian Minister in London, was received by the King at Windsor Castle on Monday, when he presented his Letters of Recall. His Excellency, who was afterwards received by the Queen, had luncheon with their Majesties before returning to town.

M. Yovanovitch, the newly-appointed Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James, with Madame Yovanovitch and the members of his family, will arrive in London shortly from France.

Mr. Lewis Einstein, the American Envoy-Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Sofia, and Mrs. Einstein have left London for Paris on their way to Ouchy, Switzerland.

H.E. the Roumanian Minister called at the Foreign Office on Monday.

Sir Edwin Pears is announced in the American papers to give the introductory lecture of the season at the Lowell Institute in Boston on October 16. This is to be the first of a series of eight lectures on the history of Constantinople under Greek and Turkish rule. The programme indicates that the lectures have nothing of a political character about them, but are such as would be welcome to a university audience. The President of the Lowell Institute is Mr. Lawrence Lowell, who is also President of Harvard University. Applications have been received by Sir Edwin for lectures at other universities and colleges in the United States and in Canada. The Lowell Institute has a distinguished roll of eminent literary men who have given the introductory lecture during the last few years. As author of many historical essays on Constantinople, and especially of "The Story of the Fourth Crusade" and "The Destruction of the Greek Empire," Sir Edwin possesses a European reputation on these subjects. In reply to our inquiries, we are informed that he expects to be back in London by Christmas, and will be accompanied by his daughter.

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Abdul Ali Khan Sadigh-es-Saltaneh, of the Persian Legation, has left Persia for London.

M. Levitch, the Secretary-General of the Serbian Ministry of Finance, will leave London shortly for France.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces that Lady McMahon is expected back in Egypt about the middle of next month.

We learn from a correspondent that Dr. F. G. Clemow is shortly leaving for Russia with a Red Cross unit, and that he will eventually join the Serbian Army.

Major-General the Hon. H. A. Lawrence, who has just been appointed to Headquarters' Units and to be temporary Lieut.-General, is a director of the Bank of Roumania. General Lawrence was in command of troops in the recent affair at Katia.

Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel John Harington, D.S.O., Rifle Brigade, who is reported wounded, served in the Nile Expedition, 1898, and was awarded the Egyptian medal with clasp. He also served in the South African War, and in East Africa (1904).

Another officer reported wounded who has served both in Egypt and South Africa is Brigadier-General W. F. Sweny. He entered the Royal Fusiliers in 1893, and was gazetted to a Brigadier Command last year.

Dr. Percy d'Erf Wheeler, M.D., F.R.C.S., late superintendent of the English Mission Hospital at Jerusalem, has been given an appointment in the R.A.M.C. for home service with the Field Ambulance at Bourne Park Camp, Canterbury. Dr. Wheeler worked for over twenty years at Jerusalem, where his name is still a household word. This long experience in the East induced him to offer himself for service in Mesopotamia, and he would have been accepted by the War Office but for his age; the authorities being very strict on this point, his offer was declined for that front, where the climate is so exceptionally trying.

Dr. Wheeler's eldest son, Captain Wheeler, is in Mesopotamia, the second son, Second-Lieutenant Wheeler, in France, and the third son in India, this being another instance in which a whole family is under service at the same time.

Amongst the latest rewards for gallantry in the field appears the name of Captain J. B. Barron, Worcestershire Regiment, who has been awarded the Military Cross "for conspicuous gallantry when seizing and occupying enemy trenches during operations. He has done fine work, steadying his company under heavy shell fire and under trying conditions." During the great stand of the Wiltshire and Worcestershire Regiments on August 24 and 25 Captain Barron was wounded shortly before the big attack began, but, refusing to be sent down, he went through it all, and led his company when it seized the important position it had been ordered to take. This position was maintained and consolidated under a terrific shell fire. Captain Barron has received the thanks of his Brigadier for the excellent work he has done on several occasions. He is making good progress, and has not been sent home for treatment.

Mr. Herbert E. Jackson, son of Mr. W. E. Jackson, of Salonika, has been granted a commission as second lieutenant for the duration of the war, and is now attached to the Intelligence Branch in Macedonia.

Under date of August 17, our Khartoum Correspondent writes:—

The Governor-General and his Staff leave Khartoum for Erkowit on August 18. H.E. will probably remain there for six weeks, and return shortly before the feast of Kurban Bairam.

Major R. C. R. Owen, C.M.G., the Governor of Mongalla Province, arrived in Khartoum on August 15 on his way to England.

Major C. H. Stigand, the well-known authority on big game, returned from Darfur recently and returns to Malakal to take up his duties as Senior Inspector during the absence of the Governor, Major J. R. Bassett.

Mr. J. W. Sagar, of the Blue Nile Province, has proceeded with Mrs. Sagar to Halfa to take temporary duty there in the absence of the Governor, Mr. Lyall.

Captain R. S. Andas, of the Veterinary Department, has arrived in Khartoum from Kordofan and the West, and is on his way north for a change and rest.

Mr. H. V. Hawkins, of the Sudan Government Railways, has returned from Egypt, where he has been employed for some months on work in connection with the war.

News has been received of Captain O'Farell, of the Wellcome Research Laboratory. He was taken prisoner in Sinai and sent with his wounded to Beyrout, and was well treated considering the difficulties in which the whole country there is involved for food and supplies. Later, however, he was moved to Angora, where he seems to be almost alone, his only companion being a Church of England chaplain.

Mr. R. Davies, who has been inspector in Northern Kordofan, passed through Khartoum early in the week on his way back from England. It is said that he is to go to Western Kordofan shortly.

Major Logan, O.C., of the Sobat Pibor district, has returned from leave in England.

Mr. T. D. Cree, of Baghdad, who, as already announced in these columns, was taken prisoner by the Turks (for the second time) at Kut-el-Amarah, and was lately interned at Aleppo, has now been transferred to Constantinople. Mrs. Cree has also been moved to Constantinople, where she is allowed to visit her husband. It is satisfactory to learn that the British residents of Baghdad who were removed to Mosul by the Turks are being well treated.

We regret to learn that Mr. E. C. Blech has lost his son, Second-Lieutenant E. L. Blech, East Surrey Regiment, attached Machine Gun Corps, who is reported killed in action. Mr. E. C. Blech, who was at one time Dragoman-Archivist at the Embassy, Constantinople, and afterwards Consul for Palestine and Consul-General at Port Said, has served in many parts of the Near East, and is now employed at the Foreign Office. His many friends, both abroad and at home, will sincerely sympathise with him in his great loss.

A message, dated July 23, has been received from Flight-Lieutenant C. B. Gasson, R.N.A.S., who was captured by the Turks in Mesopotamia. He is in Baghdad, and, though suffering from an injured foot, is progressing favourably. He reports that he is one of several British prisoners in an "English hospital" in the city, that they are all well treated, very comfortable, get their pay regularly, and "can buy most things in the shops."

Cadet G. D. C. Koe, of the staff of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, has been appointed second-lieutenant in the Herts Yeomanry on probation. The name of Second-Lieutenant C. E. Hemmerde, Royal West Kent Regiment, formerly of the I.O.B., appeared in a recent list of wounded.

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The marriage took place on Wednesday, at the parish church, Eltham, Kent, of Herbert Chavasse Squires, M.B., Medical Department, Sudan Government, son of the late Rev. Henry Charles Squires, formerly vicar of Holy Trinity, Richmond, to Miss Hilda Margaret Norbury, youngest daughter of Sir Henry and Lady Norbury, of St. Margaret's, Eltham. The Bishop of Liverpool officiated. Miss Mildred Squires (sister of the bridegroom), Miss Marjorie Heys-Jones (niece of the bride), and Miss Mary Copland were the bridesmaids, and the Rev. C. M. Chavasse (cousin of the bridegroom) was best man.

Colonel Sir John Roper Parkington, Royal Montenegrin Consul-General, and Lady Roper Parkington have left Harrogate and have arrived at the Hotel Metropole, Brighton.

Mr. Alfred Hurst, of Edinburgh, chairman of the National Roumanian Relief Fund, who started immediately after the declaration of war by Roumania to provide motor-ambulances, hospital equipment, etc., has received telegrams from the Queen of Roumania and the Roumanian Prime Minister. Her Majesty's telegram reads as follows:—"I am very much touched by your telegram informing me that a committee is being formed in Edinburgh to present me with motor-ambulances and hospital equipment, and more especially as it shows that my father's name is remembered." M. Bratiano telegraphed:—"I am very much touched by the proposals you have been good enough to communicate to me, and I have given instructions to the Roumanian Legation, London, to give all necessary help." The president of the fund is the Earl of Rosebery, who has started it with a donation of 100 guineas.

M. Bratiano, the Roumanian Prime Minister, has sent a reply to M. Briand's congratulatory message on the occasion of Roumania's intervention in the war, in which he says Roumania, "which is attached to France by so many ties and by the feelings of gratitude for all that she has been indebted to her for in the past, is happy and proud to fight at her side for our noble and common cause."

Among Alexandria-born Britons doing their duty at the front are the three sons of Mr. J. F. Elsworth, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. The eldest, Lieutenant L. A. Elsworth, who has been for over twelve months in France, was recently mentioned in despatches. His younger brother, Lieutenant E. W. Elsworth, is with the Camel Transport on the Canal, and the third, Lance-Corporal Harry Eugene Elsworth, has just got a broken arm from a bullet in France, and is now progressing favourably in hospital in Devonport. He received his promotion from private for meritorious work at the beginning of the big push in July, and although still under 18½ years of age, has been fighting in France for over sixteen months.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of August 23 announces: Dr. Ruffer, President of the Quarantine Board, is believed to have arrived at Kamaran Island, in the Red Sea, for the purpose of inspecting the quarantine camp, which is intended to be reopened for the pilgrims of India and other Eastern countries.

We have received a contribution of £3 3s. from Mr. M. E. Lange towards the British Refugees from Turkey Fund.

Over £1,600 has been subscribed in South Wales towards the erection of a statue to the late Colonel Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart, M.P., which is being executed by Sir W. Goscombe John.

Mr. Hugh James O'Beirne, C.B., Counsellor of Embassy at Petrograd and Minister at Sofia, who was drowned at sea with Lord Kitchener in H.M.S. Hampshire on June 5, aged forty-nine years, has left estate of the value of £28,900.

Lieutenant and Adjutant the Hon. Michael Hugh Hicks-Beach, commonly called Viscount Quenington, Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry, of The Mill House, Coln St. Aldwyn, Gloucester, M.P. for the Tewkesbury Division of Gloucestershire, secretary to his father (Earl St. Aldwyn) when Chancellor of the Exchequer and to the present Lord St. Audries (then Sir A. Acland-Hood), Chief Ministerial Whip, who died on April 23 last, aged thirty-eight years, in Egypt from wounds received in action, left unsettled estate of the gross value of £131,509.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Writing on August 13, our Bucharest Correspondent reports:—

There have been considerable changes in the staff of the French Legation here. The Marquis de Saint-Aulaire replaces M. Camille Blondel as Minister Plenipotentiary, and Colonel Despres takes the place of Major Sichon as Military Attaché. Two other officers have been attached to the Legation, the Duc de Luynes and M. Robert de Flers. M. Charles Arsene Henry occupies the post of Secretary. He is the son of M. Arsene Henry, formerly French Minister in Bucharest.

The Marquis de Saint-Aulaire was born in 1863, and commenced his career in the consular service at Tunis in 1893. He was sent as Secretary to Santiago de Chile, subsequently finding his way in different diplomatic capacities to Lima, Rio, and Tangier. Appointed First Secretary at Vienna in 1909, he attained the rank of Plenipotentiary in 1912. Having acted for some time as Charge d'Affaires in the Austrian capital, he was transferred as Delegate to the Presidency-General at Morocco, whence he now comes to Bucharest as head of the Legation. He is spoken of by those who know him as one of France's most able diplomatists.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (August 12):—"The Chief Secretary to Government, Captain Orr, will shortly proceed on leave for about five months, partly on account of health."

M. Marchetti, the newly-appointed Secretary to the Greek Legation in London, has entered on his duties.

Mr. King Lewis, Director-General of the Egyptian Customs Administration, left Egypt on August 14 for England on leave. Mr. Terrel, Chief Inspector of the Customs, is acting as Director-General during his absence.

Mr. Brunton, Director of Personnel and Accounts, Minister of Justice; and Mr. Molesworth, Inspector-General of Basin Conversion Works and Acting Inspector-General of Irrigation for Upper Egypt, also left Cairo for England on leave at the same time.

Kaimakam F. J. M. Poslethwaite Bey and Kaimakam G. B. Wauhope Bey, Sudan Government, have been granted the Order of the Nile, Fourth Class.

El Bimbashi J. J. B. Tapley, D.S.O., Sudan Government, has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

El Bimbashi J. R. B. Bond, Equatorial Battalion, has been appointed Staff Officer, Khartoum District.

El Bimbashi (temporary) G. G. F. F. Greville, Khartoum District, has been transferred to 14th Sudanese.

Mr. Skellerides, Greek Vice-Consul at Mansourah, Egypt, has been appointed Greek Consul at Addis Abeba, Abyssinia. Mr. Skellerides will be replaced at Mansourah by Mr. Zivoglou, Greek Vice-Consul at Scutari.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

BARTON.—On August 12, at Gezira, Cairo, the wife of Claud Barton (Egyptian Civil Service), of a daughter.

MACKAY.—On September 1, at "Shrublands," 2, Sydenham Road, Croydon, to Dorothy Mary (*née* Simmons), the wife of Ernest Mackay, Luxor, Upper Egypt—a son.

MACLAREN.—On September 2, at the British Vice-Consulate, Resht, Persia, the wife of Charles W. de Bois Maclaren, of the Levant Consular Service—a daughter.

WHERE TO STAY.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1916.

PREVENTION OR CURE IN GREECE.

It will help to a better understanding of the situation in Greece if we recall the terms of the Note addressed to the Hellenic Government on June 21 by the Ministers of France, Great Britain, and Russia. In that document it was stated that the three guaranteeing Powers of Greece "have numerous and legitimate grounds of suspicion against the Greek Government, the attitude of which towards them is not in accordance with its repeated engagements, or even with the principles of a loyal neutrality." Specific reference was made to the favouring of the activities of certain foreigners, to the connivance of the Greek Cabinet in the occupation of Greek territory by the Bulgarians, and to the violation of the Constitution. The attitude of the Greek Government towards the Powers who liberated Greece from a foreign yoke and assured her independence was described as hostile, and the Cabinet of M. Gounaris was further charged with collusion with their enemies. In consequence of this grave indictment Greece was required to dismiss the Gounaris Government, to remove certain police officials, and to demobilize the army. When, less than ten weeks after these demands were accepted, the Allied Powers find themselves obliged to send a strong fleet to the Piræus and to present still further demands, of an even more drastic nature, it is evident that the Greek Government had in the interval failed to live up to the spirit of its previous undertaking. How far it has come short of the Allies' requirements can only be vaguely surmised from the tenour of the new Note presented on September 2. Control of the Greek posts and telegraphs, including the wireless system, was demanded; enemy agents employed in corruption and espionage were to be deported immediately, and the necessary measures were to be taken against such Greek subjects as had rendered themselves guilty of complicity in the corruption and espionage. Although more drastic, as they involved the surrender of Greek public services, there was nothing in the new demands to call for such a display of naval strength in view of the fact that the earlier Note had met with immediate acquiescence. But behind the appearance of a strong Allied fleet within sight of the Greek capital and the demands which it supported we have no difficulty in forming some idea of what has been taking place in Greece during the last few months. One feature stands out in the relations between the Allied Powers and the Greek Government. The former have never acted prematurely; in point of fact they have in each instance delayed action until the eleventh hour or later, trusting to a cure rather than to the prevention of the evils they could not tolerate; and we may be confident that the situation in Greece, as far as the Allies are concerned, has been much worse than might be supposed from the meagre reports that have been made public.

It is, we believe, to the interests of the Allies that something more should be revealed of Greece's shortcomings. As things stand at present, Germany will be encouraged to exploit the situation as an instance of high-handedness on the part of the Allied Powers, and will point out to neutral countries still willing to listen to her the absence of any justification adduced by Great Britain or France. On the other hand, the measure of Germany's capacity for intrigue and espionage ought to have been sufficiently taken by now by the world at large to enable it to realise something of what has been happening in Greece. What it will not know is the extent to which the Greek authorities connived at the action of German agents, or, even after the change of Government, were powerless to interfere with a system that had been allowed to establish itself firmly in Greek life during the Gounaris régime. All that has happened in Salonika—the elimination of Greek control and the complete transfer of all authority into the hands of the Allied military command—has been accepted as a normal development of the original landing of a Franco-British force at that port. The same explanation in reality applies in all the circumstances to the functioning of Allied police in Athens and the seizure of the postal and telegraphic systems of the country as a whole. But the line of reasoning is not so apparent, and the Allies will do well to make it clear how the Greek Government failed to conform with its engagements and the principles of a loyal neutrality, and rendered inevitable the encroachments which have had to be made upon Greek sovereignty. Rumour has, of course, been busy with the subject, and it cannot be denied that it has been given wide scope in the face of the naval demonstration. An official explanation, therefore, becomes the more necessary as an act of justice to the Greek people, who are entitled to know the exact way in which those in authority over them have interpreted their responsibilities to their country. So far the strength of the Allies' position has rested in the fact that they have had the tacit approval of the majority of Greeks; but they would run the risk of losing this if from false sentiment they tried to shield the rulers of the people by withholding a full statement of their sins of omission and commission.

In dealing with the Balkans, the Allied Governments have so frequently taken refuge in a hand-to-mouth policy that they must not be surprised to find even now some misgivings in regard to their attitude towards Greece. Certainly the present state of affairs in that country points to the absence of any lead from the guaranteeing Powers which would help the Greek people to extricate themselves from the tangle into which King Constantine's unconstitutional procedure has brought them. The army has been demobilized, and the Powers have declared that they do not ask Greece to depart from her neutrality. But when British police are arresting German spies in Athens and Anglo-French officials are taking control of the posts and telegraphs the time has arrived to lay down more explicitly the line of action which Greece is expected to adopt. If the support of the Greek army is required by the Allies, the Greek Government should be told to carry through the elections with all possible despatch with a view to an early remobilization. If, on the other hand, the Allied Powers adopt what would seem to be the wiser course of informing Greece that in no circumstances will they now allow her to take part in the war, the situation would be materially simplified. Greek participation in the war would raise the question of compensation, and still further complicate the ultimate settlement of the Balkans. Greece was given her opportunity of striking a blow for the principle of nationality; she refused, and preferred to league herself with the Powers who set out to trample on the rights of nations, small and great alike. She should, therefore, be compelled to accept the position she has created for herself and to adhere to her neutrality. Such a course might help her to heal her domestic sores. With the fear of having to fight removed, King Constantine and his military following will be able to retrace their steps more easily into constitutional paths. It will be difficult to withhold sympathy from the Greek people; but the work of safeguarding the Constitution against attacks of a similar nature in the future will occupy their whole attention under the guidance of M. Venizelos for some time to come, without the added distraction of a strenuous campaign. All concerned will have learned a valuable lesson, and Greece will be able to settle down more quickly to a normal condition of national progress.

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THE ROUMANIAN SOLDIER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 15.

A soldier of Roumanian nationality was recently court-martialled at Cluj, in Transylvania, on a charge of high treason. The evidence was set forth at length, and capital punishment was demanded for the alleged offence.

Counsel for the defence had gathered up his papers and risen to reply, when the deep silence which accompanied these acts was broken by the sound of a sonorous snore. All eyes were turned in the direction whence the indecorous noise appeared to proceed, when it was found to have its origin in the hunched-up figure of the accused, who, conscious of his innocence and profoundly bored by the proceedings, had dropped off into a peaceful slumber.

The defence was alive to the advantages to be drawn from the situation, with the result that our tired warrior was acquitted.

The above is a good illustration of the peasant's somewhat phlegmatic nature, with its undeniable touch of fatalism. Nothing astonishes him; never will he gape open-mouthed in wonder like the proverbial country bumpkin. His world is narrow, but his race as a whole has undergone experiences so varied, has been battered by storms so violent and oft-repeated, that startling events impart a subtle vibration to the thread which links his mind to that of his hoary ancestor, or unconsciously stirs his own particle of the collective, atavistic memory of the race, so that there enters into him a spirit of calmness—if need be, of placid resignation.

Here is another example. A group of inquisitive people gathered round a peasant who had just been taken for a flight in an aeroplane, anxious to ascertain what impression such an experience would produce upon his simple mind. But they were destined to disappointment, for the only comment elucidated was relative to the small size of the sheep as viewed from the clouds. This tale, however, is not quite characteristic; for if it illustrates what we may call the rather *blasé* temperament it does not do justice to the peasant's natural intelligence and lively powers of observation.

Are these peculiarities of temperament which, rightly or wrongly, we have ascribed to the Roumanian peasant, compatible with that dash, that reckless bravery, which is such a telling factor even in modern warfare? The answer is without a doubt in the affirmative, as history, ancient and modern, bears witness. Doubt may be entertained with regard to the efficiency of this or that element which goes to make up the complex known as "society," but never have I heard an expression of uncertainty on the score of the peasant's complete reliability as a fighting unit, and it is, of course, his class which constitutes the great mass of the army.

With his trans-Danubian neighbour, the Bulgar, he is sufficiently acquainted, and the latter enjoys his whole-hearted contempt. He would, it is true, find himself on familiar ground in the case of a Bulgarian campaign, but such would not correspond at all with his more warlike aspirations. It is otherwise with the Magyar, who is the object of a deep-rooted antipathy. A war with Austria-Hungary would for this reason alone prove popular, apart from the fact that it would be an eminently *national* war, making for the ethnical and territorial unity of all Roumanians; and with this latter aspect of the question the rural populations have familiarised themselves considerably in the course of the last few years. Even at the time of the Bulgarian campaign of 1913 the enthusiastic troops marched with additional goodwill at the thought that they were going to measure themselves with the hated Hungarian.

These, however, are but secondary arguments supporting our opinion that the Roumanian soldier will prove up to the mark. They are moral factors. But there are other requisites for the making of a good soldier, and presumably not the least important—namely, physical fitness and military training. These he has in abundance. The former the Roumanian peasant began to develop when he first saw the light of day, and endurance became an indispensable condition of life itself—endurance with its immunity to extremes of climate and temperature, and ability to sustain forced marches on a fare the quantity and quality of which would prove entirely inadequate for the demands of his Western brother-in-arms. As to discipline, this has been drilled into him abundantly during his term of military service and during the constant concentrations to which he has had to submit since the war has been in progress.

Such are a few of the reasons for which the Roumanian nation considers itself justified in counting implicitly on that section of the population which will be called upon to pay the heaviest tribute of blood in the realisation of the national ideal.

LOOTING IN SERBIA.

(From a Serbian Correspondent.)

In 1330 the Bulgarian Tsar Mihailo Sisman (Michael Shishman), in alliance with the Greek Emperor Andronikos III., attacked the Serbian King Stefan Uros (Stephen Urosh), with the object, as he said, of "placing his throne in Serbia." All the pleadings of Stefan Uros to Mihailo Sisman to avoid the war were useless. The fighting took place on the frontier of Serbia and Bulgaria, near Kustendil (Kustendji), which is to-day in Bulgaria. The victory of the Serbs over the Bulgars was so great that even the Bulgarian Tsar fell in battle. Thereafter Bulgaria lost all importance, but, thanks to the very humble petition of the Bulgarian nobility, and to the mercy of the good and pious Serbian king, it was not, at that time, annexed to Serbia, but only became dependent on Serbia.

Bulgaria never recovered her position. In her weakened condition she quietly came under the sway of the Turks, by whom she was enslaved until again created an empire by the help of Russia, in 1878.

At the time of the Bulgarian attack in 1330 Stefan Uros III. was building the majestic monastery Decani, south of Peci, which was the best monument of Serbian architecture. After the war, he completed this monastery and dedicated it to God as a sign of thankfulness for the victory over the Bulgars. After it was completed Stefan Uros III. was named "Decanski," and to this day he is almost always referred to by that name. In this monastery he was buried, and later he was canonised there. His sacred body rests there to this day, and each year, on November 11, a feast is held in his honour.

Decani was one of the greatest of Serbian relics, not only during the time of Serbian independence, but also during the régime of the Turks. It is also known because of the Serbian literature which flourished there, a great number of Serbian classics originating there.

Serbian monarchs vied with each other in making gifts to this monastery, and the monks in zeal in looking after its relics, monuments and wealth; and during the rule of the Turks the Serbs in the neighbourhood of Decani had an organisation and a special "church-leader" to look after the monastery. Even the wild Albanians of the neighbourhood respected this Serbian relic. From the far-distant Serbian countries, from the neighbourhood of the Balkan mountains, from the countries over the Save and the Danube in Austria, from Bosnia, Dalmatia, and Macedonia, the pious Serbian people came to Decani to bow to the "Sacred King."

A huge amount of wealth, in money and treasure, accumulated in the monastery, beginning with the immense presents given by Serbian kings and emperors, down to the small gifts of feudal retainers. Many manuscripts, books, and treasures of gold and of silver were to be found there. The list of the monastery's wealth found in books relating to it (G. Jurisic, "Decanski, Prvenac," Belgrade, 1858: S. Ristic, "Decanski, Spomenici," Belgrade, 1864; P. Srec-kovic, "Kralj Decanski," Belgrade, 1868, etc.) is far from being complete. All this wealth survived the troublous times of the five centuries under the Turks. Now it has become the booty of Bulgarians and Austrians.

The Sofia paper, *Narodni Prava* (July 31) reported that at the end of 1915 all the treasures contained in the monastery, whether of great or small value, had been removed to Bulgaria, and only the Ministry for National Education was in a position to speak about them. It appears, however, that the Bulgars did not take all that the monastery possessed. That is quite clear from the controversy between Vienna and Budapest papers as to who is to get the treasures found—Vienna or Budapest.

The newspaper *Novosti*, of August 6, in its article, "To Whom will the Treasures of the Serbian Monastery Belong?" contains the following statement:—

"Since it was heard from Serbia that the Austro-Hungarian armies have discovered treasures, to the value of some millions, in the very old Decani Monastery, a quarrel has taken place between the Austrian and Magyar Press regarding the rights to these treasures. As the antiquities in these treasures are very rare, a commission, appointed by the Court Museum, has started from Vienna in order to choose what they wish. But their intention will hardly be carried through, as the Magyar Press maintains that Serbia is undoubtedly more closely connected with Hungary than with Austria, and that this treasure therefore belongs to their 'Nemzeti Museum.' There is no doubt that great discussion will take place between scientific men over the question of this very famous monastery."

So Bulgars and Austrians are committing sacrilege over Serbian relics, and are destroying the legacies devoted to God and the Serbian faith. Is comment necessary on this barbarism?

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DIRECTORY

showing the present addresses of English residents in Turkey, who have left the country in consequence of the war, or have been prevented from returning there. Readers from Turkey whose names are not given below will oblige by forwarding to the Managing Editor their present addresses for inclusion (free of charge) in the Directory, which is intended to be of assistance in bringing friends together. Changes in addresses should be notified as early as possible. The "Near East" accepts no responsibility for the correctness of the addresses given.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Greece, Bulgaria and Germany.

In a leading article, "The Last Battle," the *Morning Post* recalls the saying of a modern Greek student of history, "England always wins the last battle," and points out that Bulgaria, forgetting this simple truth, "was impressed overmuch by the first battles." The writer declares:—

The position of Greece is that she was bound by treaty and honour to go to the aid of Serbia when Serbia was attacked. This obligation she refused to meet. There is a vehement suspicion that King Constantine and his Court were largely responsible for that national betrayal. The Greek nation, under the leadership of M. Venizelos, desired to stand on its treaty and oppose a strong front to the enemy. But a Palace intrigue defeated the Prime Minister, and deflected Greece from the course of honour.

Her punishment has, however, been severe already:—

Bulgaria, her worst enemy, robs her of her lands and her fortresses, kills her soldiers, beats her people, and robs her of the fruits of war. Germany used to reproach us with not being able to protect our friends from our enemies; Germany's failure is worse—she cannot protect her friends from her allies. If Greece is to sacrifice honour for Germany, surely Germany should have protected her against this insolent and injurious advance. After all, it would have been better for Greece—from the most material point of view—to protect herself.

In another leading article, "The March of Destiny," the *Morning Post* returns to this subject of Bulgarian invasion, asking:—

If these Bulgarian invaders are ejected by the arms of the Allies, what title will the Greek nation have to recover what they refused to defend? If the Bulgarians remain, is there any single Greek who imagines that Greece, unaided, will ever regain what she has lost? It must be painfully evident, even to M. Gounaris and his Party, where their policy has landed their country—in humiliation, in loss of hard-won territory, and in revolution.

A Comparison.

The Times last Saturday concluded a leading article on "The Greek Crisis" with the following comparison between the action of King Constantine of Greece and King Ferdinand of Roumania in regard to fulfilling their duty to their subjects:—

The King [Constantine] has been misled by sinister influences to forget that a constitutional Sovereign is bound by his position to stand above party and "to ally himself with the national feeling," regardless of his personal inclinations. The King of Roumania, a German and a Hohenzollern by descent, has just shown his sense of this obligation. Persistent disregard of it almost inevitably leads to more or less serious demonstrations from self-respecting subjects of resolution to vindicate their constitutional rights. We earnestly trust that, for the sake of the country which is proud of him and which he has served so well, the King of the Hellenes will speedily follow the example set him at Bucharest, and thereby free himself and his people from the increasing dangers of the present situation.

Roumania's Greatest Service.

Both the *Outlook* and the *Nation* of September 2 emphasise the importance to the Allies of the uncovering of a new flank by Roumania's action in declaring war. Says the former:—

The weight of her military resources, invaluable as it must be, is not the only contribution of our new Ally to the Entente cause. Her geographical position changes the whole theatre of war on that side to the advantage of Russia. Her western frontier served as a natural protection to the right flank of the Austrian forces guarding the passes over the Carpathians. This flank has now been uncovered, and will have to be extended for some hundreds of miles in a half-circle in order to restore the measure of protection thus forfeited. It will be a strain which the crumbling reserves of the Dual Monarchy cannot meet without withdrawing divisions from other vital centres. If military interests were alone to be considered the sacrifice of Transylvania would seem to be the lesser evil to be faced, but that blow to Hungarian pride and sentiment would be heavier than any Government dare to risk.

And the *Nation* declares:—

That she should have joined us at this moment when the enemy resources are so low is a great gain; that she should have so large and well-equipped an army is a greater; but that she should open up a new flank of such an extent is beyond question the greatest service she renders to the Allies. The Transylvanian flank is almost equal in length to the line between the Pripet Marshes and Bukovina. . . . If the Pripet-Bukovina sector collapsed when buttressed with 800,000 Austro-German troops, how can another fresh sector of like extent be held? The problem is not to deal with such and such Roumanian forces. In any case the Russian armies will act with them, and this at once kills any slight comfort the enemy may derive from the consideration that the Roumanian army is limited. The fact is, Roumania has freedom of movement, and may strike anywhere over a long front.

"The Regeneration of Persia."

Commenting upon the new Anglo-Russian Agreement relating to Persia, the *Manchester Guardian* (September 4) remarks that—

The first point in which the new Agreement is said to differ from the 1907 one is that Persia is a party to it, not simply a victim of it. That is all to the good. The chief aims of the treaty are military and financial reform. The gendarmery is to be swept away. Its place is to be taken by a force of 11,000 men in the north, trained by Russian officers, and a corresponding force in the South, trained by British officers. An army of this character might very well keep the peace of the country better than any military force Persia has had for a long time, but it is certain to be costly, and the dualism of discipline and control may prove a source of future trouble should not England and Russia succeed in maintaining permanent harmony and co-operation.

The writer does not quite approve of the constitution of the Commission which is to be put in charge of Persia's finances, and which is to consist of two Persians, one Englishman, one Russian, and one Belgian, because "in the past the Belgians in Persia have been under Russian influence," and "if that were to continue to be the case Russia would have the predominant weight in the new financial Commission." On the whole, however, he considers that—

Persia may well regard the new Agreement as a distinct improvement on the old. In 1907 Russia and England were concerned only to peg out claims in Persia and at the expense of Persia. The whole arrangement contemplated the collapse of Persia and took no measures to avert it. The new Agreement—though it is far from ideal—does do something to strengthen the fabric of Persian society, and, if the Foreign Offices of Russia and England have wisdom, might prove the beginning of a regeneration of Persia.

Dr. Dillon on Greece—

Dr. Dillon's contribution to the current *Contemporary Review* is entitled "The South-Eastern States." Those portions of it which deal with Roumania are naturally somewhat out of date, as they were written before our new Ally had declared war; but they give an excellent account of the events that led up to her declaration and of the difficulties that her statesmen had to face. As to Greece, Dr. Dillon remarks that she "has lost much by the pranks of her rulers." He continues:

Whether she can lessen those losses by tardy reparation will depend upon the hour at which it is made, and also on its thoroughness. And there is at present very little hope. For although the sands are running fast, the mischievous influences which have presided over the ordering of the nation ever since the mobilization of the army last year are still rampant and unchecked. Everything that is now taking place in the political sphere in Greece was outlined by the Kaiser's agents and approved by his brother-in-law. The Powers fixed the destination, but Germany's helmsman continues to steer the ship. When the Entente Governments intervened in June, the advice tendered by the Skouloudis-Gounaris Cabinet was to offer resistance to the Allies. One is tempted to regret that it was not complied with, because it would have provoked measures which would have put an end once for all to the irritating tactics of official Greece. But for that very reason the Berlin wire-pullers dissuaded the German Field-Marshal who governs the little realm from assuming a defiant posture, seeing that the most helpful results could be attained by verbally assenting to the demands of the Powers, and thus gaining time. And that line of action is accordingly being pursued by Constantine XII.

The Allies are determined at all costs to secure "that official Greece should henceforward behave with common decency and not misuse the flag of neutrality for intrigues and treasons which are as harmful to the nation as to its protectors."

—and Bulgaria.

Dealing with the Bulgarians, Dr. Dillon points out how, through their "Russophil" party, they hope to be able to save themselves in the event, now seen to be imminent, of the Entente Powers proving victorious in the great struggle. His description of the "Parliamentary Opposition, headed by Daneff and the Metropolitan Archbishop of Sofia, . . . rehearsing the part" allotted to them is delightful.

The line of defence is the usual one. The inarticulate population, whose love for their brethren of Russia and their little father the Tsar is constant, were cruelly deceived and hustled into the war by the Coburg seducer and his tools. They went like sheep to the slaughter. It froze the blood in their veins to think that they were bearing arms against their dear brothers and liberators. The whole nation prayed in secret that Providence might take pity on it and vouchsafe it an opportunity of proving that its heart still beats in the right place and thrills

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with joy at the prospect of embracing its noble saviours. They repudiate the foreign King and anathematise his works. Under his uncontaminated son, Boris, who, like the Russian nation, is within the pale of the Orthodox Church, they are ready to express their contrition and make amends. Will not their humble prayer be heard by their noble-minded, tender-hearted brethren?

One can imagine Russia replying, firmly and grimly: "The answer is in the negative," or, since Russia is very much in earnest, with a blunt "No." But that there is some risk of too much tenderness being shown in other quarters is indicated by Dr. Dillon's next paragraph:

And the preliminary manœuvres have begun. A number of German deputies paid a friendly visit to Sofia in June, and were cordially welcomed by the Government and the authorities. Festivals and banquets were arranged in their honour. But those members of the Sobranie who will form the penitential delegation had to absent themselves from these ceremonies in order to qualify for their future mission. And that their abstention should be duly known abroad, the newspapers were instructed to publish the fact and the censors to let it pass. Accordingly, the Press of the Entente has taken cognisance of it. Whether the soft-hearted mild gentlemen of the Entente Chancelleries, whose belief in the loyalty of the Bulgars was durable, steadfast, and childlike, will be touched by these fresh symptoms, it is too early to say. What, unhappily, cannot be gainsaid is that a Bulgarian ex-diplomatist journeys freely between France and England, and has access to Entente statesmen, to the disgust of the Serbs, Roumanians, and Greeks. There is one remark which can and should be made to the penitential delegation when it sets out from Sofia. It is this: If the Bulgars are weak and pithless enough to serve as clay in the hands of German potters, they must put up with their rôle of vessels of dishonour. They are avowedly unripe for self-government.

The majority of our readers will probably share Dr. Dillon's hope that the "statesmen of the Entente will not again be duped by those arch-deceivers, and will discern what ought to have been understood long ago—that the Bulgars are to the South-East of Europe what the Prussians are to the centre. Scraps of paper will not sway their action nor moderate their inordinate desires. Military and political impotence can alone paralyse their power for mischief."

"Fools and Bulgaria."

Signs that the Bulgarians—or, rather, "Tsar" Ferdinand and his advisers—are preparing to "hedge" have led to several warnings being uttered against any weakness in dealing with them. Thus, in an article with the above title, the *Evening Standard* (September 1) says:—

We do not know what course Bulgaria will take now or later, but it is as well to be prepared for any change of front. If and when that arrives, we hope that the British Bulgarophiles will have no influence on the Foreign Office. Notoriously, they had too much influence last year. . . . There must be no question now of allowing Roumania to think that we have any lingering tenderness for her enemy and ours. The idea that Bulgaria might obtain good terms by a second treason, with Prince Boris temporarily taking the place of his perjured father, should be decisively demolished. Whatever happens, the dynasty must be blotted out, and Bulgaria's claws must be so cut that she will no longer be a menace to her neighbours. That is our plain and obvious duty to martyred Serbia and our new Balkan ally, and there can be no faltering in the task. Unfortunately our idealists, who insist on taking their imaginings to be facts, have far too much to say in these matters.

And the *Pall Mall Gazette*, of the same date, says:—

It can hardly be concealed from Bulgaria's over-clever Sovereign and his counsellors that "the game is up." . . . There is considerable expectation among qualified observers—and apparently not a little apprehension in enemy capitals—that she may now copy the example of her past discretion. . . . Buigarian secession would strike a deadly blow at the strategy of the Central Empires. But it would certainly not be allowed to save the Bulgarian rulers and people from the condign punishment that awaits their treachery in Europe.

Articles to Note.

"A Side Show on the Tigris," by Ortonian, in *Blackwood's Magazine* (September).

"Salonica," by Mrs. Archibald Little; and "Greece and the War," by Charles H. Woods, in the *Fortnightly Review* (September).

"Through Asia Minor to Victory," in the *Windsor Magazine* (September).

"Women of Roumania: British Influences," in the *Daily Telegraph* (September 2).

"Some Seaports of Syria," by Eden Phillpotts, in *Land and Water* (August 31).

"Postage Stamps: Roumania's War Issues," by Fred J. Melville, in the *Daily Telegraph* (August 31).

"Teutonism in Turkey," by Julian Grande, F.R.G.S., in the *Daily Graphic* (September 2).

"General Demetrieff and Ferdinand: A Great Soldier and a Coward King," in the *Morning Post* (September 2).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Another act of robbery by the Young Turks has just been announced in a Reuter message from Amsterdam. At the Dutch port a telegram from Constantinople has been received in which it is stated that a "law" has been promulgated authorizing the Ottoman Government "to repurchase the railways from Smyrna to Kassaba, and from Mudania to Brusa, with their extensions and branch lines, also the harbour works and quays at Smyrna. The concessions for these enterprises are declared null and void." There will be a day of heavy reckoning for some people.

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Our Cyprus Correspondent writes that, fortunately, since the gathering of the new harvest the prices of cereals have fallen, and that wheat was (on August 7) being sold in Nicosia at from 72 to 80 piastres a bushel. It will be recalled that in the spring the price rose to about 11s., while barley, which was selling, when our correspondent wrote, at from 28 to 34 piastres, fetched as much as 5s. 6d. a bushel. There was a great deal of distress in consequence, which, I understand, is not so great as it was, although many important articles of food are still very dear. Potatoes have also become cheaper, but are still at about double the normal price.

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A Cairo friend tells me that the Government has decided to hold another great Industrial Exhibition next year, and that then Cairo will be given the opportunity to assist indigenous industries. My correspondent says that the exhibition at Alexandria, which has been described fully in THE NEAR EAST, has dispelled a good many of the delusions which were current about Egyptian arts and crafts, regarding which there is much ignorance in this country. So much depends upon a methodical distribution of information abroad that I am surprised that some attempt has not been made to establish a Publicity Bureau in this country. The actual producers and manufacturers stand to win so much by this method of advertisement, and it is a matter for surprise that they have not adopted it.

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Referring to Egyptian industries I am reminded that one of the results of the war has been to show that the Egyptian people may rely safely upon their own sugar crops to make good at least part of any deficiency that may be caused by external interference with the usual sources of supply. Before the war most of the sugar consumed in Egypt came from Austria, and when this source of supply was shut off there was apprehension lest it could not be made good. It was then that Egyptians remembered that their own country produced sugar, and the question of meeting the demand has become a commercial proposition. Elsewhere in this issue is a description of one of the foremost of the factories, from which it will be seen that the industry is in a fair state of development.

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I note a very natural disposition in financial quarters to direct increased attention to the financial and commercial openings which are presented by Roumania, or which will be presented when things are again upon a peace footing. In this connection I may call attention to the fact that we are not without direct banking representation in that country. The Bank of Roumania is a British institution, founded so long ago as 1866, the year of Roumania's original constitution, when the little country's financial position was not strong enough to warrant the foundation of a national bank. Its paid-up capital is £300,000, and its latest balance-sheet showed bills and current and other accounts to the amount of nearly £2,000,000. For the past year the dividend was at the rate of 8s. for the £6 share. The Earl of Bessborough is the chairman, and Lord Goschen is also on the board. In the past we have missed many chances in Roumania; we must change our ways, and, with the bank as guide and friend, British trade and commerce ought to take their proper place in the country.

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In these Notes last week I referred to the apparent misapprehension regarding the conditions now existing in Roumanian finance, and to the fact that it was unnecessary for a special legal sanction to be accorded to the small "issue of notes up to 75,000,000 francs." Confirmation of my view comes from an unexpected quarter, and one which cannot be said to be biased in favour of our Bucharest friends. The financial situation of Roumania appears to have been dealt with exhaustively in the *Neue Freie Presse* (Vienna), which wrote after the last declaration of war:—"At the end of the second year of war, owing to the re-establishing of the activity of the Bucharest Bourse and the taking up of the exportation of corn abroad, the general economic aspect of the kingdom improved noticeably. During the last two years the gold reserve of the National Bank of Roumania increased from 151.1 million lei to 291.2 millions, and the note circulation from 501.1 million lei to 903.2 millions. Consequently the covering in gold of the banknotes in circulation attained at the present moment 32.2 per cent."

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The Berne correspondent of the *Morning Post* mentioned in a recent letter that a German firm of geographical publishers in Gotha has begun the issue of a series of booklets intended to prepare the way for the "peaceful penetration of foreign countries" after the war. I run some risk of tiring my readers with the frequency of my warnings on this great issue; but I cannot refrain from a somewhat detailed reference to that part of the propaganda which concerns the country of our latest ally. The author of the Roumanian section is Dr. Otto Freiherr von Dungern, professor of Constitutional Law at Graz University, and to enable his friends to understand the possibilities of the country he "gives a history of the Roumanian people, describes the fertility of the country, its mineral wealth, and expresses his opinion concerning the possibilities of the development of the natural resources. He explains the Roumanian system of education, speaks of Roumanian literature, the Press, science and art, gives an account of the cultivation of corn, of vines, and of fruit, and tells of the progress made in forestry, horse and cattle breeding, pisciculture, home industries, etc. The book is brought up to the summer of 1913, and contains just the knowledge needed by the German going to Roumania as a stranger with the object of aiding in the work of 'peaceful penetration.'"

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Readers of THE NEAR EAST who have been following the letters published from our Cairo Correspondent will have gathered that trade in the Land of the Nile is flourishing. This fact has been emphasised recently by comparative statistics published by the Board of Trade, which show that in the five months ended in May, 1916, the imports of the country showed a net increase of £5,331,000 over the figures of 1915, and rather more than those of the previous year. Exports also increased in value by £2,804,000 over those of 1915, and by more than a million over those of 1914. Incidentally, it will have been noted that this satisfactory advance in trade is not confined to Egypt. It is Empire-wide. What an object-lesson for those misguided States which have allowed themselves to be tied to the yoke of Germany!

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Elsewhere in this issue is printed a significant extract from a recent copy of the *Mir*, in which the real extent of Bulgaria's need is shown. "There are no salt, petroleum or tobacco, and the peasantry hunt everywhere to find small quantities of these articles, but in vain." What the ultimate fate of the Bulgarian people will be it is difficult to say if such conditions prevail in these days when their leaders are still claiming that they are fighting on the right, that is, the winning, side. Some day these people, betrayed by their own guardians, will awake to the fact that their national life has been bartered away, and the betrayers will have a bad time. The Bulgar does not command much of my sympathy; but, after all, one cannot help feeling sorry that a people should be so victimized by those who ought to have been faithful shepherds, especially as a considerable proportion of them would have been much more contented, and happier, on the side of the Allies than on the other.

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More than once previously I have referred to the thorough manner in which the Bulgars have exploited, and are exploiting, the mineral resources of Serbia; not directly, of course, for when the pirates of the Balkans came into possession of the mines, not being capable of working them, they calmly handed them over to their German masters. Recent advices go to show that the Huns, as in everything else, have worked their usurped resources to the fullest extent, and the better to do so have imported labour from the Hartz Mountain district. The situation is not without compensations, however, as I hope to show later on. Meanwhile, Serbia is pressing on, with the assistance of her allies, towards the time of restoration; and, as we all hope, will be in a position to exact pound for pound of that which is being taken from her.

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Congratulations to Mr. A. Ishii, who has just been appointed to the command of the London office of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. Mr. Ishii is one of the best-known personalities in the commercial life of modern Japan, and the interests of his company could not have been placed in better hands.

COMMENTATOR.

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Egyptian Trade Activity.

Continued Noteworthy Expansion in Imports.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 23.

The condition of the trade of Egypt as revealed by the returns for the month of July, published this week by the Customs Administration, is highly satisfactory. During the month imports amounted to £E2,594,456, and exports to £E992,774, as compared with £E1,561,294 and £E1,018,359 respectively in July, 1915. There is, therefore, an increase of £E1,033,142 in imports, and an insignificant decrease of £E25,585 in exports, but for the seven months in both categories there is a considerable improvement, amounting to nearly 80 per cent. in imports and to 20 per cent. in exports; the figures for the seven months are £E17,005,934 and £E17,314,593 respectively. It is in this connection instructive to note that compared with the same period of 1914 imports show an increase of £E649,736, and exports one of £E580,272, and that the balance of trade is roughly the same. The chief items under imports during the month were (the figures in brackets are for the entire seven months):—Skins and tanned goods, £E30,340 (£E171,886); flour, £E26,199 (£E356,044); wine, beer and liqueurs, £E85,078 (£E794,596); petroleum, £E68,267 (£E470,557); coal, £E870,760 (£E3,067,894); stationery, £E75,021 (£E367,917); textiles, £E722,395 (£E5,291,562); worked iron and steel, £E90,337 (£E536,912). The import of rice fell off during the month by £E20,768, and that of chemical manures by £E64,293, whilst coal increased by £E679,046, or 52,497 tons.

Sugar and Cereals.

No eggs were exported during July, but exports of skins amounted to £E46,582 (£E167,061), cereals to £E95,686 (£E1,667,856), sugar to £E19,204 (£E545,180), wool to £E21,709 (£E196,463), cotton to £E678,590 (£E12,456,438), and cotton-seed and cake to £E56,001 (£E1,190,950). During the month wheat fell off by £E76,155 (56,837 ardebs), and beans by £E35,100 (35,172 ardebs), but maize improved by £E39,243 (38,773 ardebs), and cotton by £E104,777—the quantity was 75,282 cantars less.

It is interesting to note that the improvement in exports compared with the corresponding period of 1914 mentioned above as amounting to £E580,272, is as nearly as possible made up as follows:—Increases: Eggs, £E222,117; cereals, £E1,126,814; sugar, £E513,610; alcohol, £E128,943; gold and silver bar, £E13,432. Decreases: Petroleum, £E58,278; benzine, £E34,384; chemical products, £E33,595; cotton seed and cake, £E340,608—seed, 607,360 ardebs less and cake 8,037 tons less—cigarettes, £E68,272; and cotton, £E948,646—1,037,959 cantars less, which shows how the prices improved the situation.

British Contributions.

As regards the share falling during July to the various countries, Great Britain doubled her sales but dropped about 10 per cent. in her purchases; however, her proportion of the imports has risen from 46 per cent. to 60 per cent., and that of the exports practically remains the same, i.e., 50 per cent. Our African possessions strikingly improved their share of the imports, the amount rising from £E399 to £E37,436; this is due to the import of coal, of which £E37,335 came from South Africa. America increased her sales from £E86,507 to £E138,854, mainly petroleum and coal, whilst the absence of chemical manures has resulted in Chili dropping out of the import statistics. Spain improved her sales from £E9,460 to £E26,823 (ready-made millinery and mineral oil); Italy hers from £E162,109 to £E224,750 (half of this was cotton tissues); Russia hers from £E2,364 to £E11,451 (of this £E11,139 was writing and packing paper and cardboard); Switzerland hers from £E15,327 to £E25,502; and Sweden hers from £E12,107 to £E46,728 (matches, furniture, and ironmongery).

Foreign Traffic.

Under exports, Spain increased her share from £E 8,995 to £E29,278, Switzerland hers from £E757 to £E210,832, whilst the United States reduced theirs by 65 per cent., Russia hers from £E56,901 to £E34,271, and France hers from £E88,209 to £E70,069. With the exception of the United States and France these countries only took cotton. The former purchased raw hides for £E14,844 and cotton for £E23,718, whilst France bought maize to the tune of £E30,275 and rice for £E6,936, in addition to taking £E12,124 in sugar and £E13,418 in cotton. It is interesting to note that all the quails, eggs, cotton seed and cotton seed cake have gone to England so far, whilst half the maize, one-third of the rice, 75 per cent. of the beans and onions, and 40 per cent. of the cotton have been purchased for home consumption.

The Sudan.

Trade with the Sudan continued to be satisfactory during July, Egypt taking goods to the value of £E35,663, as compared with £E57,922 in July, 1915, and sending to that dependency merchandise to the value of £E94,672, as against £E76,135 a year ago. To date, imports from the Sudan into Egypt have doubled, whilst traffic the other way has increased by 40 per cent. the figures being £E552,955 and £E654,652 respectively.

The principal imports from the Sudan during July were livestock, £E4,831; cereals, £E13,613; gum, £E2,132; charcoal, £E1,266; and cotton, £E1,932; the main decrease was in cotton and cereals. Under exports south, the more important items were refined sugar, £E18,613; cotton tissues, £E28,564; cereals, £E7,264.

FINANCIAL PROSPERITY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 20.

May proved another good month for the State exchequer, as is shown by the accounts of the Ministry of Finance just published. At the end of that month the revenue amounted to £E2,920,451, as against £E2,306,099, and the expenditure to £E3,818,441, as compared with £E3,407,501 a year previously. The revenue during the month increased by £E347,922, whilst expenditure was only £E271,545 more than in May, 1915. As a result, the situation of the Government finances is very much more satisfactory, for the deficit is only £E897,390, as against £E1,099,411 a year ago and £E1,404,618 on May 31, 1914.

The chief items of revenue showing increases are: Direct taxes, £E107,181 (these figures represent the amount of increase); Customs, £E162,335; tobacco dues, £E104,762; railways receipts, £E227,000; telegraphs, £E7,137; Post Office, £E10,381; rent of Government land, £E10,848; domains, £E8,974; whilst the only important decreases were: Divers receipts by £E26,944, port dues by £E7,357, and investment of funds by £E6,106.

The expenditure as already mentioned has so far increased by £E410,940. Of this increase £E271,545 was incurred during May. The chief heads concerned were irrigation, which spent £E24,739 more; railways, the expenditure of which rose from £E198,971 to £E345,365; War Office, which increased by £E21,079 to £E74,602; and Post Office by £E26,072 to £E48,312; whilst the Moukabala instalment has risen from £E45,904 to £E91,757.

DISTRESS IN BULGARIA.

We take the following from the *Mir*:—

Salt, petroleum, and tobacco are completely wanting in the capital. The peasantry hunt everywhere to find a small quantity, but in vain. For some days now the peasantry have been eating their bread without salt. The want of salt renders cheese-making impossible; this, too, at a moment when cheese is one of the staple foods in Bulgaria.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Successful Working of an Egyptian Refinery.

One of the first visits of the members of the Commission of Commerce and Industry, the result of whose work is now partially seen in the Exhibition at Alexandria, was to the sugar refinery at Hawamdia, near Cairo, and the exhibit sent by Naus Bey, the director of the "Société Générale des Sucreries et de la Raffinerie d'Egypte" in the Exhibition is proof of the importance of the industry in Egypt, says the *Egyptian Gazette*.

In addition to sugar in all its forms, from the cane to the finished article in powdered, crystallized or cube form, a quantity of heavy machinery is on view, all of which is made in Egypt by Egyptian workmen. And for the benefit of an interested public, some quite surprising information and statistics are set forth. We find, for instance, that besides the refinery above referred to sugar is manufactured in Upper Egypt at the following places: Nag Hamadi, Matai, Sheikh Fadl, Abou Kourgas, Kom Ombo (near Assuan), and Ermant.

No fewer than 17,000 workmen are employed during two-thirds of the year, and this number is increased to 29,000 during the remaining part of the year, when the peasants are busy in the fields attending to cutting and removing canes. A sum of £E400,000 a year is paid out in salaries and wages, and to the agricultural labourers and farmers £E750,000 is paid annually. The Government benefits to the amount of about £E135,000 a year for transport, monopoly taxes, and Customs dues. One is not surprised to hear, therefore, that the capital invested in the sugar industry in Egypt is over £E4,000,000.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET

When the market closed yesterday Egyptian cotton was in improved demand, with quotations approximately ten points up. The following is a selection of the more important prices:—American, middling, 9.63; ditto middling fair, 10.35; Pernam, fair, 10.43; Egyptian brown, fair, 12.30; ditto fully good fair, 13.35; M.G. Broach, good, 8.80; ditto fully good, 8.95; ditto fine, 9.10; M.G. No. 1 Oomra, good, 7.40; ditto fully good, 7.55; ditto fine, 7.70; M.G. Scinde and M.G. Bengal, good, 6.80; ditto fully good, 6.95; ditto fine, 7.10; Tinnivelly, fully good fair, 9; ditto good, 9.12.

Wednesday's imports amounted to 9,000 bales, of which 3,200 were American and 5,800 were Egyptian. Sales on that day comprised American, 6,600 bales; Egyptian, 500; Peruvian, etc., 300; East Indian, 100; sundries, 500. Total, 8,000 bales (including 500 on speculation and export).

American.—The tendency was barely steady. Prices:—Sept., 9.48½; Sept.-Oct., 9.46½; Oct.-Nov., 9.45½; Nov.-Dec., 9.42; Dec.-Jan., 9.41; Jan.-Feb., 9.40½; Feb.-March, 9.40; March-April, 9.39; April-May, 9.37½; May-June, 9.37; June-July, 9.34; July-August, 9.31; August-Sept., 9.11. Egyptian futures—Tendency, easy. Sept., 13.02; Nov., 13.10; Jan., 13.20; March, 13.33. Alexandria futures—Nov., 23.00; Jan., 23-25.

THE WHISKY FOR CONNOISSEURS.
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Years 10 Old
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Case Free and Carriage Paid.
Soft, Mellow, Old Pot Still Scotch Whisky.
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The Lancet, March 28th, says: "It is well adapted for dietetic purposes owing to its purity and quality."
12 Years Old Liqueur Whisky
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ALLIED PROPERTY IN TURKEY.

The New Ottoman Law on Requisitioning.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, August 22.

The law empowering the military authorities to requisition any buildings they may require will, no doubt, interest many readers of The Near East who have had the misfortune to see their homes occupied by the Turks.

This law is a specimen of Turkish methods, for, although in theory the elaborate regulations appear to be framed with good intentions, yet in practice the results are very different, as the regulations are never observed. Probably in very few instances, if any, have private residences been occupied with the prescribed formalities, for most houses appear to have been entered with scant ceremony and summarily taken possession of.

The enactment, however, establishes a legal basis for claims on the Ottoman Government, admitting, as the Government does, its liability not only to pay rent (though on a preposterous scale), but also to indemnify proprietors for damages and to pay for gas and water consumed.

A short time ago the Ministry of War issued a notice to the effect that three commissions had been formed with the object of dealing with questions arising out of requisitions of property, and the public were invited to apply to them in case of necessity.

It was notified at the same time that the "evacuation" of a building did not imply that it was no longer required, but it must still remain at the disposal of the authorities. If a building is no longer required the commission will then make an inspection of the property and establish its condition. Before this is done the owner must not take possession, and should he do so he may be forcibly turned out and will lose his rights to compensation.

This matter is one which no doubt preoccupies those whose residences have been seized and who will naturally wish to return to Constantinople as soon as it becomes possible to do so. There are evidently many residences which are quite uninhabitable and will require time to clean and repair, but possibly many have suffered less and can be occupied after some cleaning and repairing, and in such cases owners will naturally like to enter them at once.

Presumably, some body will be set up in Constantinople by the Allies to deal with this question, but it would be a great hardship and expense to many if they are not permitted to occupy their homes at once if they are found to be habitable.

This point having been referred to the Foreign Claims Office, at the Foreign Office, they state that "it is of great importance that the condition in which the property is found should be verified by unimpeachable testimony and that a survey of the property and a sworn statement be made as to the condition in which it is found."

It is earnestly to be hoped that measures will be taken by the British Government in order that as prompt a settlement as possible be effected of claims for requisitioning of property and of merchandise, considering that in many cases it may be extremely difficult to restart one's business or re-establish one's home without financial assistance. This matter might be taken into consideration at the present time and some scheme prepared for dealing with these claims with promptitude so as to lessen, as far as possible, the hardships and losses which many are suffering through the war.

*** The text of the law is available at the office of The Near East, where it may be consulted by subscribers.

TREATIES IN MOROCCO.

Are the Capitulations to be Abrogated.

It will be recalled that some time ago a Morocco correspondent discussed the possibility of the abrogation of the Capitulations. The following extracts from a letter from the Mogador correspondent of the *Morning Post* will not be without interest:—

These so-called Capitulations are the outcome of three centuries of continuous diplomatic and commercial effort, the first treaty having been secured from the Sultan during the reign of our Queen Elizabeth. This and the various treaties and conventions which followed it are the basis of all the liberties, rights, and privileges enjoyed by British traders in Morocco, and the owners of British ships trading with this country, culminating in the General Treaty and Convention of Commerce obtained in 1856 by Sir John Drummond Hay, his Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Morocco. In the year (?) 1881 consular jurisdiction over British subjects in Morocco, subject to appeal to the highest Court in Gibraltar, was specifically established and defined by a Royal Order in Council, and subsequently confirmed by another shorter Royal Order dated in the year (?) 1914.

On the whole the system embodied by these Capitulations has worked very well for the protection of British lives and the peaceful carrying on of our overseas commerce. Moreover, thanks largely to the friendly intercourse between the two countries and to the benevolent attitude of the Moorish authorities towards English residents, usuages have grown up, as in the tenure of real estate, which became unwritten law and have been recognised as such by the native tribunals since the beginning of the nineteenth century. It is quite obvious to thoughtful observers and to parties primarily concerned that any abrogation of these old-established conditions would hamper our seaborne commerce and render commercial life well-nigh intolerable to resident merchants.

The question of jurisdiction is more serious than it would appear at first sight. While no one disputes the capacity or impartiality of the recently established Tribunaux de Paix, it is a matter of common knowledge that these Courts are under the influence, not to say the control, of an institution which is more military than judicial, and which has no reason to concern itself with the study of ancient British rights as established by treaty. Under these circumstances, to refer to a foreign tribunal questions arising out of contracts based mainly upon the common law of England would be manifestly unfair to litigants, besides leading to endless appeals and other vexatious complications.

No scheme for the readjustment of jurisdiction would be practicable which did not provide a seat on the bench for some judge thoroughly conversant with British Common and Statute Law. The Code Napoleon may be excellent for persons of Latin race, but it is far from being fitted to Anglo-Saxon temperament and British commercial usages. Morocco is one of many countries where sentiment enters very largely not only into business but into politics, and where the prestige of a foreign Power plays a far more important part than home-bred Englishmen can well realise. Anything approaching an abandonment by Great Britain of her ancient rights would be taken as a sign of weakness, and would infallibly bring about incalculable prejudice to local British trade. The conclusion English residents in Morocco draw from these facts is that, from the point of view of English rights and interests, no single item of the Capitulations could be dropped without very grave injury to the true welfare of our overseas trade.

TRADE NOTES.

Licenses to Trade.

It is officially announced that the company "Assicurazioni Generali," commonly called "La Trieste," has been granted permission to carry on business and to effect new policies in Egypt, satisfactory assurances having been received that the future business of the company will be directed and controlled exclusively from Venice, and that no direct or indirect communication will be held with Trieste.

Liquidations.

Mr. H. Swinglehurst, Alexandria, has been appointed Receiver of the business of Rudolf Stobbe, G.M.B.H., with instructions to liquidate the same.

[A list of recent changes in the list of firms with which traders in Egypt may not do business is published on page 458.]

SERBIAN EXCHANGE.

According to a Bucharest correspondent, Serbian exchange in Bulgaria continues to rise regularly despite the measures taken by the Bulgarian authorities to discredit it. The popularity of Serbian currency is particularly noteworthy among the peasantry, who appear to believe that Serbia will again enjoy great financial prosperity.

In the Serbian territory occupied by the Austrians, Serbian money has a standing value which is fixed by the enemy authorities, and is obligatory. In the districts administered by the Bulgarians the officially fixed exchange is only obligatory in transactions with the Bulgar authorities. It is free so far as private trade is concerned, and, thanks to this, a regular business in Serbian exchange is done.

In Bulgaria the people are doing all they can to secure Serbian paper-money at the present rate of exchange, for they seem to be convinced that, sooner or later, they will be able to dispose of it at a profit, when Serbia comes into her own.

MAIKOP PREMIER SYNDICATE.

In the High Court on Wednesday, Mr. Justice Sargant, in the absence of opposition, gave the approval of the scheme (already described in The Near East) of reconstruction of the Maikop Premier Oil Syndicate.

After setting out the scheme in detail Counsel explained that the royalty payable to Oil Royalties of Maikop, Ltd., would be dealt with as follows:—One-half of the royalty would be retained by the new company as a loan, to be repayable as soon as a 5 per cent. dividend was paid, and then only to be repayable by three equal annual instalments, the first instalments to be paid as and when the dividend was paid. Full royalty would be paid as from the date on which a 5 per cent. dividend was paid. The board of the new company would consist of Messrs. Parkes and Bonnard, and Messrs. Peake, Page and Tweedy, nominated by the Anglo-Maikop Corporation. It is provided that if any shareholder in the old company who had not voted in favour of the scheme should, within seven days after the scheme had been submitted to a meeting of the shareholders, express dissent therefrom by notice in writing he should be entitled to require the company either to abstain from carrying the scheme into effect or to purchase his interest at a price to be determined by agreement or arbitration. If the Court should not sanction the scheme within three months of its submission to the shareholders, or if the shareholders of the old company to the collective number of 10,000 dissented from the scheme the directors would be at liberty to abandon it. All proceedings in the existing debenture stockholders' action would be stayed.

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O. B. 117. Telg.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 738.
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Telegrams: Ottfried.

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PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, Sept. 7.

Currants.

There has been considerable activity in the market this week, the demand being mostly for good, sound fruit, which is selling readily at advanced prices. Regarding the new crop, the s.s. Gulf of Suez will probably be the first to bring new season fruit. Sales in new fruit are daily taking place, but a certain amount of reserve is noticeable on the buyers' as well as the sellers' side, which may be attributed to the political situation in Greece. Prices at present are on a basis of 55s. to 56s. for Provincial in quarter cases.

Sultanas.

There has been a very good demand, mostly for Afghanistan fruit, with good business done at advanced prices; later on, however, the higher prices asked by holders have checked somewhat the demand. Greek sultanas are quiet but very firm.

Dates.

The demand is fairly good, with small business passing at steady prices. Quotations for new season dates are firm, but very few transactions have taken place, and those being of small importance.

Figs.

There has been a better demand, chiefly for sound fruit, with fair business done at full rates.

Seeds.

Linseed closes inactive at about the same prices we reported last week. London-Calcutta, spot, August-September and September-October is quoted 76s. to 76s. 3d., but with little doing. Bombay ordinary, September-October, 78s.; small grain, ditto, 76s. 6d. Rape seed is firm at 69s. 6d. for Toria, September-October, and 68s. 6d. for bold Ferozepore. Cotton seed is rather quiet, London-Egyptian spot being quoted at £12 10s.; September, £13 10s.; and November-January, £12 10s. per ton. Mustard seed is in better demand, sellers quoting 28s. to 38s. cwt. Split peas, 94s. to 96s. per 504 lbs. Lentils, 24s. to 26s. per 100 lbs.

Oils.

Linseed oil is quiet, spot pipes landed being quoted at £36 10s., and barrels, ditto, £37 10s. Cotton oil is somewhat dull; crude spot pipes, refined pipes pale, and barrels sweet, after very slight alterations during the week, are closing again at prices reported last week. Rape oil is firmer; ordinary brown naked, £43; with English refined barrels, £48.

Oilcakes.

Egyptian cotton cakes are practically exhausted here, and only parcels to arrive are offered at £9 15s., and English makes at £9 15s. to £10 per ton. Linseed cakes are very firm for both English and foreign makes, London made selling well at £14 to £14 2s. 6d.; East Indian seed pures being quoted at £13 2s. 6d. to £13 5s., ex ship afloat.

Locust Beans.

Stocks in this market are practically exhausted, quotations only being given for kibbled at £11 10s., and meal at £15 per ton.

EGYPTIAN COTTON "MORATORIUM."

A Reuter message from Alexandria states that to solve the moratorium deadlock the Egyptian cotton merchants have agreed to put on the market 87,500 cantars of cotton at twenty-three dollars, while the Government advances the difference to be met up to twenty-five dollars, which will be reimbursed by an extra tax of one millieme on all Bourse transactions, deductable from the brokerage. It is hoped that thus the weaker Bourse positions will be liquidated, and also that the inevitable further rise will result in a satisfactory adjustment of the stronger positions. The Bourse reopened yesterday (September 7).

Prominent Industries of India

The Announcements below are published to acquaint our readers with the opportunity India affords the keen purchaser.

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— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
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Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Opportunities in the Balkans.

The systematic efforts that have been made in France to convince French manufacturers of the opportunities that are waiting them of doing business in Russia and in the friendly Balkan states as soon as hostilities are at an end have resulted in practical preparation for gaining those markets immediately the war is over. This, we think, ought to have roused the activity of British manufacturers, and particularly those in the engineering industry, who, with the endless suggestions, planning of campaigns, and formation of committees for the "capture of the enemy trade after the war," think best to leave the matter in the hands of officials to "wait and see" the result. It is a mistaken policy, which will cause great disappointment afterwards. No official efforts will suffice to gain even the friendliest markets without the individual initiative and energy of manufacturers and merchants. This applies particularly to the markets in the Near East, where the average buyer prefers to come into direct communication with the seller, and mistrusts the interference of any one who in one way or other takes the part of the latter.

The individual efforts of the German and American manufacturers were responsible for the decline of the British trade in the Near East, combined with the apathy of certain members of the British Consular service. The foreign manufacturers approached the buyers, studied their particular wants, and placed before them channels of information and mediums by which they could gain a knowledge of how to find them when they required their goods. Such a policy was not adopted by British manufacturers, and the success of their foreign competitors was secured.

British Substitute for Petrol.

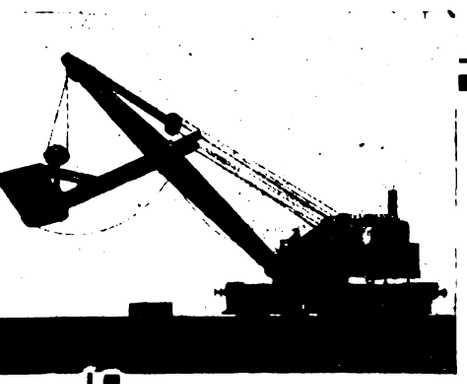
In our last engineering notes we alluded to recent announcements regarding the discovery of substitutes for petrol, and in the absence of relative particulars as to their component parts, or the results obtained from practical tests for general use, we referred to them as being, probably, still in an experimental stage. We described at the same time two or three such substitutes invented recently by Germans and Americans; the German-made mixture is said to have given very satisfactory results, and is being used by the German transport department. Our attention, however, has been drawn since to a new fuel which is an entirely British chemical preparation, and which seems to have satisfied the severest tests. The lightning motor fuel was first tried early in August. A cab driven with 50 per cent. of it and 50 per cent. of petrol was taken through the heaviest traffic, and up Savoy Hill, which is considered one of the biggest motor tests in London. It is said there was no sign of smoke or unpleasant smell, and that the next morning the cab was started, after standing all night, without any trouble whatever.

The fact that the efficiency of this new fuel has satisfied such users as owner-drivers of taxi-cabs admits no further comment. The new fuel is apparently suitable for every class of motor engine, and, probably, even for heavier commercial cars than for cabs. Regarding its production, no particulars can be given, as the composition is a "trade secret."

Serbia and Roumania.

These two countries used to be our best customers in the Near East for agricultural machinery and implements, but they gradually transferred their custom to Germany and Austria. Thus, according to recent Board of Trade Returns, Roumania, in 1912, bought from Germany agricultural machinery to the value of £215,900, from Austria £64,750, and from England only £17,000. Serbia, in 1912, bought agricultural machinery from Germany to the value of £20,300, from Austria £9,810, and nothing from England. Of agricultural implements and tools Roumania bought from Germany to the value of £165,650, from Austria £23,800, and only £300 worth from England. Serbia bought such implements and tools, from Austria only, to the value of £2,300, and nothing from England. No efforts have apparently been made to regain these two desirable markets. Yet Serbia was the first among the Balkan States to adopt the system of agricultural co-operative societies as co-operation is practised in Western European countries. Thus, in 1893, a number of agricultural syndicates were formed and agricultural credit banks were set up. In 1903, mention is made of 228 such banks. They not only received deposits and made loans to the farmers, but they themselves control the buying of cattle, seeds, fertilisers, implements, and other things. They procure the agricultural machinery which local associations hold in common, and undertake the sale of produce. A return made a few years ago by 253 societies shows that of their 12,361 members 6,218 could read and write, and 6,143 were illiterate, and the societies arranged lectures on purely agricultural subjects in various towns or villages. They also issued agricultural literature for the benefit of the agricultural communities.

Since the second Balkan War, when Serbia was doubled in size by the annexation of some very fertile land in Old Serbia and Macedonia, the co-operative societies were increased, but it is doubtful whether there are any in existence at the present time. There is an excellent opportunity, therefore, for the British engineer and manufacturer to prepare and be ready to aid in the restoration of the unhappy country; and by doing so, while benefiting himself, he helps to re-establish British commercial influence there and in the adjacent and much richer country, Roumania.



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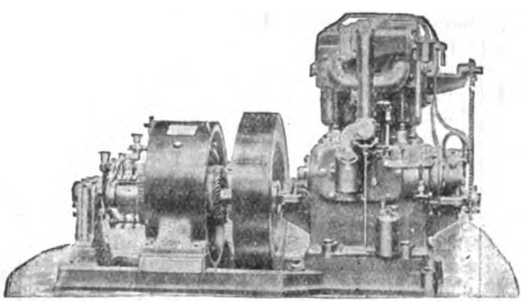

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RESTRICTED TRADING.

Further List of Barred Firms in Egypt.

The General Officer Commanding the British troops has in a proclamation, dated July 31, 1916, added the following names of firms to the list of those with whom trading by persons in Egypt is prohibited:—

ARGENTINA.

Ellerhorst, Fernando.
Hasberg, P.
Kobelt, G.
Meyer, Martin.
All of "La Germano Argentina."
Banco Aleman Transatlantico (Deutsche Ueberseeische Bank); Banco Germanico de la America del Sud (Deutsche Sud-Amerikanische Bank).
Schweitzer, Felipe, Santa Fé 951, Rosario.

BOLIVIA.

Elsner, Juan, and Co., Santa Cruz.
Banco Aleman Transatlantico (Deutsche Ueberseeische Bank).

BRAZIL.

Cia Lithographica Hartmann Reichenbach, Rua Gusmoes, 93, Sao Paulo and Santos; Compania Brazileira de Electricidade (Branch of Siemens Schuckert Werke), Avenida Rio Branco 79 and 81, Rua General Camara 87, Rua do Hospicio 29, Rio de Janeiro, and Rua Sao Joao, Bahia.
Schar, Ernest, Pernambuco; Schlick, Alfredo, and Co., Rua Bôa Vista 42, San Paulo; Schlick, Alfredo, and Co., Rua da Assemblea 14; and Rua Quitanda 47, Rio de Janeiro; Simoes, Angelino, and Co., Rio de Janeiro; Sinjen, M., and Co., Novo Friburgo, Rio de Janeiro; Sociedad Tubos Mannesmann, Limited, Rua do Rosario 64, Rio de Janeiro; Steiner, Pedro Maurico, Para.
Weiszflog, Max, Sao Paulo; Wachtel, Marxen, and Co., Rio Grande do Sud; Weissflog, Alfredo (of Weissflog Brothers), Rua Maranhao 21, Sao Paulo; Weissflog, Otto (of Weissflog Brothers), Avenida Paulista 112, Sao Paulo.
Achim and Co., Joinville, Sta Catharina.
Banco Aleman Transatlantico (Deutsche Ueberseeische Bank); Banco Germanico de la America del Sud (Deutsche Sud-Amerikanische Bank); Bercht Brothers, Rua Voluntarios da Patria 46, Porto Alegre; Brasilianische Bank fur Deutschland, Bahia; Porto Alegre; Rio de Janeiro, Santos, and Sao Paulo; Bromberg, Daudt, and Co., Rua Voluntarios da Patria 54 and 56, Porto Alegre; Buhle, C., Porto Alegre and Rio Grande do Sud.
Demarchi and Co., Uruguayana.
Empreza de Navegacao Mosqueiro e Soure, Para; Campos, Jose Pinto; Officina Velhote Silva; Officina Viuva Camillier; Empreza Graphica Rio Grandense, Rua Dos Andradas 447, Porto Alegre.
Hermany, Louis, and Co., Rua Goncalves Dias 54 and 57, and Avenida Rio Branco 126, Rio de Janeiro.
Ostermeyer, Frederico, Rua da Quitanda 63 and 175, Rio de Janeiro.
Pintsch (Julius) Aktiengesellschaft, Rua Sao Pedro 9, Rio de Janeiro.
Rieckmann and Co., Rua Bôa Vista 42, Sao Paulo.
Vieira, Francisco Salles, Manaos.

CHILE.

Banco Aleman Transatlantico (Deutsche Ueberseeische Bank): Banco de Chile y Alemania (Banco fur Chile und Deutschland), Antofagasta, Santiago, Valparaiso, Concepcion, Temuco, and Valdivia; Banco Germanico de la America del Sud (Deutsche Sud-Amerikanische Bank).
Canelo, Nemesio (of Gildemeister and Co.) Iquique; Cia Salitrera Constancia, Iquique.
Fonck, Carlos, and Co., Calle Brasil 126 Valparaiso; Calle Puente 571, Santiago.
Siemens Schuckert, Limited, Blanco 366 Valparaiso, and Santiago.
Trillo, Victor, Antofagasta.

COLOMBIA.

Banco Aleman Antioqueno.

DENMARK.

Beldring and Co., Vodroffsplads, 2, and Vestre Boulevard, 47, Copenhagen; Biehl, G., Tordenskoldsgade, 22, Copenhagen.
Petersen, P. Carl, Holmens Kanal, 9, Copenhagen.
Rasmussen, Alf., and Co., Martinsv., 9. Vestre Boulevard, 9, Copenhagen; Riis, C., Bonne Linoleum, A/S., Konprinsengade, 6, Copenhagen.
Winkel and Wondt, Brsen, 7, Copenhagen.
Andersen and Jensen, Istedgade 3, Copenhagen.
Henriques, R., Jr., Copenhagen.
Scandinavian British Syndicate, Islands Brygge 21, and Holmens Kanal 5, Copenhagen; Skandinavisk Produkt Import Co., Skindergade 31, Copenhagen.

ECUADOR.

Burau, Juan, Manta.
Cassinelli and Co., Guayaquil.
Kugelman, Ferd., Bahia de Caràquez

MOROCCO.

(This list supersedes all previous lists for Morocco.)

Abekhzel, Aaron, Laraiche; Abitbol, Moses, and Sons (Abitbol, Joseph M., Samuel M., Rafael M.), Laraiche; Afergan, David, Laraiche; Amar, Mesod J., Laraiche; Amarti, Mohamed Ben Drees El, Laraiche; Amir, Taher Ben, Laraiche; Anhri, Yusef El, Laraiche; Asharual, Abdelwahab, Arzila; Assayag, Simon, Laraiche; Assayag, Solomon, Laraiche; Auni, Ahmed El, Laraiche; Aztot, Abdeslam, Laraiche; Aztot, Fedol Ben Mohamed, Laraiche; Aztot Siddeh Ben Ahmed, Laraiche.

Baghar, Dris El, Alcazar; Bakkali, El Ayashi El, Arzila; Bakkali, Mohamed, Tetuan; Benarrosh, Brahim, Laraiche; Bendayan, Solomon, Laraiche; Beniflash, Elias, Laraiche; Benizri, Rafael, Laraiche; Benmergui, Vidal E., Tetuan; Benros, Isaac, Laraiche; Bensabat, Jacob, Laraiche; Benshiton, Joseph, Laraiche; Benshiton, Moses, Laraiche; Bessam Oolad, Laraiche; Botbol, Sentob Haim, Laraiche; Bukhari, Hossein Abdeslam El, Tetuan.

Cadosh, Mesod, Laraiche; Cohen, Mesod, Laraiche; Cohen, S. and J. (Cohen, Simon J., Joseph J., Scialom J., Jacob S.), Laraiche; Cohen, Simon D. (Cohen, Simon D., Jacob S.), Laraiche.

Dukali, Hadj Ben Maati el Hayani, Laraiche; Dukali, Hamed Ben Fekik, Alcazar.

Eljarrat, Jacob (Eljarrat, Amram J., Judah J., Meir J.), Alcazar; Eljarrat, Judah, Alcazar.

Gelool, Mohamed Ben Abdel Krim Ben, Alcazar.

Hababi, Mohamed El, Laraiche; Hadj, Ali Ben El, Arzila; Haquiba, Cades, Laraiche; Harrack, Abdeslam El, Alcazar; Hashmi, Hamed Ben El, Arzila; Hashmi Mohamed Ben El, Arzila; Hashmi, Si Hamed El, Tetuan; Hisu, Mohamed Ben, Arzila; Hossein, Mohamed El, Laraiche; H'sissen, Selam (Abdeselam), El, Alcazar; Huss, Reichardt, Arzila; Hussein, Ben el Hadj el Jemili, Alcazar.

Kell, J., and Co., Laraiche; Kouira, Drees, Laraiche.

Lebady, Mohamed, Tetuan; Levy, Solomon, Laraiche.

Maaroufi, Hadj Mohamed El, Laraiche; Mesbahi, Mohamed el Kasri, Alcazar; Mokhtar, Mohamed, Arzila; Mokhtar, Ulad, Arzila; Moryusef, Fortunate S. (Moryusef F. S., Judah S. Sliman J.), Laraiche; Moryusef, Joseph and Yahia, Laraiche; Moryusef Mesod Uld Brami, Laraiche; Mudden, Mohamed El, Tetuan; Muyal, Isaac and M., Laraiche; Mzamzi, Mohamed El, Laraiche.

Odadiah, Joseph Brahim, Laraiche; Oushishi, Abdelrahman El, Alcazar.

Renschausen, A., and Co., Laraiche; Rohner, Friedrich, Laraiche; Rohner, Werner, Laraiche.

Sabbag, Mokluf, and Co., Laraiche; Sabbah, Mesod, Laraiche; Sabbah, Simon, Laraiche; Sager and Woerner, Laraiche; Sherti, Mohamed, Tetuan; Sherti, Mohamed Ben El, Arzila; Simoni, Mesod, Laraiche; Soudry (Essoudry, Samuel, Soudry, Mordechal and Elias), Laraiche; Soussi, Hadj Mailoud El, Laraiche; Soussi, Hossein El, Laraiche; Steinkampf, Heinrich, Alcazar.

Tarnow, Max L., and Co., Tetuan; Tazzi, Abdel Wahab, Laraiche.
Wedele, Jehan, Tetuan.
Zailachi, Abdeslam el Amri, Laraiche; Zegari, Hamed, Laraiche; Zegari, Taib, Laraiche; Zimmermann, Alcazar; Zwartfeld, W., Laraiche.

GREECE.

Baumann, Angelo (of Baumann and Beckmann), Athens; Baumann, Hermann, Rue Osakaloff 31, Athens; Baumann and Beckmann, Pl. Dimokratirion, Athens.
Daniolos Frères, Andros.
Mehmed Baldji Frères, Aelion Han, Salonika.

JAPAN.

Akino Genziro, 154 Yokohama; Akino Kunizo, 154 Yokohama.
Chu Sheang Dong, Chemulpo, Korea.
Karada Karujiro, Kobe.
Ikeda Toruzo, 12, Kaigandori, Kobe; Imada Takehiro, 39, Akashimachi, Kobe.
Japan Herald, P.O. Box 279, Yokohama.
Kato Shoten, 91, Kitamachi, Kobe; Kenshin Yoko, 211, Yokohama; Konishi Kirujiro, 54, Yokohama.
Nakamura Yushutsuten, 169, Sannomiyacho Itchome, Kobe; Nigo Shoten, 154, Yokohama.
Sasga Shokai, Guiza, Tokio; Sawada and Co., 40, Akashimachi, Kobe; Sugimoto Boyeki Gomei Kaisha, 160a, Yokohama.
Takashiro Arazo, Isogamidori, Kobe; Taniganwa Masajiro, 12, Kaigandori, Kobe; Tebauchi Shokai, 40, Akashimachi, Kobe.
Ukita Yasumasa, 70, Yamashita-cho, Yokohama.
Wong Ching Hung, Chemulpo, Korea.

(To be concluded.)

Removals.

The names of the following have been removed from the list:—

ARGENTINA.

Costaguta, David, Buenos Aires.
Dondero, C. M., Calle Mejico, Buenos Aires.
Kulcke, Frankel, and Co., Avenida de Mayo 1400, Buenos Aires.
Svensson, Ohison, and Co., Cerrito 36, Buenos Aires.
Tribe, N. T., Conesa 1830, Buenos Aires.
Widmayer, E.

BRAZIL.

Poock and Co., Bahia.

CHILE.

Yzaurieta, R., and Co., Concepcion.

GREECE.

Constantacopoulos and Co., Patras.

NETHERLANDS.

Blitz, Seinpostduin 22; Havenkade 47, Scheveningen.
Delden, Simon, Seinpostduin 22; Havenkade 47, Scheveningen; Delden and Blitz, Seinpostduin 22; Havenkade 47, Scheveningen.
Kan, A. Jzn., Blasiusstraat 1, Amsterdam
Manders, Seemann, and Co., Heerengracht 442, Amsterdam.
Utrechtsche Handelsvereeniging, Langenieuwstr. 41, Utrecht.
Voogt, A. de, Prinsenstraat 65a, Rotterdam.

NORWAY.

Dental Co. (J. Broderson), Christiania.
Johannensen, Ragnar, Lovenskioldgst "3," Christiania.
Nilsen, Helen, Olafkyrresgd. 5, Bergen.

PORTUGAL.

D'Almeida A. Nicolau and Co., Limitada, Rua Serpa Pinto, Villa Nova de Gaya, Oporto.
Herold, O., and Co., Rua de Prata 14, Lisbon; Rua de Nova Alfandega 2, Oporto
Martins and Galla, Limitada, Largo de S. Domingos 11, Lisbon; Moos and Carvalho (Christiano Moos: Mario de Carvalho), Travessa da Ribeira Nova 26, Lisbon.
Pereira, Lisbon.
Wessel, Helge, Rua da Conceiçao 85, Lisbon.

PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.

Ferreira, C. A., Chinde.
Ranchodas Oda, Palma, Ibo, and Porto Amelia.
Serrinha, J. A., Ltda., Chinde.
Villardo, Ricarto, Beira.

SWEDEN.

Forsblad and Son, Norra Hamngatan 6, Gothenburg.

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COMPANY MEETING.

L'UNION FONCIERE D'EGYPTE.

The following are the minutes of the meeting of the above company, held at Alexandria on May 15 last :—

An ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Union Foncière d'Egypte was held in the company's office at Alexandria on May 15, 1916. The committee was composed of : Messrs. M. C. Salvago, chairman; S. Pappo, teller; R. Ismalun, secretary. The attendance sheet, duly signed by the teller, showed that there were present four shareholders representing 13,441 shares, giving a right to 706 votes according to Article 22 of the statutes. Copies of newspapers were produced containing the usual notice of the meeting. Having failed to obtain the statutory quorum, the meeting was declared void and postponed for one month, *i.e.*, to Thursday, June 15, 1916. The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

The following are the minutes of proceedings of the ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Union Foncière d'Egypte, held on June 15, 1916 :—The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Union Foncière d'Egypte, resulting from the second call, was held in the offices of the company at Alexandria, on Thursday, June 15, at 4 p.m. The committee was formed as follows : Messrs. Michel Salvago, chairman; Samson Pappo, teller; René Ismalun, secretary. The attendance sheet, duly signed by the teller, showed that there were present five shareholders, representing twenty-three thousand one hundred and fifty-one shares (23,151), giving a right to seven hundred and seventy-five votes, according to Article 22 of the statutes. Copies of newspapers were produced, containing the regular notice of the meeting and the balance sheet to March 31, 1916, and the profit and loss accounts were laid on the table. The Chairman declared this second meeting valid, in conformity with paragraph 5 of Article 22 of the statutes. The Chairman then read the directors' report and that of the auditor.

The following is the report of the directors for the financial year 1915-16 :—

Gentlemen,—The agricultural year which has just come to a close will be an epoch-making one in Egypt. It has been conspicuous for the insufficiency of the cotton crop, which barely exceeded four and a-half million cantars. This poor crop has been due to two primary causes :—Firstly, the reduction in the acreage set aside for the cultivation of cotton, a restriction decreed by the Government with a view to counteracting the fall in prices which it was feared would result from an accumulation of stocks; and, secondly, to the marked falling off in the average returns per feddan due to the ravages of the bollworm, ravages which have now reached alarming proportions. In so far as concerns this company, cotton was grown on an area of 1,936 feddans, as against 2,669 feddans the year before, and the total crop amounted to 2,590 cantars, as against 4,428. This represents a reduction in yield of 1/3 cantar per feddan, which, in view of the improvement in the properties (as proved by a recent revaluation), must be attributed to the damage done by the various insects, and in particular the pink bollworm. Since this latter pest made its appearance the Government has put in motion both scientific and practical researches with a view to combating this plague. Further legislation bearing on the subject is now contemplated, and it is to be hoped that these efforts will result in success. The falling off in the crop returns was, however, in some measure compensated by the rise in prices, the company's cotton having been sold at an average of P.T. 468, as against P.T. 262.210 the year before. By reason of this rise in the value of the crop, and in spite of its deficiency, the general situation of the country, agriculturally speaking, has been maintained, and even improved, in comparison with the state of affairs a year ago. Dealings in real estate have again been very slack, but the funds now at the disposal of the country, together with the favourable prices already obtainable for the new crop, point to a revival which it is to be hoped will enable the company's estates to be realised at remunerative prices.

Sales of Land.

A few small sales, amounting to an area of 49 feddans, have been accepted by the board. These sales, which have been registered, are distributed through the properties as follows :—

	Fed.	Kir.	Sahme
Kafr-el-Charki estates	0	05	26
Dar-el-Bakar ,, ...	4	20	07
Kom-el-Hassel ,, ...	29	14	18
Santa ,, ...	14	11	16
Total	49	04	09

The total area of sales still unregistered, due to balance of caution money not having been paid, amounts to about 130 feddans.

Purchases.

The estates have been increased by feddans 94-19-0, of which feddans 61-04-20 were acquired by expropriation, and feddans 33-14-04 were taken back by mutual agreement. The following table gives a summary of the movement in the property :—

	Fed.	Kir.	Sahmes.
Area on March 31, 1915	9.710	01	22
Land disposed of during the year 1915-16	49	04	09
Balance	9.660	21	13
Expropriations and re-purchases to March 31, 1916	94	19	00
Net area on March 31, 1916....	9.755	16	13

Development and Cultivation.

As explained in the last report, attention is being devoted to increasing the agricultural value of the estates until such time as the general conditions in the country permit of a revival of land sales, which are the principal object of your company. In spite of the considerable shrinkage in the resources of the company, the work of the past year has been most satisfactory, and has been very much facilitated by the abundance and good distribution of the water supply. Thanks to this, we have been able to cultivate 2,127 feddans of rice, which yielded 10,535 ardebs, or an average of 5 ardebs per feddan. This excellent result on so great an area was only possible on land where the drainage and levelling left nothing to be desired, and for which thanks are due to the thoroughly competent staff.

Balance Sheet.

It will be noted that the form of the balance-sheet has been considerably modified and, it is hoped, made clearer.

Rural Estates.—This item represents the net area belonging to the company multiplied by the cost price per feddan. The cost price thus works out at £E64.300 per feddan, which, owing to the fall in the value of real estates, must be considered as above the present value of the land.

Inventory.—In this item are included the realisable assets on the estates, such as cattle, plant, furniture and stores, etc. Debtors for rents will in future appear as a separate item.

Vendor Rights Ceded to the Land Bank.—The amount figuring under this item is £E21,863.314, as against £E23,732.385 in the last balance-sheet.

Debtors for Land Sales.—Our assets under this heading amount to £E72,593.135, of which £E21,863.314 have been ceded to the Land Bank, as above mentioned. On the other hand, the land sales annuities discounted by the Land Bank, and for the complete encashment of which we remain mutual guarantors in respect to the Land Bank, have been reduced from the original figure of £E77,960 to £E46,770.047, as against £E52,068 last year.

Mortgage Loan B Land Bank of Egypt.—Under this heading figures the prorogued balance of the third annuity of mortgage loan A. This balance is repayable in parallel with the principal loan—that is to say, over a period of thirty-seven years, dating from February 28, 1916.

Annuities in Arrears.—Whereas at the commencement of the year this account amounted to £E17,781.309, it has since been reduced by encashment to £E8,028.722.

1915-1916 Annuities.—These amounted to a total of £E18,908.022, of which £E4,620.472 has been encashed. This amount, together with the sums encashed against annuities in arrears mentioned in the previous article, forms a total encashment of £E14,373.059, which may be considered relatively satisfactory when the reduction in the yield and area of the cotton crop is taken into consideration.

Bank and Bankers.—This item includes the outstanding balances of the various credit granted by the company's bankers.

Provision for Interests in Arrears.—This account has been drawn upon to the extent of £E392.620 for irrecoverable arrears written off. At the same time, a similar amount has been passed through the profit and loss account with a view to maintaining the provision at its original figure, and a further sum of £E1,000 has also been passed through the profit and loss account, bringing this provision up to a total of £E3,000.

Provision for Rents in Arrears.—It has been thought prudent, as a safeguard against all eventualities, to increase this fund to £E5,500.

Profit and Loss Accounts.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the general and working expenses for the year amounted to £E15,014.147, and the rents and receipts to £E20,292.055. The same items for the previous profit and loss account read as follows :—Working and general expenses, £E15,673.436; and rents and receipts, £E18,297.427. We have found it possible and advantageous to employ our staff as agents for the management of neighbouring estates. This arrangement not only increases our resources by a sum of £E860, but also testifies to a confidence in our method of development. After allowing for the provisions for rents and interest in arrears, as already referred to, the profit and loss account closes with a loss of £E5,286.492, to which must be added the loss carried forward from last year, namely, £E9,783.638.

Board of Directors.

The retiring directors are Messrs. M. C. Salvago, L. Jullien, and Yver de la Brucholerie, who offer themselves for re-election.

Messrs. Yver de la Brucholerie and Jullien, of whom good news is received, continue to serve under the colours. Their colleagues here take this opportunity of conveying to them their cordial good wishes.

Auditor.

The directors propose that Mr. S. Pappo, sub-manager of the Land Bank of Egypt, be re-elected for the coming year, with the same annual remuneration of £80.

Auditor's Report.

Alexandria, May 10, 1916.

To the Shareholders,
The Union Foncière d'Egypte.

Gentlemen,—In conformity with the mandate which you have conferred on me, I have the honour to inform you that I have examined the balance-sheet and profit and loss account, and that I have found them to agree with the books of your company.

Your profits and loss account, after sundry amortizements amounting to £E3.891.786, closes with a loss of £E5.286,492, which, added to the loss shown last year, forms a total loss of £E15.070,130 to be carried forward.

(Signed) S. PAPPO, Auditor.

Resolutions.

1. The meeting, after having heard the reports of the directors and auditor, approved the balance-sheet and profit and loss account as submitted, and decided to carry forward the debit balance of the latter.

2.—Messrs. M. Salvago, Jullien, and Yver de la Brucholerie were duly re-elected as directors.

3.—The directors' fees were fixed at Lstg. 3 per sitting.

4.—Monsieur S. Pappo, Sub-Manager of the Land Bank of Egypt, was re-elected as auditor for the financial year 1916-1917, with the remuneration of Lstg. 80.

The business of the day being thus completed, the meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc, Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

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COMPANY NOTES.

New Egyptian Land Company.

A company has been formed in Egypt with a capital of £E120,000, divided into 30,000 shares of £E4 each, which has been subscribed for by the following persons, in the proportions named: Chev. R. Riccardo Interdonato, 15,000; Dr. Bruto Pancucci, 5,000; M. Gastone Semiani, 5,000; Dr. Amédée Battino, 2,250; M. Max Kahil, 250; Henri Michaca, 2,250; M. Joseph Bertrand Bey, 250. The objects of the company, which is called the "Societa Egiziana di Beni Stabile," are said to be the purchase, construction, exploitation, and reselling of urban and rural property in Egypt, and all operations connected therewith. The offices of the company are at Alexandria, where all the subscribers are resident. Chevalier Interdonato is manager of the Egyptian branches of the Banco di Roma and M. Gastone Semiani is authorized to sign on behalf of the bank. The first board of directors consists of Chev. Interdonato, Maître Pancucci, and Maître Battino.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian. — Gemsah, 8 tons; Huyada, 500 tons.

Bibi Eibat.—Week ended August 27, 60,800 poods.

British Maikop.—Week ended August 26, 1,796 poods; September 3, 2,023 poods.

Cheleken.—Fortnight ended August 26. 572 tons.

Maikop Pipeline.—Week ended August 26, 21,890 poods.

North Caucasian.—Fortnight ended August 29, 671,957 poods.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended August 2, 53,500 poods.

ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, E.C.

Business this week has been fairly active taking things all round. The feature has been the rise in National Bank of Egypt shares, which have advanced ⅜ to 13 on a persistent demand in a market bare of sellers.

Delta Light Railways have reacted after their recent sharp improvement and the chairman's statement at the meeting with regard to the heavy charge for coal, which is likely to continue for some considerable time.

There has been some enquiry for Behera's and some steady demand has been going on for Delta Lands and New Egyptians, both of which are somewhat higher than last week.

Mortgage Company of Egypt preference have also been enquired for, and have improved ⅜ to 7⅜.

Khedivial Mail shares have again been wanted, and some persistent buying has carried them up 1s. 9d. to 27s. 6d.

Greek stocks have remained very firm, but only a small business has been done.

The general confidence in Greek circles in London regarding the attitude of Greece to the Entente is strong, touching the level of optimism.

Roumanian oils have been very firm. Prices now are about as last week.

Very optimistic estimates are framed as to the value to Egypt of this year's cotton crop on account of the remarkable prices now ruling. It is expected to be worth several millions sterling more than last year. I have no reason to change my view that the *fellaheen* will come in again to buy land, which, of course, should materially improve the position of the various land companies.

The Roumanian 4½ per cent. loan of 1913 has been added this week to the Stock Exchange official list.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts for the Suez Canal were as stated on the days mentioned below:—

	1915. Francs.	1916. Francs.
August 30	290,000	290,000
August 31	580,000	470,000
Sept. 1	—	—
Sept. 2	—	—
Sept. 4 and 5	480,000	310,000

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Price Aug. 25.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	82	78
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	62½	62½
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93⅛	71⅜	71⅜
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	81½	81
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	71	71½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82⅛	67	67
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	57	57
Do. 5 %, 1894	56	56	56
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	50½	50½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	53	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50½	50½
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	68	68
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	77	77
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	55	55
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	77½	77½
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	xd	xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	85	85
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	77½	78
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1903	82⅛	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	52	52
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65⅛	37½	37½
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅛	4⅛	4⅜
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	69	69
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	71	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11⅞	11⅞
Bank of Abyssinia	⅛	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	2	2
Bank of Roumania	8⅛	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	6⅛	6⅛
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6⅜	6⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	75/-	3⅜ xd
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅜	5⅛	5⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	12⅛	13⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	5	5⅛	5
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	88½	88⅜
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89⅛	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅛	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	10	10
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	11⅛	11⅛
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	59⅜	59⅜
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	55	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10⅞	10⅞
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	55xd	55xd
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	15/-	15/6
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	92	91
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	⅛	⅛	⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛
Do. Do. Def.	⅛	—	—
Béhéra Co.	⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Do. Pref.	4⅛	3⅜	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	⅛	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	9/3	9/4½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	88	87⅜	87⅜
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	⅛	⅛
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	⅛	⅛
" Founders	⅛	⅛	⅛
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	96	96
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	77	77
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	9/-	9/3
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	⅛	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	⅛	⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-/9	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11⅜	11⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1⅛	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	25/4½	25/6
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	95	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	18/3	18/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	26/-	29/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜	3⅛
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	89	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2⅛	1⅛	1⅛

OIL.

	Price on Aug. 30.	Sept. 6.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/-	7/6
Anglo-Persian	22/-	21/9
European Oilfields	3/9	3/9
Roumanian	18/9	18/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Aug. 30.	Sept. 6.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4800	4745
Credit Foncier Egyptien	635	650
Turkish Unified 4%	66	66.50
Egyptian Unified 4%	90.15	90.15
Serbian, 1895	62	65

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON AUGUST 23.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	12⅜	to —
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	92	" —
Alexandria Water Co.	£	11⅞	" 11⅞
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5⅜	" 5⅜
" priv.	L.E.	3⅜	" —
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	128	" 129
Bons de Panama	Frs.	92	" 93
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	61½	" —
" Privilégiée	Frs.	95	" —
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	75	" —
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2⅛	" 2⅛
Comptoir Financier et Commercial	£	⅜	" ⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	£	⅜	" —
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	⅛	" —
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	4	" —
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	4⅛	" —
Unifiée	L.E.	83	" —
Priviligiée		73	" —
Land Bank of Egypt	£	5	" —
" Fondateur	£	23	" —
Pressage et dépôts	£	28½	" —
Nungovich Hotels	£	2⅜	" —
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	4⅜	" —
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅜	" —
" Ord.		21/4½	" 21/6
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3½	" —
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£	5⅛	" —
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	104	" —
" Jouissance	Frs.	155	" —
Egyptian Markets		23/9	" —
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	201	" —
" Div.	Frs.	140	" —
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	125	" —
Egyptian Salt and Soda		18/3	" —
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	587	" —
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	303	" —
" 1903 "	Frs.	245	" —
" 1911 "	Frs.	255	" —
Delta Lands		7/8	" —
Port Said Salt		33/9	" —
Cotton Ginners		⅜	" ⅜
New Egyptian Co.		7/6	" 7/7½
United Lands	P.T.	4	" —
Levant S.S. Co.		26/-	" —
" Deferred	£	5	" 6

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended Sept. 2.	1916. Week ended Aug. 31.
Cattle markets	428	533
General markets	356	383
Cattle markets closed	18	1
Receipts (£)	784	916
Total from commencement of year (£)	34,178	35,578

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation on July 31, 1916.

Prêts Existants:

	1915. £E.	1916. £E.
Prêts à court terme	7,707	6,478
Catégorie "B"	5,431,571	4,938,756
Total	5,439,278	4,945,234
Echéances:		
Dues	77,276	58,232
A échoir	928,009	762,781
Total	1,005,285	821,013

Perceptions:

	1915. £E.	1916. £E.
Arriérés au 31 janvier	1,394,546	1,209,187
Restant	1,226,457	1,068,835
Perçu	168,089	140,382
Echéances:		
Perçu	30,433	16,474
Total perçu sur annuités échues	198,522	156,776

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The average condition of the Egyptian cotton crop, as calculated on September 4, was 96 per cent.

Germany has prohibited the sale of petrol for lighting purposes in consequence of the declaration of war by Roumania, from which country Germany obtained the greater part of her petrol.

The Committee of the Bucharest Bourse has decided, in conformity with the advice of the Minister of Industry, to maintain the securities market. The Bourse will remain open for cash operations.

The *Monthly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce in Egypt contains a useful article upon the possibilities of the extension of British trade in Egypt, in the course of which some valuable hints are given for the guidance of British houses who may be considering the opening up of business with that country.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 280.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The situation in Greece is probably as obscure to all sections of the Greek population as it is abroad. M. Zaimis has resigned the Premiership, having frankly abandoned hope of being able to cope with the position to his satisfaction. He is understood to have been in favour of M. Venizelos' taking office, as the only possible solution of Greece's troubles. By resigning he may have counted upon compelling King Constantine to recognise the facts of the case and to appoint M. Venizelos Premier. He took up the post admittedly as a stop-gap, in order to repair the mistakes of the Skouloudis-Gounaris régime by a more tactful attitude towards the guaranteeing Powers, and to prepare the way for a general election. It fell to his lot to receive all the drastic demands made by the Allies upon Greece as the result of a policy for which he was not responsible. He secured the acceptance of all the terms imposed; but he was unable to effect any radical improvement in the situation. Rather than continue in a false position, he has handed in his resignation. The step is eloquent of the chaotic state of affairs in Greece. M. Zaimis' own reputation will not have been affected. He has done good service to his country in the past, and it is not his fault that the present ills would not yield to the only treatment he had it in his power to apply.

One of M. Zaimis' last acts as Premier was to offer his apologies to the French Minister for an outrage committed on the French Legation by members of the Reservists' Leagues. While the Ministers of the Entente were holding a conference at the French Legation a party of Greek Reservists forced their way into the garden, fired revolver shots and shouted, "Long live the King! Down with France and England!" These Reservists' Leagues were formed by the ex-Chief of the General Staff, and considered themselves the special depositories of King Constantine's confidence. They have constituted the aggressive section of M. Venizelos' political opponents, and have gradually become a law unto themselves in Athens and elsewhere, usurping as well the functions of gendarmes. The reply of the Allied Ministers to the incident at the French Legation was prompt and emphatic. They demanded the punishment of the perpetrators and the immediate suppression of the Reservists' Leagues throughout the country. Possibly the necessity of acceding to these demands and the knowledge that there was little chance of any promise he might give being acted upon in its entirety confirmed M. Zaimis in his intention to resign.

So far as is known, the steps taken by the Greek authorities to carry out the stipulations of the guaranteeing Powers have not yet been conspicuous for their thoroughness. In the meantime French bluejackets are guarding the French Legation. It is probable that the suppression of these Reservists' Leagues will prove the climax in the relations between King Constantine and the Allies. Rightly or wrongly, it is inferred that the King is resolved to adhere to the policy of intransigeance which he appointed M. Gounaris and M. Skouloudis to carry into action, and that he will only yield to direct pressure. His position can hardly be an enviable one. If he has satisfied himself that he has alienated the bulk of public opinion, he will be the more determined to lean upon and humour the military party which still supports him. His bugbear is still the possibility of intervention in the war. A wiser man would have been able to obtain from the Allied Powers a clear assurance that they had no wish to see Greece take part in the campaign, and he would have used the National Defence movement in Salonika as a means of restoring harmony to the nation under his personal leadership. King Constantine, however, seems to have missed his opportunity once more. He has chosen to misinterpret the Salonika movement, which was prompted by fear and hatred of the Bulgarians and not by disloyalty to the throne. In receiving a deputation of officers of the 11th Division who had refused to follow the National Defence Committee, the King delivered himself of very martial sentiments, and announced his readiness with such an army "to face any enemy." As he has commanded this army for some years and has refused in turn to give military support to his Ally Serbia and to take the field against his country's enemies, the Bulgarians and Turks, even when Greek territory has been invaded, his warlike phrases must have rung particularly false in the ears of his audience, who are equally anxious to avoid fighting.

As a result of M. Zaimis' resignation, King Constantine, in selecting his Prime Minister, continues to ring the changes on all the Greek politicians, except the one who is most clearly indicated for the post. M. Dimitrakopoulos has now been asked to form a Cabinet. He was formerly Minister of Justice in M. Venizelos' Government, but has lately adopted an attitude of hostility towards him. It may be necessary to have an interim Premier for the purposes of a general election; but the appointment of M. Dimitrakopoulos rests on no constitutional basis, as he is entirely without any recog-

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nised body of supporters in the Chamber. For the moment, however, there is no need to press this aspect of the subject. Greek internal affairs have nothing to do with the Allied Governments, except in so far as they prejudice the military position in the Near East or infringe upon the comity of nations, as in the case of the outrage on the French Legation. King Constantine will, no doubt, choose his own method of returning to the path of constitutionalism, unless fresh incidents cause the Allies to present yet more drastic Notes. He is even credited with a resolve to reconsider Greece's attitude of neutrality in the light of the progress of Roumanian arms.

The omission to allay the bogey of intervention in Greece lends colour to the theory that the Allied plans experienced a sharp set-back when the Bulgarians took possession of Greek Macedonia east of the Struma. However improbable Greek connivance at such a step might have seemed, the fact that it actually occurred argues a failure on the part of the Entente diplomacy to gauge the real situation in Greece. This failure has impeded the Allies' movements ever since the first landing at Salonika. The removal of the German agents from Greece shows that Allied diplomacy has learned half its lesson; the other half will not have been acted upon until equally definite steps are taken in another direction. A glance at the map shows the advantage to the Allies of having their right flank covered by a neutral zone of Greek territory. Instead of having a single front stretching from Albania to the River Struma the forces under General Sarrail have now to face east as well as north. The task which would seem to have devolved upon the British troops is to clear the Bulgarians out of Greek territory first, before they can take part in the invasion of Bulgaria itself. It will simplify future operations if the Allies can make sure that this part of Greece, as soon as the Bulgarians have been ejected, will be taken over once more by the Greek Government under a pledge to resist with its whole armed strength any attempt on the part of the Bulgarians or Turks to possess themselves of it again. Otherwise the Allied line in any advance from Salonika must cling to the sea-coast on its right wing. The problem of swinging north-eastwards without leaving the left wing "in the air" will materially add to the difficulties of the military command.

There is a promise of big things in the Balkans, but we shall do well to curb our eagerness to see them develop rapidly. With the solitary exception of the Greeks all possible forces are now engaged. Some time, however, must elapse before decisive events can be looked for. The goal of the Allies must be to drive a wedge between the Central Powers and their Bulgarian and Turkish vassals; the only hope which the Bulgarians dare to indulge in is probably that they will be spared another winter campaign. With von Mackensen in command in Bulgaria, the Allies cannot reckon upon the enemy making any mistakes. He will doubtless be quick to seize opportunities for delivering successful blows, but in general he will play for time, regardless of the feelings of the Bulgarians. The opinion very widely shared that the latter will give in after two or three serious defeats has to be modified in the light of the fact that German officers have not only taken over the higher commands, but are well distributed throughout the Bulgarian regiments. The good behaviour of these regiments is doubly secured by the presence of Austro-German and Turkish troops among them.

The Roumanians continue to make good progress along the irregular curve of the Carpathian Range. Interest will centre later on in their movements at the northern end of the curve, where they are operating astride the upper waters of the Maros. This river must form the enemy's main line of defence in this south-eastern corner of Hungary, and the advantage to the Roumanians of being able to turn the position at the very outset will be considerable. For this purpose, however, we must wait for a more effective junction between the Russian and Roumanian lines, which can only be expected when the Russians emerge from the south-western corner of the Bukovina. Their capture of Mount Kapul, north-west of Kirlibaba, is an important step in this direction; but the nature of the country is necessarily against the rapid movements of large forces. On the other wing of the Roumanian line some ground has been gained beyond Orsova. Progress here will enable the Roumanians to free the northern bank of the Danube below this point from the attention of Austrian monitors, as well as to stop enemy transports to Bulgarian territory. The potentialities of the Roumanians' success at Orsova are great, but it is too early to tell where they will elect to place their main strength.

On their southern front the Roumanians have been less successful. By a rapid concentration of Austro-German, Bulgarian, and Turkish troops von Mackensen has struck before the Russians and Roumanians could join forces in the Dobrudja. Tutrakan fell after a heavy bombardment, and its garrison was forced to capitulate to an army which outnumbered it by three to one. Following up this success, the enemy have taken Silistria, but the garrison made good its retreat. The present situation, therefore, is that the enemy command the right bank of the Danube for some distance into Dobrudja, while almost due south of them is a Russian force which has recaptured Dobritch. If the Russians are as strong as they are represented to be, the triumphant progress of the Bulgarians ought to be short-lived. On the other hand, von Mackensen is not likely to be caught napping, and the course of events in this theatre during the next week or so ought to be of special interest. Much will depend on the capacity of the Roumanians for a bold policy. They have this in their favour, that, in common with the British and Russians, they possess ample reserves of men, and their numbers in the field will steadily increase as their supplies of munitions accumulate. That the importance of this theatre has been recognised in Roumania is shown by the transfer of General Averesco from Transylvania to command the Dobrudja army. He has been Minister of War, and is one of the most distinguished of Roumanian soldiers.

The whole Allied front based on Salonika has at last become active. For some time the Serbians on the left wing have been engaged with the Bulgarians in front of them. Their progress has been slow, if steady; but they appear to have exacted a heavy toll on the enemy, who was probably misled by his German advisers in regard to the fighting capacity of the new Serbian army. The military considerations which prompted this isolated action on one part only of the Allied front may have had some reference to the general alignment at this extreme western point; but it could hardly have been regarded as a satisfactory arrangement. Persistence in the inactivity of the French and British sections became impossible after the Roumanian reverses in the Dobrudja, and it was not a matter for surprise that on September 11 the whole Allied line assumed the offensive. British detachments crossed the Struma and occupied a number of villages that were in the hands of the Bulgarians. A French force co-operating on the left of their line was instrumental in capturing another village south-west of Demir Hissar. North of these were the Italian troops, who occupy a section from Lake Butkova westwards facing the Belashitza mountains. They are reported to have been engaged in the vicinity of Butkova Djuma, a station on the railway half-way between Lake Doiran and Demir Hissar. West of the Vardar the enemy was driven out of his trenches over a front of nearly two miles by the French, while between Lake Doiran and Ghevgeli and to the south of the latter it was apparently necessary to prolong the preliminary bombardment before an infantry attack could be

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launched. This activity on the rest of the line reacted in favour of the Serbians, who also succeeded in registering important gains along their section.

The news from Persia continues to be scarce. In his speech at the opening of the Imperial Legislative Council the new Viceroy of India stated that the relations of the Government with Persia had never been more cordial. It is certain that a better spirit prevails at Teheran, which is of good augury for the future. The protecting Powers have been able to convince the Persian Government of their solicitude for Persia's real interests, and the new agreement between them has received its assent. The immediate task before all three parties is to clear the country of Turkish troops and marauding bands, as well as of any Turkish or Austro-German agents who may still be at large. Very little light has been thrown lately on the military situation in the west; but there is reason to suppose that General Baratoff has received reinforcements, and will shortly be able to push back the invaders. The work of organising the two gendarmerie, under Russian officers in the north and under British officers in the south, continues to make progress. General Sykes is understood to be at Shiraz, where a native element hostile to the British was allowed to hold sway too long. Some time must elapse before law and order are completely restored in Persia, but with the elimination of Austro-German agents the task will be simplified. One result of the new agreement between Great Britain, Russia and Persia is that we need no longer think of the country as divided into three spheres, with the anomaly of the British being virtually shut out of the part which concerns them most. It is enough for the moment to think of Russia's interests being in the north, Great Britain's in the south. Any more definite demarcation can be settled at a later and more opportune time.

No important development in the position in Armenia has been reported. In their retreat the Turks laid the whole country waste, and the Russian advance has resolved itself primarily into a question of supplies. The danger of the Turkish counter-thrust between Erzeroum and Mush would seem to have been definitely removed; but the configuration of the ground enables the Turks to put up a stubborn opposition, and the progress made by the Russian troops is slow. A Russian *communiqué* speaks of Turkish counter-attacks being successfully repulsed both west of Erzinjan and in the region of Oghnut. On the latter front the enemy's losses have recently been severe.

An article in this issue on the "Independent Chiefs of Eastern Arabia" throws interesting light on a little-known part of the world, and helps to explain how the Power in occupation of the head of the Persian Gulf must of necessity extend its jurisdiction up the two rivers in order to introduce homogeneity in the administration of a sphere exposed to tribal factions. "Whether we should have been able to preserve our policy of non-interference with Central Arabian affairs," the well-informed writer remarks, "or whether the proximity of Ibn Saoud to the sea would ultimately have drawn us, as the Turks feared, and as he wished, into direct relations with him need not now be determined. The outbreak of war brought our consideration for the Turks to an end, and as soon as he was assured of our friendship, Ibn Saoud cast away all shadow of allegiance to the Sultan." But Ibn Saoud's followers impinge on the Shammar, who in turn is in touch with the nomads to the north. Ibn Rashid must either seek his supplies in Busreh or higher up, on the Euphrates. In either case he is likely to be brought into touch with the British. His quarrel with Ibn Saoud has not yet been adjusted; it was in a conflict between their respective followers that the late Captain Shakespeare met his untimely end. The British can hardly ignore the rivalry between the two tribes, and if peace is ultimately to prevail in the Peninsula, we must show our determination to insist upon the maintenance of law and order on our borders.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 30.

H.H. the Sultan.

Last Thursday M. Defrance, the French Minister, handed to H.H. the Sultan the insignia of the Grand Cordon of the Legion d'Honneur, which was recently bestowed on him by the President of the Republic. The presentation took place with due ceremony. M. Defrance proceeded in State to Ras-el-Tin Palace, Alexandria, being accompanied thither and b ck to the French Consulate-General by H.E. Said Pasha Zulfikar, the Grand Chamberlain, and being escorted by a detachment of the Sultania bodyguard. His Highness received him, attended by the Sultania Princes and the Ministers, and very cordial speeches were exchanged by them on this occasion. This bestowal on the Sultan of such a high decoration is a delicate attention on the part of President Poincaré, and a recognition of the loyalty displayed by his Highness to the Entente cause, and of the lively sympathy which he has consistently evinced for the French nation since the time when he spent his boyhood's days at the Court of Napoleon III.

In view of the fact that his mother was never able to make the pilgrimage to Mecca, the Sultan has arranged that a certain number of ulema and students from Al Azhar shall proceed at his expense to the Holy Shrine, there to perform the devotions incumbent at least once in a lifetime on all true Moslems. These men will accompany the caravan when it shortly leaves Cairo with the Holy Carpet, which is annually sent to Mecca.

The Mecca Pilgrimage.

It has now been decided to permit the pilgrimage to Mecca. In 1914 and 1915 a fetwa was obtained from the Grand Mufti advising the Egyptian Moslems that, in view of the situation in the Hejaz, it would be permissible for them to postpone their departure for Mecca until a more propitious moment. This year the Arabian revolt has completely changed the situation, and the Sherif has opened the road from Jeddah to Mecca. In these circumstances the Holy Carpet will be sent this year right through to that city, instead of, as in the past two years, being taken merely as far as Jeddah and there handed over to the Sherif's agents. The usual escort of Egyptian troops will convoy the "Mahmal," and the Egyptian Government has arranged that about a thousand Egyptian pilgrims will be able to accompany the caravan. The number has had to be restricted owing to the difficulty in securing sea transport. As a special concession the expenses payable by each pilgrim have been fixed at the sum that was charged before the war. It is understood that the Sherif has guaranteed a safe conduct for the Mahmal and its caravan, and that he has intimated that the traditional tribute levied by the Bedouin is not to be paid. The Holy Carpet and its escort will leave Cairo on September 23, and will be embarked with the pilgrims at Suez two days later. By the way, the proclamation made by the Sherif to the Moslem world, which was issued here through his agent this week, has been very well received, and the outspoken condemnation of the Young Turks and exposition of their actions have made a most profound impression.

Local Greeks and the Crisis.

The Greek colony in Alexandria and Cairo has been very much excited these days by the news of events in the Balkans, and it is noteworthy that, as a result thereof, at least one of the Royalist organs has now come over to the Venizelist side. Monster meetings were held here and in Alexandria on Sunday last, when, amid the wildest enthusiasm, messages were sent to Athens expressing the indignation of the local community at the apathy shown by official circles in the face of the invasion of Greek territory by the hereditary enemy, Bulgaria, and supporting the demonstration in favour of intervention made by the people. These messages were addressed to the Athenian Press, to M. Venizelos, to the Greek Government, and also, as a special sign of respect, to Colonel Christodoulos, to whose bravery and patriotism the meetings paid a warm tribute and referred in these messages. The feeling in the Greek

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colony is one of great depression, for it seems to be generally realised that the fact that Serbia is bearing a heavy part of the fighting, and that Greece is still standing impassively by, will very probably entail on the part of the latter in favour of the former a forced territorial sacrifice, whilst at the same time she will not attain her national ambitions elsewhere. The feeling is indeed very strong that the time has come for it to be taken out of the power of their Teutophile King to stand in the way of the will of the people and further to sacrifice the future of Greece, and incidentally betray the Entente.

The Traffic Question in Cairo.

The state of the traffic in Cairo has ever been a question that has exercised the minds of the Anglo-Egyptian authorities. It has always seemed quite hopeless to get the native drivers of vehicles to adhere to any rules of the road, and, in spite of the most energetic efforts of the police, it has in the past been impossible to improve matters to any appreciable extent. Of late, however, a transformation has manifested itself, and to everyone's astonishment the policemen on point duty have suddenly acquired a control over the traffic which is every whit as effective as in any English town. They now regulate traffic at cross roads in the busy centres of Cairo in a most businesslike manner, and, incredible as it may sound to those who know anything of the vagaries of the Egyptian Jehu, the arbuggies, almost without exception, respond to the slightest gesture or order. It is a most interesting and remarkable change, the cause for which it is not easy to discover, and both police and arbuggies are to be congratulated on this very salutary improvement in their relations.

September 4.

The Port Said Air Raid.

As I sit down to write this letter the two main topics of conversation are the Cotton Bourse crisis and the last air raid on Port Said. There is no disguising the fact that the latter has come as an unpleasant surprise, and has made a very bad impression. It was certainly thought that the defeat of the Turks at Katia and Bir-el-Abd would have meant the cessation of this style of warfare, and that, even though it had been considered inadvisable for the present to extend our line further east, the Air Service would have had the situation well in hand, and would have put it out of the power of the enemy any longer to indulge in these little joy-rides. Apparently, although we have driven back the Turks, they are still in possession of strategic points, whence they can with impunity raid the Canal. To the ordinary person it would seem that the next sensible plan of action to follow would have been systematically to bomb and destroy all these stations as soon as any attempt was made to make them an aerial *pied à terre*, by preference to attacking points in Syria, where it may be true the enemy's communications are vulnerable, but the destruction of which does not in any way relieve the Canal from the danger which it runs from air raids. Our Air Service must by this time be fully aware of the position of the enemy aerodromes, and it is to be hoped that energetic steps will forthwith be taken to prevent a recurrence of these incidents, for, as was demonstrated on this last occasion, the danger is not confined to buildings, etc., but extends also to shipping, the destruction of which might well have serious consequences.

Apart, however, from the fact that these raids are an unpleasant reminder that we are still not completely masters in our own territory, there is the local political effect which ought to be taken into account. So long as these raids continue, so long will certain elements of the population persist in believing that the Turks are unbeaten. The manner in which this last raid has followed the recent fighting in the Sinai is regarded as significant by many Egyptians, and as confirming the statement in circulation at the time that the story of our victory was a pure fabrication. With the Oriental, especially the Egyptian, seeing is believing, and, though I am far from being alarmed, yet I will go so far as to say that the air raid on Port Said on the 1st inst., which was the largest that has taken place so far, has largely counteracted whatever good effect our recent defeat of the Turks had in this country.

The Bourse Crisis.

The Cotton Bourse crisis has also had an unfortunate political effect.* Indeed, one always finds that in this country financial questions quickly assume a political aspect. Immediately the brokers fixed the price of November contracts at a maximum of 23 dollars there was an outcry that this was a glaring injustice to the Egyptian cultivators, and the agitation has not abated since. This statement is, however, quite unjustified, as I shall try to show. The average fellah contracts to sell his cotton crop to the merchant at the beginning of the season, very often even before his plants are above ground, and the terms of the sale are laid down as so many dollars above November contracts, the fellah having the right to demand that the price shall be fixed any time before the November settlement. Now, the cultivators rarely ask for the price to be fixed so early in the season, and they certainly never do so in a rising market. Their invariable habit is continually to put off taking a decision in the hope that the market will improve still more, and the majority wait until early in November, when, as usually happens, prices are at their lowest point. In these circumstances the action of the brokers temporarily limiting November contracts cannot have prejudiced the growers. But even granted that, contrary to custom, the cultivators had wanted to fix their prices just at the very time when the brokers took their action, and even granted that the market had been free, what would have happened? We should merely have found that the tendency to rise, which it is alleged was artificially stopped, would by the natural operations of the law of supply and demand have become converted into a tendency to fall, for the mere fact of so many cultivators fixing their prices would have thrown on the market an enormous amount of sale contracts, which, whilst they would have relieved the situation in so far as the brokers were concerned, would most certainly have reversed the rise in price.

Consequently the fellaheen have not suffered one whit financially, but they have undoubtedly been affected politically. It has been, and is still being, freely stated amongst the Egyptians, and not only amongst the uneducated, unenlightened class, that the whole crisis has been merely a manœuvre on the part of the English merchants and spinners to lower the price they will have to pay for Egyptian cotton and so cheat the fellaheen out of several million pounds which the latter would otherwise have received. Nothing will shake their belief in this theory any more than can any arguments convince them that in reality they have not suffered by the recent crisis in Alexandria. Thus the action of the cotton brokers has had for result not only the discrediting of the Alexandria Bourse in Europe, but also the unsettling, temporarily, let us hope, of the Egyptian cultivator. This is, indeed, most unfortunate, but it only serves to add emphasis to the fact that in this country finance cannot be dissociated from politics, in the sense that the return they will receive on their crops has far more weight with the mass of Egyptians than the most momentous dynastic or world-affecting events. It can, indeed, be asserted that, provided the situation of the people is in this respect safeguarded, almost any drastic and radical changes can be put into execution without the risk of a murmur of protest being raised; but let it be thought, rightly or wrongly, that anything is happening adversely to affect their material welfare, and all recognition of past benefits is swept away and the worst motives are attributed to the powers that be and the interested parties. The late Lord Kitchener was fully aware of this characteristic, and he framed his policy accordingly. The unfortunate impression referred to got abroad as soon as the decision of the Alexandria cotton brokers became known, but the Anglo-Egyptian authorities have been, and are still, doing their utmost to remove it, and there is little doubt that success will crown their efforts.

* An article dealing with the crisis will be found on page 478.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, August 23.

The German-Bulgarian Attack.

Greece is reaping to-day the fruit of her unwise and anti-patriotic policy, which she has preferred to a course in harmony with her national traditions and aspirations, a course that required her to combine with those who are fighting her natural and persistent enemies. Territory conquered at a great sacrifice of blood and treasure has been retaken by the Bulgarians without striking a blow. Never before has Hellenism suffered such a disgrace. Hypnotized by Baron Schenk, the inhabitants of the capital are living in indolence, amusing themselves, overcome by an apathy comparable to that which preceded the fall of the Byzantine Empire and the decadence of the Hellenic race. The public seem quite content with German assurances, given by people who are so scrupulous in carrying out their promises, and the Government relies upon the Bulgarian guarantee that the occupied territory shall be restored after the war!

Day by day the Venizelist Press strives to arouse the people from their torpor, pointing out that Germany will not settle this question, but the Peace Congress to be convened by the victors, that is to say, the Entente. At the last moment, however, Bulgaria is to invoke the fact, mentioned recently by M. Passaroff, that there are four hundred Macedonian officers in the Bulgarian Army, while two Bulgarian Ministers are Macedonians —this to show the impossibility of abandoning the disputed territory, which Bulgaria claims as her heritage.

In military circles fault is found with the Entente for compelling Greece to demobilize. It is alleged that if the troops had remained with the colours, the Bulgarians would never have dared to act as they have done. It is conveniently forgotten that while the Greeks were under arms Rupel was ceded to the Bulgarians, and that inquiry by the Diplomatic representatives of the Entente showed the Greek Government disposed to allow the Bulgarians a free hand to advance as far as they liked.

The Purpose of the Invasion

was, in the first place, to nullify the elections, so as to prevent the return to power of M. Venizelos, who seemed certain to succeed, and whose prestige was strong in the occupied departments. At that time the Liberal Party could reckon on forty-eight seats there, but it will lose them now. Efforts were also made to re-establish the connection between Athens and Berlin, the severance of which had stopped the smuggling of war material. Nor will the Allies now permit any resumption of postal or telegraphic business with Germany. Finally, it was sought to subject Greece to the will of Berlin, in opposition to the Entente Note of June 21, and this the *Patris* calls "high treason."

Electoral Machinations.

The Venizelist Press continues to denounce the officers who, obtaining leave ostensibly to take a holiday, are returning to their provinces to arouse opposition to the Venizelists. An anti-Liberal military league was nipped in the bud a few months ago, but it, nevertheless, operates semi-officially now, without Government interference. The War Minister, General Kallaris, has circularized his subalterns forbidding any participation in politics, but no penalty is incurred for disobedience, which has been frequent, with gross attacks upon M. Venizelos.

The General Staff.

Venizelist journals, and especially the *Kirix*, the official organ of the ex-Premier, have published a manifesto against the General Staff, accusing it of acting with partiality and bad faith when legitimately consulted, as well as interfering in political matters, to the extent of approaching the Entente in a diplomatic and electoral capacity. The officers concerned are charged with prolonging the general mobilisation, and granting double pay to certain colleagues who were to suppress popular dissatisfaction *manu militari*. The General Staff is even credited with a desire to use the Greek army against the Anglo-French force, so as to bring about a German triumph in the Balkans. Absolutism would then have been introduced into Greece. General Danglis, says the *Kirix*, was dismissed from his honorary position as aide-de-camp because he presided over the League of Reservists founded by the Liberals, while the enemies of the King were declared to be Venizelos and the Entente Powers.

M. Venizelos declares that the time has come to dismiss the present members of the General Staff, since, by predicting a German victory and labouring to secure it, they have lost all their military prestige. Let them, therefore, resign, for if they remain the country will be unable to play its part in connection with the Balkan crisis.

The Attitude of the Allies.

The Entente Powers are fully conscious of the anti-constitutional intrigues of the General Staff, and should they be continued further diplomatic action will be taken so as to induce M. Zaimis to secure to the Greeks the free and untrammelled expression of their national will.

Meanwhile, in all the attacks and conspiracies against the Liberal Party, the electors are told that it is a choice for them between the King and M. Venizelos. No mention is made of Gounaris, Scouloudis, etc., who seem to carry no weight for propaganda purposes. Hence, if one elector shouts "Long live the King!" and another replies, "Venizelos for ever!" the latter "free and independent" voter is immediately arrested and prosecuted for sedition. The journal *Estia* openly declares that the King ought to intervene to put an end to the dishonest tactics of the anti-Venizelists, which are, as a matter of fact, endangering the very existence of the dynasty. And, it is added, if his courtiers had a genuine respect for the King, they would discreetly counsel him accordingly.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Water Supply of Nicosia.

Cyprus, August 21.

There is hope that the improvement and increase of the city supply may be taken in hand at an early date. Readers may remember that action has been delayed by litigation over the claims of the Evkaf Department and the municipality respectively, respecting the control and administration of the supply. The judgment of the Supreme Court was adverse to the Evkaf, and the latter desired to appeal to the Privy Council. Permission to do this had been refused, and the Government has recently informed the municipality that the administration will be placed in the hands of a Board consisting of the two delegates of Evkaf, British and Ottoman, the Director of Public Works, the president of the Municipal Council, or his representative, and one member to be appointed by the Government. The chairman of the Board will be the Commissioner of Nicosia, who happens to be the British delegate of Evkaf. The decision is eminently satisfactory, as the duties devolving on the Board should be far more efficiently dealt with by a body thus composed than by either the Municipality or the Evkaf alone. The Municipal Council naturally claims that the funds which are now available should be applied to the repayment of its late expenses, including those incurred for prospecting for new sources of supply. It is desirable that the Board should get to work as speedily as possible.

Bread at Nicosia.

Next to water comes a question of bread, a matter which has not infrequently called for attention, and given cause for grumbling, owing to the quality of the bread. Loud complaints are at present made that the flour used for bread of which the vast majority of citizens partake, though white in appearance, is largely adulterated. The complaints find a voice in the Press, which demands that the attention of the Government, as well as of the Municipality, should be given to the grievance and that stringent measures should be taken to prevent the sale by unscrupulous dealers of flour unfit for use. The remedy, however, should presumably be in the hands of the Municipality, which can always submit samples to the Government Analyst, who has already rendered great service to the cause of public health by numerous analyses of adulterated articles of food and drink.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 20.

More German Work?

A formidable explosion took place on August 9 at the great powder depôt of Dudeshti, which resulted in a deplorable loss of life. The following are briefly the facts. Separated from the main powder magazines were some depôts of ether and sulphuric acid, and from the former were drawn daily quantities for distribution on the market, where there is a complete lack of this article. It is assumed that the ether was allowed to run into a vessel containing acid impurities, for on the morning in question a large crowd of officers, soldiers, and workmen was drawn to the spot by the sound of an explosion. While efforts were being made to extinguish the resulting fire there was a second explosion of frightful violence (due to extension of the flames to another depôt), killing on the spot some seventy officers and men and injuring hundreds of others. Nearly 200 have been taken to the hospitals, but the burns are proving in many cases fatal, every hour that passed during the first two days after the accident claiming its toll of victims. At the time of writing the dead number about 150. The material damage seems to be of no great importance, amounting as it does to the loss of a quantity of ether and sulphuric acid, the main powder depôts having fortunately escaped.

The King and Queen, who had hastened to the site of the accident, won the hearts of many by the personal interest they took in the injured and the families of the victims, and by subsequently visiting the wounded and attending the funeral of the dead. They have contributed 50,000 frs. for the relief of the widows and children, to which sum Prince Carol has added 20,000 frs. from his own purse. Three officers were killed outright by the explosion—Colonel Albu, the director of the establishment and an eminent chemical expert, who was the inventor of a powder of high explosive force known by the name of Alburite; Colonel Viskoiano, who had been attached to the powder works for ten years, and had made himself an enviable reputation in his speciality; Captain Savopol, who was only twenty-eight, and had invented the system of hand grenades adopted by the Roumanian Army.

A strict inquiry has been ordered, from which the public is not likely to derive much enlightenment. Many people, bearing in mind the recent explosion at the Pyrotechnic, associate this catastrophe also with the activities of foreign agents. This is the most plausible explanation to those who have any idea of the degree to which the country is overrun by German and Austrian spies. The official version ascribes the explosion to purely accidental causes. If this should prove to be correct there inevitably falls a heavy onus of responsibility on the shoulders of those who are charged with the safety of such vitally important establishments, for the circumstances would appear to be indicative of very gross negligence.

A Renegade Primate.

The nomination of Vasile Mangra as Primate of the Orthodox Church in Hungary and Transylvania is the latest blow delivered by the Magyars to the national cause of the Roumanians. Mangra had for thirty years been the soul of the national movement of his countrymen. But his heart was devoured by ambition. He seized the opportunity offered by the circumstances of an election in 1910, when Counts Tisza and Hedervary, for reasons of their own, made insincere representations of a conciliatory nature to the foreign nationalities, to throw himself into their arms, protesting that such advances could not be refused by the Roumanians without laying themselves open to the charge of political immaturity. Needless to say, the promises made for electioneering purposes deceived nobody, and were, of course, never fulfilled. Mangra's act of treachery has been rewarded. Through the direct pressure of the Government he was raised a few days ago to the Archiepiscopal seat at Sibin, which became vacant recently with the disappearance of that noble and ancient figure, Archbishop Metziano. Thus is defiled the highest dignity left to Austria-Hungary's Roumanian subjects, a dignity laid at the feet of an apostate who for selfish ends and for the sake of personal advancement forsook his co-nationals at a moment of grave crisis. The news has been received with intense indignation on both sides of the Carpathians, and is regarded as a further provocation on the part of the Hungarians. But the day of retribution is drawing near.

The Small Change Crisis.

The public continues to be inconvenienced at every turn by the absence of small change, and this state of affairs has not improved since last I wrote. Tobacconists complain that they are doing half their usual business from inability to change notes; cabdrivers take your five-franc note or piece and are unable to return change; urgent telegrams have been refused at the post office for similar reasons; and oft-recurring miniature dramas lend colour to the life of the cafés, in which the waiter has generally to assume the part of scapegoat. The crisis is without doubt the work of speculators, who judge the moment opportune for gathering in the harvest they have sown. Moneychangers now withhold as much as 6 francs on every 100-franc note they change. This reminds one of the expedient the Austrian authorities resorted to a few months ago in the Bukovina, when for the purpose of raising war funds they withdrew much of the small change from circulation. Measures are now being taken to remedy the evil. The National Bank has put one million francs in 5-franc notes at the disposal of the Ministry of Finance, and, on the other hand, the raids instituted by the Prefect of Police are proving effective. A tradesman recently arrested had in his possession 60,000 francs in silver and nickel. The offence is punishable with three to twelve months' imprisonment.

British Prisoners in Bulgaria.

Mr. Warfield, the new American Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia, is on the point of crossing into Bulgaria, where he will visit Philippopolis without delay. He has kindly consented to take with him a number of articles which had been purchased with the funds at the disposal of Mrs. Take Jonescu for our prisoners interned in this locality. They include 400 pairs of trousers, 150 caps, and additional mattresses, sugar, and parcels for the men.

ROUMANIA'S FLAG DAY.

The Roumanian Minister has sent the following letter, dated the 6th inst., to the Central Committee for National Patriotic Organisations, whose organising offices for the Roumanian Flag Day are at 1, Central Buildings, Westminster:—

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ult., and to express to you, in the name of my Government, my very best thanks for your proposal of organising a 'Roumanian Flag Day' in October. I shall not fail to notify my Government of the noble offer of your Committee, and to ask for their advice as to the disposal of the proceeds, which could be deposited provisionally with the Bank of Roumania, Limited, 27, Throgmorton Street, E.C., where a fund for the Wounded Roumanian Soldiers has been opened."

Helpers in London and the provinces are invited to apply to the Organising Office, 1, Central Buildings, Westminster, S.W.

THE ROUMANIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The Roumanian Minister in London has received subscriptions for the Roumanian Red Cross Society from all parts of the United Kingdom. His Excellency has forwarded the contributions to the Earl of Bessborough, Chairman of the Bank of Roumania, Throgmorton Street. The duties of treasurer have been undertaken by the Earl of Bessborough, and generous donors who wish to contribute to the relief of the Roumanian wounded are invited to send their subscriptions to the Bank.

A Reuter's message from Buenos Ayres announces that the Greeks resident in the Argentine have sent M. Zaimis a telegram protesting against the Bulgarian invasion of Greece. They have also sent M. Venizelos a telegram declaring that they are confident that he will save the situation.

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THE SITUATION IN SYRIA.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 5.

American Intervention.

At last the light of official truth has been thrown on the situation in Syria and the Lebanon, as a result of the negotiations between the United States Government and the Ottoman Government. The former kept in constant telegraphic communication with their Ambassador at Constantinople between the 24th June and the 7th July last, with a view to ascertaining the precise nature of the situation in that unhappy country, and of obtaining permission for the distribution of relief, going to the length of threatening that, in case the Turkish Government persisted in refusing this aid, diplomatic relations would be strained, and the feelings of the American people towards Turkey and the Turkish people would thereby be seriously affected. The result was that the U.S. Government received from their Ambassador at Constantinople the information that, while there was no doubt about the existence in Syria of serious economic distress, yet the reports published in the Press were somewhat exaggerated, and that the Ottoman Government had promised to exercise every effort compatible with accepted regulations to help in relieving the present situation.

Relief Work.

A prominent American missionary, who left Beyrout on the 26th June last, in a letter to a friend in Cairo, says that the situation there was growing steadily worse—as, indeed, it is only natural to suppose, owing to the maintenance of the blockade—but that the Protestant community, with the exception of one family, was all right. A private letter received from the Assistant Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., at New York, and dated the 2nd August, contains the following pleasing announcement:

"We yesterday had a cablegram from Constantinople through our State Department, saying that Mr. Peet, the Treasurer of the American Mission Board there, could handle funds to transmit to an American Committee in Beyrout, which would supervise relief work in Syria, and that the need for relief work in Syria is now great and urgent. A letter from Sidon, written not long ago, referred rather hopefully to the harvests of this present year."

Cholera at Damascus.

From a copy of a paper published in Damascus which has reached Cairo, it would appear that the cholera epidemic prevailing in that town is not of the malignant kind, fatal cases averaging only five to six a day. It is interesting to note the freedom with which the paper criticises the apathy of the sanitary and municipal authorities in this connection. While, it says, the latter enforce rigidly the regulations prohibiting the drinking of the open waters of the Fiji River, and restricting severely the sale of vegetables and fruit, they are said to commit the criminal neglect of allowing the epidemic-stricken poor to sleep in the streets without any manner of precaution. Some of these poor people are said to have been seen lying in the streets in front of the sanitary office, with swarms of flies sucking the dirt and excremental matter covering their bodies, which contain the deadly germ that is soon after carried to the healthy. The Sanitary Department is said to disclaim responsibility on the ground that the disease of these people is hunger, and that when sent to the hospital they soon after come out, as the doors are not guarded; therefore the responsibility is with the Municipal Authorities, who in their turn use a similar argument. Truly a most Turkish state of affairs!

SUFFERINGS OF DEPORTED ARMENIANS.

The Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions has issued a statement on the conditions of the deported Armenians in Northern Arabia and Syria, says the *Times'* New York correspondent. It includes the following report from a missionary—

At Meskene I saw women and children throw themselves into grave trenches and beg the gravediggers to bury them. The Government furnishes no bread. In Hamar there were 7,000 deported Armenians, 3,000 of them practically naked, and they gathered locusts, which they ate raw or cooked, according as they could get fire. Some caught dogs in the streets and ate them uncooked. At Rakka there were 15,000 Armenians, who live in tents in a camp on both sides of the Euphrates. The people were not allowed to enter the city. Everywhere were terrible pictures of nakedness, hunger, and death, the authorities doing nothing to help.

Some of the unfortunate people in despair threw themselves into the river. We often saw whole rows of ghastly forms rising suddenly out of graves asking for bread and water. They had dug their own graves and were waiting for death.

These Armenians number not less than 30,000 as I write. It has been proved that there has been cannibalism and that the dying have been fought over for their flesh.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

THE EXTERMINATION OF THE ARMENIAN NATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It will be a long time after the conclusion of peace before the truth about the cruel and atrocious methods used by the Turco-Germans for the extermination of the Armenian nation is heard of in the civilised world. The news that has reached us so far is but small leakings of the very facts. The Huns have not spared any effort and energy to combine their Teutonic modern methods with the traditional barbarism of the bloodthirsty Turkish tribes. It would be useless to waste paper and ink at the present moment. None can spare a moment now to hear our voice. Everybody is busy, very busy, struggling for his very existence; for the domination of right over might, and, as a matter of fact and principle, familiar to all, humanitarian feelings for the relief of or aid to a people in distress are of secondary consideration from a political point of view. The policy followed by the great European nations before the war was, as a general rule, on these lines. History is before us to show that things should take such a turning that the interests of the nations concerned should be in accordance with the very aspirations of the oppressed. The Armenian nation's aspirations are not unknown, and only a small help cannot but easily tend to its resuscitation. Given our geographical situation, our exhausted number, and limited means, we have done, we believe, more than we were expected to do. It remains to be seen what will be the policy to be followed by the great nations at the final settlement of the great conflict. It would be needless to say that the final settlement of the Armenian question would be in the interests of all concerned. We cannot but recognise with gratitude the great efforts of the Allies, before the war, for reforms in Armenia. The new *régime* would undoubtedly have given good results, but unfortunately, owing to circumstances, the elaborate agreement not only remained "lettre morte," but Turkey adopted a *régime* of radical extermination.

We cannot but believe and hope that, in consideration of our efforts, aspirations, and merits, our case will not be overlooked at the conclusion of peace.—I am, etc.,

Dervishian.

Alexandria, August 29.

ITALY AND SERBIA.

In the Geographical Section of the British Association last week, Miss Newbigin read a paper on "Italy and the Adriatic." She sought to show by quotation from Italian writings that Italy would not be inclined to displace Austria from the North-Eastern Adriatic simply to permit Slavonic rule to come in.

The President of the Association (Sir Arthur Evans), who spoke of his friendly feelings towards Italy, added that he had lived for several years on the east coast of the Adriatic. A large part of it was Serbian in sentiment, and he hoped they might eventually build up a South Slavonic State which would be largely permeated by Italian civilisation. Italy must make herself secure in the Adriatic, but let her do it by wise means. If she had the west coast of Istria, the great arsenal of Pola, and if, in addition, she had the key points, Valona and Brindisi, and certain of the islands, she would do very well in the Adriatic. If she tried to do more she would do it at her own risk and at the risk of certain war within a very limited number of years. Although we might sympathise with Italy we must sympathise also with Serbia, and if Italy did not alienate the new nationality a peaceful settlement in the Adriatic region might be looked for, but on no other terms.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A BRITISH MEDICAL MISSION.*

The efficient succour given to Serbia by various British medical missions has made some amends for our failure to defend her during the disastrous invasion of 1915. The brilliant campaign of the previous year had left 70,000 Austrian prisoners on her hands, and they imported an infectious disease which we fondly supposed to have been stamped out by modern science. Their bodies were covered with lice, which are now known to be the only carriers of typhus, which consequently spread to the civil population. When the parlous state of our little Ally became known in this country a movement was set on foot for affording her relief, and it materialised in the despatch to Serbia of several well-equipped organisations, which struggled with marked success against the epidemic. Among them was a unit formed by the Royal Free Hospital of London, and its staff have done well to place their operations on record. Their book has a defect which is often met with where each of several authors is allowed to tell his own story without much regard for the general design. Readers will, perhaps, find some difficulty in following the unit's vicissitudes as a whole. We gather, however, that it was formed at the end of 1914 under the Red Cross and in co-operation with the invaluable V.A.D. Extreme care was taken in selecting the unit's staff from many candidates, with the result that fifty-four men and women composing it worked with the speed and accuracy of a machine. After several weeks of intense labour, the Anglo-Serbian Hospital, afterwards christened the "Berry Mission," after its able chief, left our shores for Salonika in an Admiralty transport.

It reached the Serbian frontier in February, 1915, and was despatched by the authorities to Vrntse, a health resort famed for its sulphur springs, about 150 miles south of Belgrade. There it was allotted a derelict hydro., which speedily became a hospital of the latest type. Shortly afterwards the mission annexed a neighbouring restaurant and two large villas. Accommodation for 360 patients was ultimately provided. For several months a lull took place in military operations. The Austrians were paralysed by their crushing defeats in 1914, and, lacking military patients, the mission turned its attention to the civilian element. A stream of sick and suffering poured in, imploring treatment for maladies mostly due to dirt. Thus Dr. Berry and his colleagues had ample opportunity for studying the national character. Their verdict is distinctly favourable. Serbians, being a race of peasant proprietors, display the fervid patriotism which is always seen in countries where the land is a possession of the people. Their warmth of heart and gratitude for the smallest kindness stands in marked contrast to the disposition of their Bulgarian neighbours. Dr. Berry describes them as—

> A very simple, egoistic, likeable people indeed; dirty enough, living on mud floors and disliking fresh air, consequently suffering much from tuberculosis and diphtheria; delighting in fresh colours and wild music.

In a subsequent page he likens them to the Irish, and the parallel drawn is indeed striking:—

> Ill they might be—undoubtedly were; poor many of them, badly fed some; in real pain, in gnawing anxiety for their dearest; but cold, drab, dull never. Always there was a volubility, an alertness, a power of relaxing into a picturesque attitude in the sun, and waiting, practically regardless of time; all characteristic of the nature of the people. They are like the Irish in their gaiety, their depression, their mercurial temperament; tears and smiles all a-bubble; and in their carelessness of money, a real, heart-free neglect of it when they have necessaries.

When we consider her people's resilience under blows which would have destroyed a less vital race, their dauntless courage, their capacity for organisation and discipline, we must pronounce Serbia an Ally worthy to stand shoulder to shoulder with us in destroying the Powers of Darkness.

The mission came into closer contact with the heterogeneous nationalities which fight under Austro-Hungarian banners. An unlimited supply of prisoners was placed at its disposal, and very efficient was the aid they rendered. Speaking generally, the subjects of the Dual Monarchy—removed from the evil influence of their chiefs—are good citizens and deserve a far better Government than those of Vienna and Budapest. None of them showed the slightest animosity towards ourselves. With the Magyars, indeed, we are still very popular, and most of them seemed to regard the war as a regrettable episode, which will not destroy a friendship dating back to 1849. In our authors' opinion, however, the cardinal lesson to be derived from the struggle now raging is the enormous strength of the military machine, which tears millions unconnected by common ties from their homes and sends them forth to be slaughtered in a cause with which they have no personal sympathy.

Finding time hang somewhat heavily on its hands, the mission undertook to improve the amenities of Vrntse. With the aid of the Austrian prisoners a mosquito-breeding swamp was drained, roads were reconstructed, a public incinerator was set up, and a really scientific slaughter-house approached completion, when an unexpected blow fell on the little town. Treacherous Bulgaria sided with the Central Powers, and 300,000 Austro-Germans helped her to overrun the sorely-tried country. Outnumbered by three to one and pulverised by a vastly superior artillery, the Serbian army was forced to retreat southwards, and Vrntse fell into the enemy's clutches. It is only fair to add that the mission received sympathy and active kindness from the conquerors. Protected by the Geneva Convention, the majority of its staff, with a mountain of baggage, was safely convoyed to Switzerland by way of Budapest and Vienna. The travellers were treated throughout their long journey as guests of the Austrian Government, and the only unpleasantness encountered came from German officials, who one and all displayed the inbred brutality of their race. F. H. S.

* "The Story of a Red Cross Unit in Serbia," by James Berry, B.S., F.R.C.S., and Others. London: J. and A. Churchill, 1916. Price 6s. net.

BOOK NOTES.

Her Majesty the Queen has been pleased to accept from Mrs. Will Gordon a copy of her book "A Woman in the Balkans," which contains one of the most recent intimate accounts of Roumania.

The former Serbian Minister in London, M. S. Boshkovitch, has written a preface for Mr. Gordon-Smith's descriptive work, "Through the Serbian Campaign," which Messrs. Hutchinson are just publishing.

An autobiography which should make a special appeal to NEAR EAST readers is promised shortly, that of Sir Charles Rivers-Wilson. Sir Charles died this year, so what we shall get is a posthumous autobiography. The author was Finance Minister in Egypt from 1877-79, and was on the Council of the Suez Canal Company from 1876 to 1895. As a young man in the public service he was for some time private secretary to Disraeli. He has some good stories of him, and much to say of "Bob Lowe," whose notorious "match tax," as we are reminded, this war time has, in effect, brought into being.

A hero of the Gallipoli campaign is recalled in a volume to be published by Mr. Fisher Unwin, entitled "Charles Lister: Letters and Memories," with an introduction by his father, Lord Ribblesdale. Charles Lister, who was Lord Ribblesdale's second and only surviving son, was at one time a member of the Independent Labour Party, but eventually resigned, and before joining the Army served in the Diplomatic Corps under Sir Rennell Rodd at Rome and Sir Louis Mallet in Constantinople. He died from wounds received in Gallipoli in August of last year.

Next month Mr. Arnold will publish "Light and Shade in War," by Captain Malcolm Ross, war correspondent with the New Zealand Forces, and Noel Ross, who was among the Anzacs wounded in the landing at Suvla Bay. The book contains a joint record of campaigning days and impressions in Egypt and France, as well as in Gallipoli.

Messrs. Constable announce the forthcoming publication of "Abdul Hamid," by Sir Edwin Pears, and "At Suvla Bay," a volume of notes and sketches by Mr. John Hargrave ("White Fox," of the *Scout*) while serving with the 32nd Field Ambulance of the Tenth Division.

PRISONERS OF WAR IN TURKEY.

The Secretary of the War Office forwards the following for publication:—

The British Government were informed in December, 1915, that letters written by, or addressed to, British prisoners of war in Turkey must not exceed four lines in length.

The Turkish Government have now withdrawn these restrictions. It is therefore no longer necessary that letters addressed to British prisoners of war in Turkey should be limited to four lines, but it should be realised that long letters may be subject to delay.

An uncensored message from Jerusalem, which appears in the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, says that an epidemic of cholera is raging throughout Palestine. Many Turkish soldiers have died from the disease.

The British crews of the steamers City of Khios and Assiout, who are prisoners of war at Magnesia, Asia Minor, have now been interned for over 21 months, and so far all efforts for their exchange have failed. Three of the original 72 have died, and three have been removed to hospital. In spite of the dangers and difficulties of the journey 32 visits have been made by the British chaplain at Smyrna since November, 1914.

In a letter written from Mosul on July 3 a British officer, taken prisoner at Kut, says: "Am quite well. It is pretty hot now, but one can buy plenty of milk and eggs, etc., on this road, and now we have arrived here one can get iced drinks. We have been allowed out to cafés here for meals, and have been able to walk about the town. I stayed for a month with a few other officers in an Arab village between here and Baghdad, not being very fit, but am quite well now."

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BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND.

The following is a list of subscriptions to the above Fund received since August 12. Further subscriptions will be gladly received by the Hon. Treasurers (Mr. A. Baker and Mr. W. G. Middleton Edwards) at 5, Giltspur Street, London, E.C.

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AMBULANCES FOR ROUMANIA.

Mr. Alfred Hurst, of Edinburgh, chairman of the National Roumanian Relief Fund, who started immediately on the declaration of war to provide motor ambulances, hospital equipment, etc., has received the following telegram from the Queen of Roumania:—"I am very much touched by your telegram informing me that a committee is being formed in Edinburgh to present me with motor ambulances and hospital equipment, and more especially as it shows that my father's name is remembered."

The Roumanian Prime Minister telegraphed:—"I am very much touched by the proposals you have been good enough to communicate to me, and I have given instructions to the Roumanian Legation, London, to give all necessary help."

The President of the fund is Lord Rosebery, who has started it with a donation of 100 guineas.

LIMERICKS OF THE BOSPHORUS.

As It Seemed "Once Upon a Time."

A correspondent has been kind enough to send us some pleasing "Limericks of the Bosphorus." The few we reproduce below will serve to bring back to refugees from Turkey and many others memories of happy days which, we fear, can never be restored—for, come what may, the slimy trail of the Teuton will be perceptible in Constantinople for a long time to come.

Though anchored in well-ordered climes,
One loves to go wandering at times
By ways that are pleasant
'Neath star and the crescent—
If but in nonsensical rhymes!

'Tis the call of the East—what you will—
'Tis a voice that will never be still,
That will wake you at night
To recall with delight
That vista from Tchamlijah hill.

Or up Giant's Mount it may be
For a glimpse of the shining Black Sea,
Where the Bosphore commences
With rocky defences
And sweeps on so blithely and free.

This the scene of that quaint story olden,
When Jason his knights did embolden
To traverse these seas,
Set with Symplegades,
In quest of the Fleece that was Golden.

Here Orpheus played on his lyre
With such divine magic and fire
That man, rock, and beast
Listened, wrapt, to the feast—
No tribute could surely be higher.

Midway are the towers of Hissar,
Where the owl would keep tryst with the star,
Hooting oft as by rote,
While the bulbul's soft note
Carries strangely, though sweetly, afar.

If one has the wish to explore,
In such comfort as never before,
There's in waiting a *caique*,
And no boat is its like
That has ever pushed out from the shore.

It will take you on any sweet morn
Through the maze of the old Golden Horn,
Past Porte and past tower,
Where Stamboul sits in power,
And in beauty that one should not scorn.

One will want to land oft on each shore,
Where the past has left such a rich store
Of domes and old walls
One must feel, as he calls,
A regret that the proud days are o'er.

Where Marmora's sea is outlined,
If the voyager's heart be inclined,
He will visit some isles
Where the siren still smiles,
And other attractions may find.

Up and down this broad highway of blue
There is naught that is crude or is new;
And what tales might be told
Of the brave days of old,
And all of them thrillingly true!

Thus one who has dwelt by that shore
Must expect that his soul evermore
Will be haunted by dreams—
Tender, fancy-ruled themes—
Which the East can supply in such store.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Sept.	1916. Sept.		1334. Julkada	5676. Ellul
15	2	Friday	17	17
16	3	Saturday.....	18	18
17	4	Sunday	19	19
18	5	Monday	20	20
19	6	Tuesday	21	21
20	7	Wednesday	22	22
21	8	Thursday	23	23

King Nicholas of Montenegro has returned to Paris from the Italian front, where the impression he gained was of a very reassuring character.

The Queen Mother Olga of Greece, who is at present in Petrograd, replying to a telegram which King Peter sent her on the occasion of her birthday, expresses the great satisfaction she felt at the King's good wishes. The Queen Mother added at the same time that she daily kneels and prays to God for the final victory of the Allies and the restoration of Serbia, so that it might protect Grecian territory, which was so dear to her.

A *Times* telegram from Bucharest states that, on the initiative of Queen Marie, the Royal Palace is being transformed into a hospital for the wounded.

A Berlin official telegram states that the King of Bulgaria, accompanied by the Bulgarian Crown Prince, has arrived at the German Main Headquarters in the Eastern theatre of war for a conference with the Kaiser.

Princess Bibesco, cousin of Prince Antoine Bibesco, First Secretary of the Roumanian Legation in London, has left town for Bucharest. She arrived in Sweden on Wednesday.

Prince M. Sturzá, of the Roumanian Legation at Berne, and Count Vacaresco have left London for Bucharest.

H.E. the Roumanian Minister was among the callers at the Foreign Office on Tuesday, and again on Wednesday.

Acting-Lieutenant Nicolas Misu, the younger son of the Roumanian Minister in London, has left England to rejoin his regiment. Lieutenant Henri Misu, the eldest son of his Excellency, is already serving in the Roumanian Army.

M. Boresco, of the Roumanian Legation, arrived in London on Saturday from Matlock.

Madame Lahovary, wife of the Roumanian Minister in Paris, has arrived in London on a visit to her daughters.

M. Yovan M. Yovanovitch, the newly appointed Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James, is, according to present arrangements, expected to take up his diplomatic duties next week.

M. Yovanovitch, although not yet fifty, has had extensive experience in the Serbian Diplomatic Service, in which he has been entrusted with important missions. After studying law at the University of Paris, M. Yovanovitch was successively Attaché, Secretary, and Chargé d'Affaires in the Serbian Legations and Consulates at Skoplje, Athens, Constantinople, Sofia, and Cettinje. With this experience he returned to the Foreign Office at Belgrade as General Secretary, and on the death of M. Milovanovitch he became head of that Department. When M. Pashitch went to the Serbian Foreign Office in 1912, M. Yovanovitch was his right-hand man. In November of that year he went to Vienna as representative of Serbia. At the Austrian capital he remained till the declaration of war in July, 1914, and since then he has been at Nish and Corfu assisting M. Pashitch as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. When in April last the Crown Prince visited Rome, Paris, and London, M. Yovanovitch was a member of the Mission which accompanied him. He has written several political and historical articles on the various aspects of the Balkan problem. For a short time he was Professor of International Law at Belgrade University. M. Yovanovitch has translated several French authors, including Balzac. The Serbian translation of "Notes sur l'Angleterre" by H. Taine is also his work.

The *World* says:—The retiring Serbian Minister, M. Boshkovitch, will leave London for Switzerland in a few days' time to recuperate. The strain of the war has greatly told on him, and he has perceptibly aged since the beginning of the year, and now he feels the absolute need of a protracted complete rest. His stay in London has not been long, but it has been very strenuous, and he has made many friends. His two chief drawbacks were, the one that while he spoke English he did so imperfectly, and the other that he was a bachelor. As a rule a married diplomatist has a better time—and perhaps does more useful work—than a single man. His successor, who comes from Vienna, where he learned everything about the genesis of the great struggle, does not suffer from the latter disability. M. Boshkovitch is not retiring from the Diplomatic Service. The Swiss mountains will give him the needed change, and he will there be able to enjoy his literary pursuits.

M. Voislav Antonievitch, First Secretary to the Serbian Legation in London, is now acting as Chargé d'Affaires.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, and also the Serbian Ministers of War and Public Works and the President of the Skupshtina, arrived at Corfu last Thursday from the Salonika front.

A Sofia telegram to the *Cologne Gazette* dated the 10th inst. says:—Last night, towards midnight, the Roumanian Minister and the Legation staff in Sofia, with the Roumanian Minister and the Legation staff from Constantinople, left Sofia protected by an escort of detectives and police.

A Constantinople message says that the American Ambassador has assumed the protection of Roumanian subjects in Turkey.

The German, Austro-Hungarian, and Turkish Ministers to Roumania arrived in Petrograd on their way home last Friday.

In a conversation which appears in the *Vossische Zeitung* Mr. Elkus, the new American Ambassador at Constantinople, says: "I have been to Berlin several times. We noticed, to our great satisfaction, that neither in the streets, nor still less in the restaurants, were any influences of the war to be perceived." The Ambassador remarks that he goes to Turkey as a sincere and warm friend.

The Serbian Military Mission, headed by General Jivkovitch, the defender of Belgrade, who is popularly known as the "Iron General, has arrived at Petrograd, says Reuter's correspondent there, in a message dated the 11th inst. The members of the Mission will pay visits to the Imperial Headquarters and the Russian Front.

Captain George Lloyd, M.P., has returned to England on leave from Mesopotamia

Lewa W. S. R. May Pasha, Assistant Financial Secretary, Sudan Government, has arrived in England on leave, at the expiration of which he will retire from the service of the Sudan Government.

Lieut.-Colonel H. R. W. M. Smith, D.S.O., who is reported wounded, holds honours for service in the Nile Expedition, including the battle of Khartoum, and in the South African War (the Queen's and the King's medals with five clasps).

The marriage of Commander Viscount Broome, nephew of the late Earl Kitchener, and Miss Adela Monius, eldest daughter of Major and Mrs. Monius, of Ringwould, Dover, took place very quietly on Monday at the Parish Church, Ringwould. Major Monius and Earl Kitchener were first cousins. The bride, who was attended by her youngest sister, Miss Bridget Monius, wore a simple gown of white charmeuse, with old lace collar, and tulle veil, and carried a bouquet of white roses, lilies and myrtle, culled from the gardens of Broome Park. Lieutenant-Commander J. T. Harrison acted as best man. The service was conducted by the Rev. Gordon Cuming. Among those present were the Countess Loreburn, the Countess of Guilford, Lord and Lady George Hamilton, Major A'Beckett (brother-in-law of the bridegroom), and Captain H. Kitchener. The bride and bridegroom afterwards left for Checombe Park, Minchinhampton.

A marriage was celebrated at All Saints' Church, Ramleh, Egypt, on the 8th inst., between Captain John Francis King, only son of Mr. and Mrs. John King, of Wandsworth Common, London, to Helen Muriel, eldest daughter of Sir Armand Ruffer, C.M.G., and Lady Ruffer, of Bulkeley, Ramleh.

Readers in Egypt will hail with pleasure the conferment of the V.C. on Captain (temp. Lieutenant-Colonel) Adrian Carton de Wiart, D.S.O., Dragoon Guards, son of the late Maitre Carton de Wiart, the well-known Cairo lawyer, and cousin of the Belgian Minister of Justice. Captain Carton de Wiart has earned the much-coveted honour for "most conspicuous bravery, coolness, and determination during severe operations of a prolonged nature. It was owing in a great measure to his dauntless courage and inspiring example that a serious reverse was averted. He displayed the utmost energy and courage in forcing our attack home. After three other battalion commanders had become casualties, he controlled their commands, and ensured that the ground won was maintained at all costs. He frequently exposed himself in the organisation of positions and of supplies, passing unflinchingly through fire barrage of the most intense nature. His gallantry was inspiring to all."

Captain Carton de Wiart, V.C., was born at Brussels in 1880, and was educated at the Oratory School, Edgbaston, and Balliol College, Oxford. He served in the South African War as a trooper in the Middlesex Yeomanry (Duke of Cambridge's Hussars), and was twice wounded. He afterwards received his commission in the Dragoon Guards. Lieutenant-Colonel Carton de Wiart, who became well known as a polo player and steeplechase rider, was an adjutant in the Gloucestershire Yeomanry for three years; he served in Somaliland in the Camel Corps in June, 1914, when he was wounded and lost an eye. During his service in Flanders he was severely wounded, and lost his left hand. He had already been awarded the D.S.O., and had received from the King of the Belgians the Order of Leopold and the war medal. He has now been wounded in the head, but hopes soon to return to active service. He married in 1908 the Countess Frederica, eldest daughter of Prince Fugger-Babenhausen.

The evidence of Sir William Garstin was taken by the Mesopotamia Inquiry Commission yesterday week.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Maurice Hankey, K.C.B., will give evidence at the next meeting of the Dardanelles Commission, which will be held on Tuesday next.

Mr. Lucach, of the Chief Secretary's Office, Cyprus, has passed the higher standard of the Greek language in the examination recently held at Troödos.

Mr. W. R. Carruthers, manager of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank at Alexandria, has left London for Egypt on his return from leave.

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A correspondent, writing to the *Daily Telegraph*, says:—While the accession of Roumania to the Entente is justly placed to the credit of the diplomatic representatives of the Allies, it is also a victory for the leader of the Conservative-Democrat party in Roumania, M. Take Jonescu. That statesman has never, since the outbreak of the war, wavered in his opinion that the destiny of Roumania was bound up with the cause of the Allies, for political, social, and all other reasons. In pursuit of this conviction, M. Jonescu worked hard to influence Roumanian opinion, and he was assisted in his campaign by another notable politician of the same party, F. Filipescu. Their task was a heavy one, as the German influence at the Roumanian Court was difficult to overcome. But the personal power of M. Jonescu was, perhaps, greater than he himself suspected. Not only is he an ex-Minister, the leader of a popular party, but he is a fluent speaker, with a charming manner and a fine presence. His English affinities (which are strong) may be traced to the fact that he married, many years ago, an English lady, under somewhat romantic circumstances. He speaks English, and is well known as a frequent visitor to this country.

Writing to one of his friends here, Mr. Oliver Bainbridge, on February 8 last, M. Jonescu said: "I am still hoping that my country will do her duty. I am, for myself, certain that she will do it, but the war will be a long one, and a very difficult one, as the Germans were too well prepared. All the same, I believe in the final victory, otherwise I would not be able to live any longer."

According to an official telegram from Berlin, Enver Pasha has arrived at the German Main Headquarters, and has by an Imperial order been placed à la suite to the Fusilier Regiment of the Guard.

According to a Sofia telegram to the *Kölnische Volkszeitung*, the trial by court-martial for high treason of M. Ghenadieff, who in 1913 was Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, opened on the 6th inst.

The Archbishop of Perth, Western Australia, as Chaplain-General of the Forces of the Australian Commonwealth, is about to visit the Australian chaplains and soldiers in England, France, and Egypt.

Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., will deliver a lecture at Caxton Hall on Saturday at five o'clock on "The Past, the War, and the Future" to wounded Oversea Dominion soldiers.

OBITUARY.

News has been received at Alexandria that Second Lieutenant J. R. M. Lawrence, East Surrey Regiment, second son of the late Rev. T. R. Lawrence and Mrs. Lawrence Dawson, of the Sailors' and Soldiers' Institute, Alexandria, has been killed in France. The fallen officer, who was 21 years of age, joined the Public Schools Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, in August, 1914, and obtained a commission in the East Surreys in May of last year. He went to France with his regiment in January last. He was educated at Haileybury and Pembroke College, Cambridge, and played both hockey and tennis for his 'Varsity.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Beresford Gibbs, Worcestershire Regiment, who is reported killed, had been employed for some years with the Egyptian Army.

The death is announced as having occurred in Rhodesia, on July 29, of Everard Arthur Drummond, third son of the late Mr. W. B. Neale, H.B.M.'s Consul at Athens.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mr. Cyril Cumberbatch has been appointed his Majesty's Vice-Consul at Athens.

Mr. H. A. C. Hoyland has been appointed Acting Vice-Consul at Salonika.

Bimbashi W. McConaghy, M.B., Medical Corps, and Bimbashi C. Cassidy, M.B., Medical Corps, Egyptian Army, have been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

Captain (temporary) C. A. Willis, Assistant Director of Intelligence, Sudan Government, has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

Major C. H. Wolff, the Bedfordshire Regiment, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a special service officer, granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and attached to the 9th Sudanese.

Captain J. R. Maurice, Army Service Corps, has been attached to the Egyptian Army, with the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and attached to the Transport.

Bimbashi J. H. Garstin has been transferred from the Department of Supplies to the Sudan Government.

The Egyptian Council of Ministers has approved of the conferment of the Order of the Nile of the 2nd Class upon Mr. H. A. Humphreys, Director of Administration in the Survey Department, who retired on a pension on April 1 last.

Colonel Thomson has been appointed chief of the British Mission at the Headquarters of the Rumanian Army.

A Reuter's telegram from Bucharest states that M. Camarasescu, Prefect of Silistria, has been appointed to act as Commissioner of the Roumanian Government with the Headquarters of the Russian Army in the Dobrudja.

The following Roumanian Army changes are announced:—

General Averesco has been appointed to the command of the 3rd Army, in succession to General Aslan.

General Crainiceano, former Minister of War, has been appointed to the command of the 2nd Army, in Transylvania, in succession to General Averesco.

General Georgesco has been attached to the Staff of the British Army.

General Alexander Averesco, who has been transferred from Transylvania to the Dobrudja, is one of the most distinguished of Roumanian soldiers. He owes his position entirely to his own merits, having risen from the ranks. He was born in 1859, and took part in the campaign of 1877 as a trooper in a cavalry regiment. He received a commission as sub-lieutenant in 1881, and attained the rank of General of Division in 1912. He commanded the troops in the suppression of the peasant insurrection in the winter of 1907-1908. In the latter year he became Minister of War. During the invasion of Bulgaria in the summer of 1913 he was Chief of the General Staff. At the outbreak of war he commanded the 1st Army Corps.

The new commander of the Roumanian forces in Transylvania—General Gr. Crainiceano—has had a brilliant military career. Ten years ago he was Inspector-General of Engineering, and in 1907, after commanding the Turnu-Severin Division, he was appointed Chief of the General Staff. His next appointment was as Minister of War in M. Bratiano's 1909 Cabinet. From 1911 onward he commanded the Bucharest Army Corps.

General George Georgesco, who has been attached to the Staff of the British Army, commanded the 5th (Constanza) Army Corps. In this capacity he was charged with the surveillance of the frontier districts. He was born in 1857, received his commission as sub-lieutenant in 1879, and attained the rank of General of Division last year.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

CONSTANTINIDES.—On September 9, at Briar Cottage, Herschell Road, Leigh-on-Sea, to Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Constantinides—a daughter (Joyce Mary).

MOIR.—On the 11th inst., at Mount Blair, Crosshill, Glasgow, the residence of her parents, the wife of Ian H. Moir, British Vice-Consul, Sultanabad, Persia—a son.

IN MEMORIAM.

ALEXANDER VAN MILLINGEN, M.A., D.D., Professor of History, Robert College, Constantinople. Died, September 15, 1915, at Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1916.

ROUMANIA'S TASK.

Within a few days of her declaration of war Roumania has experienced an unexpected series of successes and an equally unexpected reverse. She has adopted an eminently sane attitude towards both; she has refused to be over-elated by the rapid progress of her armies in the Carpathians, and is far from being depressed by the course of events in the Dobrudja. It will be well if some of her Allies follow her example and take care that neither enthusiasm nor anxiety prevents them from forming a correct appreciation of the situation as a whole. The pace has been forced at the outset; but the race must be a long one, and is likely to prove full of incident before it is completed. Neither the Government nor the people of Roumania can have anticipated that they had only to take the field in order to find their enemies crumpling up before them over a thousand-mile front. They struck where they were least expected, or some time before they were expected—of this we have the candid assurance of the Austro-Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs—and the result has been that they are meeting with comparatively little opposition until the Austro-German forces in front of them are withdrawn to a shorter line. In the Dobrudja the Roumanians have in turn found the enemy in greater force and more resolutely generalled than he was supposed to be. It would appear that the Russians were intended to be responsible for the major part of the operations in this region; but their troops had not advanced far enough to be able to save Tutrakan and Silistria. There is no need to read into the temporary set-back any failure of the Allies' plans. Some risks have to be taken, and in view of the *coup* which the Roumanians have brought off in Transylvania, no one could urge that they ought to have delayed their declaration of war a single day. The loss of the two towns is a matter for keen regret, although we can conceive of nothing more calculated to steel the nation's heart for the successful conclusion of the struggle, cost what it may. Their capture would in ordinary circumstances have a heartening effect upon the Bulgarians, and we have witnessed the steps taken by Ferdinand of Coburg's allies to make the most of the achievement. But whether, with the grip of the Entente Powers tightening upon her, Bulgaria is in a position to derive full advantage from her success we may leave to the future to show. With the help of Germans, Austrians, and Turks she is making a big effort. The Roumanian territory which she has occupied, however, is south of the Danube, and brings her no nearer any practical objective than she was already at Rustchuk in her own country.

It is significant of the importance which the Bucharest authorities now attach to the Dobrudja operations that they should have appointed General Averesco to command on the Danube front. For a moment there seemed some ground for fearing that Roumania would be tempted by her successes in Transylvania and the Banat, which she is entitled to set against any losses in the Dobrudja, to adopt the attitude that the duty of readjusting the position as between her and Bulgaria devolved upon her Allies. The Russian forces which set out for a campaign in Bulgaria are no doubt equal to the task of ejecting the enemy from the Dobrudja: but the time has passed for the Allies to be content with a negative military policy in any region, least of all in the Balkans. Roumanians instinctively turn their eyes towards Transylvania, and the prospect of seizing the coveted territory in one big rush, as a result of the enemy's unpreparedness, is an alluring one. But it would inevitably prove unattainable. Already the Germans, having taken alarm, have moved down some of their own troops in the direction of Hermannstadt. The chances of an early decision in this region are small, and the Roumanians will do well to take a long-sighted view of the war and to aim at dislodging the Bulgarians and Turks before joining in the effort to break finally the Central Powers. Everything is, or should be, now ready for a supreme trial of strength in the Balkans, and it would be a matter for regret if any failure in the co-operation of the Allies at this stage caused an unnecessary prolongation of the campaign. The Allied offensive has been launched along the whole of the Salonika front. For this moment we have had many months to wait. Now that it has come we can but trust that the effort will prove irresistible. It has started auspiciously: but the long delay has brought the first days of the advance into the autumn, and if a winter campaign is to be avoided much ground will have to be covered during the next two months. The advantages which the subjugation of Bulgaria would offer are so great that it might be thought that the Allies one and all would spare no pains to achieve this end. Whether the thrust from Macedonia and the Russian advance from the Dobrudja will be sufficient to bring about an early collapse of Bulgarian resistance we do not know: but there would be no room for doubt on the subject, if Roumania could simultaneously launch an attack from another direction. However gratifying the occupation of Transylvania might be to the Roumanians, its effect on the duration of the war would not compare with the separation of Bulgaria and Turkey from the Central Powers. If, therefore, Roumania is eager for a short campaign, her interests would seem to lie in helping to the utmost of her capacity in the combined attack about to be made on Bulgaria, and it is to be hoped that General Averesco's appointment implies that she is to adopt this course.

While there is no cause for undue alarm in the situation in the Dobrudja, it would be a mistake to ignore the fact that a consistently successful thrust in this quarter must have embarrassing results for the Roumanians. The Central Powers are hard pressed. Marshal von Hindenburg has just taken over the duties of Chief of the German Staff, and can be relied upon to modify, if not entirely to reverse, the policy of his predecessor in that office, von Falkenhayn. He has been associated hitherto exclusively with the eastern theatre of war, and it is generally believed that, as far as the German Headquarters is concerned, the western front has received more attention than the eastern under the von Falkenhayn régime. Apart, therefore, from the relative gravity in German eyes of the menace in the East and of that in the West, von Hindenburg's predilections will prompt him to make a special effort in the East. In regard to Russia, he can hardly hope to do more than to hold General Brusiloff's advance. The only prospect of any real success would seem to lie in the direction of Roumania, and we must expect von Hindenburg to follow it up with all the forcefulness and determination of which he is capable. He will be ably supported by von Mackensen, who is in supreme command in the Balkans, and who has already given an earnest of his powers in the rapidity with which he has found Roumania's weak spot and dealt his first blow. To counteract the advantage which the concentration of authority in one leader gives the enemy the Allies will have to strike hard individually and strike all the time. The forces at von Mackensen's disposal must be approximately known to the Allied Military Commands. If without further reinforcements they are capable of serious mischief in the Dobrudja and ultimately north of the Danube, it will be useless to rely upon successes in Galicia or on the western front to checkmate them. The Bulgarian army with its German and Turkish supports must be dealt with on the spot and as soon as possible. In this work Roumania will have to co-operate, and not the least difficult part of her task will be so to divide her forces that she can act with effect in Bulgaria without exposing to any serious danger the line she has occupied in the Banat and Transylvania.

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THE INDEPENDENT CHIEFS OF EASTERN ARABIA.

The settled lands watered by the two great rivers of Mesopotamia are bordered to the south and west by deserts which are the home of nomad tribes. The line of demarcation between the Bedouin and the fellaheen is not, however, an ethnological frontier, nor is it a sharply defined economic or political boundary. The cultivator of rice fields and palm gardens is of the same race as the wanderer in the desert; in the past, and often in a past not very remote, his forebears dwelt in the black tents; his habits of life have undergone little radical change, and his ways of thought have suffered no alteration. After the winter rains half the village will revert to a nomadic existence; with their tents and household goods borne on donkeys, they will drive their flocks out into distant grazing grounds, where they will remain until the grass has withered and the water pools are exhausted. Hospitality in turn is extended by them to their neighbours in the wilderness, who in the height of summer come in to the permanent waters and to the comparative sufficiency of pasturage near the rivers.

But the dependence of the desert upon the cultivated lands implies much more than a summer visitation from the outlying tribes. The desert does not produce so much as the necessities of existence; not even the oases of Central Arabia are self-supporting, and nowhere are there any industries for the manufacture of the elementary utensils which the Bedouin require, the clothes they wear, or the arms with which they defend themselves from their enemies. For all these essentials they must come to the inland towns and to the seaports, and they must, therefore, remain on good terms with the people who inhabit them and with the Government which can forbid them access to the markets. Thus it is that not only can remote parts of Arabia be controlled from without, but the rulers of the settled countries must inevitably find themselves thrown into economic and political relations with the independent sheikhs whose wants they only can supply.

Before the occupation of Busreh, the British Government had already come into contact with the Chiefs of Eastern Arabia, but except for a treaty with Ibn Saoud in 1866 we had confined our dealings strictly to those whose territories bordered the sea. With the Sultan of Muscat, the Sheikhs of the Trucial Coast, and the Sheikhs of Bahrein and Koweit we had long had agreements, some of which dated back as early as 1820, our main objects in every case being the preservation of commercial security in the Gulf and the suppression of traffic in slaves and in arms. Our interests were brought more sharply into line with those of the Sheikh of Koweit at the northern end of the Persian Gulf when, in 1899, certain foreign Powers seemed to be turning their attention to Koweit as a possible terminus of a Mediterranean-Baghdad line. The Sheikh saw in that suggestion a fatal end to the position of virtual independence which he had succeeded in maintaining; the British Government saw in it the ominous beginning of a Teutonised Turkish supremacy over waters which, for more than a century, we had policed and lighted, and where our trade was still of greater value than that of any other country. We cut short years of dalliance with Ottoman susceptibilities, during which the Sheikh had never felt certain whether as a last resource we would or would not support him in his efforts to checkmate the pretensions of Constantinople, threw our influence into his scale, and extended to him such protection as the nominal subject of another Power could enjoy.

A year and a-half before the outbreak of war with Turkey, another potentate, who for years past had been seeking for an opportunity for closer relations with Great Britain, forced himself into our line of political vision. Ibn Saoud, ruler of Nejd, that is to say, of the oases and deserts of Eastern Arabia, overran the province of Hasa, which had formerly been in the possession of his house, and pushed down to the shores of the Gulf, ejecting the three small garrisons which upheld the rule of the Sultan. Abdul Aziz Ibn Saoud, perhaps the most striking figure in recent Arabian history, has known every vicissitude of fortune, though he is not yet past middle age. He and his father were turned out of Riyadh, their capital, by their northern rival, the Amir of Jebel Shammar, Mohammed Ibn Rashid, who was the dominating personality of his day in Northern and Central Arabia. For several years Ibn Saoud wandered in exile, seeking refuge for a time in the Syrian desert, in the tents of the great Anazak tribe, with whom he claimed kinship, while his father found hospitality with the Sheikh of Koweit. But when, in 1897, Mohammed el Rashid died, leaving no man of his own remarkable quality to succeed him, Abdul Aziz was not slow to seize an opportunity. Aided by the Sheikh of Koweit, he rode into Riyadh with a small picked band of followers, and, by a master stroke of daring, recovered the town. The tale of his entry at the dead of night, of the swift overthrow of Ibn Rashid's vice-regent, and of the subsequent years of contest with the Shammar, which ended in the re-establishment of his supremacy over Central Arabia, has already grown into an epic on the lips of Bedouin storytellers and songmakers, and when this hero of many battles swept over the Hasa the Ottoman Government was not a little perturbed. The Turks had lavished gifts on Mohammed Ibn Rashid and his successors and studiously cultivated their friendship, hoping through them to maintain some measure of influence in Central Arabia. Ibn Saoud's success was not only a direct hit at their claims to sovereignty, but also the extension of his authority to the Gulf presented the signal danger of opening the deserts to the dreaded influence of that watcher of coasts, Great Britain.

Whether we should have been able to preserve our policy of non-interference with Central Arabian affairs, or whether the proximity of Ibn Saoud to the sea would ultimately have drawn us, as the Turks feared and as he wished, into direct relations with him need not now be determined. The outbreak of war brought our consideration for the Turks to an end, and as soon as he was assured of our friendship Ibn Saoud cast away all shadow of allegiance to the Sultan.

The occupation of Busreh must inevitably bring us into touch with Ibn Rashid and the Shammar; for though the building of the Medina Railway has made it possible to travel from Hail to Damascus in less than a week, the commercial intercourse of Ibn Rashid's oasis is all with the markets on the Euphrates. Every spring the Amir's caravans, 500 or 600 camels strong, make the fortnight's march from Hail to the Irak to replenish the stores of corn and oil, tea, coffee, and sugar which the unlimited hospitality of his palace demand, as well as to purchase the garments with which every tribesman who pays his respects to Ibn Rashid must be presented, in accordance with his rank and importance. By camel caravan the merchants of Najef furnish their partners settled in Hail with the stock-in-trade of the bazaars. Of the markets frequented by the Shammar two are already in our hands. The little towns of Zubair and Khamisiyeh, outposts in the desert, depending respectively upon the metropolitan Busreh and the provincial Souk-el-Shuyoukh, the "market of Sheikhs" on the Euphrates, are in the occupied territories. The seaport of Koweit is administered by our firm ally. Ibn Rashid, therefore, unless he be willing to keep the peace with us, will be reduced to seek his supplies higher up the

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Euphrates, and even there he is beginning to find access difficult. By sea and land we hold the eastern neck of the Arabian bottle.

The Shammar have suffered since the death of Mohammed Ibn Rashid from inefficient and imprudent leading and from family jealousies, resulting in bloody upheavals in the ruling house. The present Amir is a boy of eighteen, untrained in statecraft, ungoverned in temper, and lacking in wise advisers. He clings blindly to the old policy, which has hitherto proved very profitable, of close adherence to Turkey, and shows no leanings towards the pan-Arab sentiment, with which from time to time the Sheikh of Koweit and the ruler of Nejd have coquetted—for reasons not strictly connected with an Arabian patriotic revival. Under the Amir's feeble rule the tribe is, as might be expected, divided against itself, but the Shammar are a proud and valiant people, possessors of their full share of desert virtues, and obedient to their old ideals and desert conduct. They must always be a factor in Arabian politics, and a turn of the wheel might restore to them much of their former supremacy.

One other great tribal group touches the Euphrates. The Anazah, most powerful of all purely nomad confederations, roam the Syrian desert from the borders of Mesopotamia to the eastern frontiers of Syria. They wander north almost to Aleppo, and in those northern regions cross the Euphrates and occupy the rich pasturage of the Khabur. Over this wide area more than one sheikh bears sway. The tribe is divided into four main sections, of whom the Amarat come up to the confines of the Irak. Their paramount chief, Fahad Beg Ibn Hadhdhal, is nominally the ultimate lord of all Anazah, though, in fact, his western neighbour, Ibn Shaalan, who commands the Syrian side of the desert, is a more notable personage. Unlike the Amir of Jebel Shammar and the ruler of Nejd, Fahad Beg has no fixed abiding place. He lives with his tribe, true People of the Camel, who follow where their grazing herds lead them. Yet the strong castles of Ibn Saoud and Ibn Rashid are not more impressive to the imagination than Fahad's encampment. In spring you may find him in the grassy steppes of the Syrian desert, with a couple of hundred tents round him, widely scattered in complete security from attack, and during many hours before you reach him you ride through his camel herds, for the Anazah are the greatest of all breeders. The old Sheikh, seated on fine carpets in his guest tent, with his hawk and his greyhound behind him, offers a picture of tribal dignity which the walled cities and lofty halls of the Central Arabian Princes and their troops of armed slaves cannot rival.

The Amarat scarcely come as far down south as Samawah, on the Euphrates, their market towns being Kerbela and Najef and smaller settlements higher up the rivers. A certain amount of Syrian merchandise——wearing apparel and cotton goods—reaches them also through the enterprise of Damascene traders, but for provisions they are dependent on Northern Irak, and, therefore, on those who rule it. Fahad Beg himself owns some valuable palm gardens which are watered from the Euphrates, and whoever controls the river has some grip on the sources of his private fortune.

The Ottoman Government, save for its constant regard for Ibn Rashid's friendship—a relic of Abdul Hamid's statecraft—followed no consistent policy in its dealings with semi-independent sheikhs. The Pasha had no sympathy with nomad Arabs, and the half-educated townsman of Constantinople or Salonika, who misguided the fortunes of the State through the Committee of Union and Progress, looked upon them as abhorrent relics of barbarism. A strong Governor of the Irak would chasten them, perhaps not wholly without reason; but under his weaker successor their liberty ran yet more wildly into licence. Nazim Pasha might have held them, firmly, if not wisely, but the high positions of the Turkish hierarchy were precarious eminences, and after nine months of office at Baghdad the jealousy of the Committee brought about his overthrow. Yet the task of controlling the tribes of the desert should not be one of the most difficult problems of Mesopotamian administration. The diplomatic parleyings and the alarums of war which sound among the tents, the wildernesses which change hands, and the dynasties which topple down are of no concern to the rulers of the settled lands. It is enough for them that the *de facto* master of the waters should show respect for frontier, road and rail, and for outlying cornfields. Rewards for the observance of agreements are easy to devise—they are familiar and time-honoured in all intercourse with tribal countries; but for any breach the closing of the markets of Irak and the Gulf is a swift and sure retribution.

THE SALONIKA CAMPAIGN.

Mr. H. Charles Woods read a paper before the Geographical Section of the British Association at Newcastle-on-Tyne on Friday last on the Salonika Campaign. In the earlier part of his lecture, Mr. Woods gave an interesting description of the port and town of Salonika. Possessed of a small modern harbour, in one sense the place was completely materialistic and vulgar, whilst in another it has the appearance of being a sort of relic of the past. This, said Mr. Woods, was in part due to the unique composition of its population. Out of a total of about 125,000 souls, approximately 75,000 were Jews. Besides these Hebrews there were about 15,000 Dounmehs—a sect whose exact beliefs were not properly known, and a sect from among whom the Young Turks recruited some of the ablest members of the Committee of Union and Progress. The Jews controlled the business of the city and surpassed the Greeks in their commercial ability, as also in society.

Partly owing to its enclosed position, the heat in Salonika during June, July, August and the first part of September was intense, particularly at night. Mosquitoes were so numerous that it was advisable to sleep under nets almost throughout the year. Between the 10th and 15th of September the atmosphere was cooled by the heavy rains which invariably fell then. In the town there was seldom a heavy fall of snow, but in the hills it was prevalent in winter, when the roads were often stopped by it, and by the difficulty of fording the rivers when they were swelled by the winter rains or by the melting snows.

It is impossible to consider Macedonia as a concrete whole. Politically and geographically it is divided into water-tight compartments. It is a locality possessed of certain well-defined routes which constitute natural lines of communication. The Vardar Valley, dividing East from West, and with the Morava Valley constituting the great high road from South to North, make Salonika the natural port of a large area of the Western Balkans. The importance of the valley and of the port were interdependent, and it was for this reason that Salonika and its surroundings ought either to belong to the owner of this valley, or that the valley ought to be annexed by the owner of the port.

With the assistance of maps and slides thrown upon the screen, Mr. Woods described the country which immediately surrounds Salonika in considerable detail. Whilst on the west of the Vardar it was low and marshy, on the east it was hilly, if not mountainous. The line of mountains and lakes which runs across the Chalkis Peninsula constituted a naturally strong defensive position, for the front is almost entirely protected by the lakes and by the swamps which lie between and to the east of them. The various areas which had been occupied by the Allies after their retirement last winter were served by two railways and by several roads the condition of which used to be bad. The lecturer went on to suggest the various roads and lines by which it was possible to push forward into the interior from Salonika. There were three more or less distinct routes, namely, those which run in the direction of, or via, Monastir; those by or leading from the Vardar Valley; and those which connect the Ægean plain with the interior of Bulgaria, the positions of which latter are governed by the all-important Rhodope Balkans. Unless they had been doubled by the Allies, all the railways were single; most of the roads were out of repair, and many of the bridges were in bad condition. Partly owing to the lack of adequate communications, the difficulties of conducting a campaign in Macedonia were considerable. The Vardar Valley was so narrow that a great part of it was traversed only by the railway, and not by a road. The ordinary means of transport and big guns had for the most part to be replaced by mountain artillery and pack horses which could traverse roads not passable for wheeled traffic. The drought of the summer, which always made water, except in the actual valleys, a difficulty, placed upon the supply section of the army a burden destined considerably to increase the magnitude of their task.

The whole military position at Salonika had been changed by the entry of Roumania into the war. The enemy's position in, and his communications by way of, Serbia and Bulgaria had at once been endangered. The Bulgarians had been obliged to take not merely precautionary measures on their northern frontier, but to immobilise a considerable force for its defence. In short, the enormous difficulty of making an Allied advance from Salonika must have been considerably lessened, and what had been impossible in the past might conceivably be feasible in the future

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A good many letters have appeared in the Press lately on the subject of our troops serving in Mesopotamia. For example, last week there was one in the *Morning Post*, signed "The Parent of an Officer," and headed "The Mesopotamia Muddle." The writer quoted extracts from a letter written by his son from Mesopotamia, and dated July 15, in which reference is made to conditions in hospitals which are indeed disgraceful—some patients without blankets, clothes, beds; some lying "on stretchers, on their own blankets massed on the filthy, dirty ground—126° in the shade"; only one orderly to look after between sixty or eighty, "some of whom are mad with heat-stroke and want holding down." And this, the writer adds, is "nowhere near any fighting, and has been going on for three months."

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Now, I do not wish to comment on these things. The Government has told us that it is now doing all it can to put matters right as quickly as possible, and I, for one, am glad to believe the statement. Moreover, we all hope that the Mesopotamia Inquiry will have good results in the way of apportioning responsibility for past blunders; and we do not want to assume any responsibility for forming judgment in advance on incomplete data. What we can do is to try to get more adequate recognition of the work done by the Mesopotamia force amidst conditions that are quite indescribable—recognition in the way of rewards and promotions, which seem to be long overdue, surely; and to let our men out there know that we in England have not forgotten them entirely amidst the exciting events that have been taking place nearer home. A correspondent of *The Times* passes on a suggestion from an officer serving in that far-off region, to the effect that "the Mesopotamia Branch of the Y.M.C.A. might well receive some special aid." Cigarettes would apparently be appreciated, and the little luxuries that find their way to other theatres of the war would be just as welcome on the Tigris and the Euphrates as they are elsewhere. But they take a long time on the way. So the thing is *to get them off at once*, while we think of it!

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King Constantine's speech to the hundred and fifty odd officers from Salonika who waited upon him to assure him of their unswerving loyalty to his person did not strike me as being a very judicious performance. For, if you examine it, what does it amount to? An expression of thankfulness either: (1) that these particular officers had approved of his policy of handing over Greek fortresses, Greek guns, Greek ammunition, and Greek subjects, to the "hereditary foe" without a kick; or (2), that their sense of duty to himself was stronger than their sense of duty to their country. Moreover, it seems to me, the admission that "their action had caused him the greatest joy" implies that it was also a great surprise to him to find them loyal to him under the strain imposed on their loyalty by his policy; for, human nature being what it is, when we get what we fully expect as a natural right, it seldom affords us "the greatest joy," does it? I am not surprised that King Constantine *was* surprised, of course: it seems to me the most natural thing in a very abnormal situation. But I am astonished that he should so openly have manifested his joy. I am surprised, too, that he should have allowed his delight to carry him to the length of declaring that the conduct of the "faithful" officers would entitle them to have "their names inscribed in history in iron letters," that it would "furnish a most brilliant page in military annals," and that it would "set an unprecedented example to coming generations."

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With all due respect to Field-Marshal 'Tino, it looks to me as if his anger against those Greeks who rose in the defence of Greek soil had rather carried him away. "Iron letters" may be as cheap as Iron Crosses, but brilliant pages are hardly likely to be written in any military annals by men who tamely hand over their country's defences to their country's most bitter enemy without striking a blow for them; while, if it be argued that they did so in accordance with Royal orders, one would ask why they did not think it worth while to draw the sword against those who disobeyed the said Royal orders. That their conduct will set "an unprecedented example to coming generations" I, for one, will not dispute. But, for the sake of the coming generations, I trust that it is an example unlikely to be followed very widely. No: I am sorry, but I cannot congratulate King Constantine on his oration.

CORSAIR.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Neutrals and Roumania.

The "neutral's point of view" of the intervention of Roumania is the subject of a leading article in the *Outlook*:—

It would really seem as if they imagined that Roumania had been doubtfully balancing the chances of the combatants up to a fortnight ago and had at last come to the conclusion—perhaps because of the Russian advance—that the Allies were the winning side and therefore the side to be supported. So, these critics appear to say, if Roumania with her intimate knowledge of affairs on the Eastern front is prepared to risk all on the success of the Allies, there must be something in it; let us revise our estimates and modify our tone accordingly. Now, if these good people would only try to realise that after two years' experience of this life and death combat no sanely governed Power on a sudden impulse throws off its hat and coat and leaps into the ring, that, on the contrary, a would-be combatant must undertake months of preparation in concert with the Powers to which it proposes to adhere, and that the means and the date of active co-operation are the result of a pooling of effort and a joint policy, they would understand that their forecast of the war ought to have been reconsidered months ago, at the time when, with the most ample confidence in their Ally-to-be, the British and French Governments began to supply munitions to Roumania. For then it was, well before the Russian "recovery," and not in the end of August, that the situation became clear to the sharp-sighted diplomatists and soldiers at Bucharest, who have contrived to veil their intentions so skilfully that the Central Governments were allowed no tangible ground of remonstrance until they were handed a formal declaration of war.

The Greek Army.

That the Greek Army is dominated by German influence has been dinned into English ears for so long that English people may be forgiven for believing it. A writer in the *Manchester Guardian* will have none of it, however. He says:—

The prevalent impression that German influence dominates the Greek army is false, though it has been fostered by German propagandists. Anyone who wishes to prove its hollowness had better try to speak German to Greek officers. He will seek far ere he can use it. On the other hand, those who do not speak French are few, and a considerable number know English. In the ranks, owing to the large numbers of men who have been in America, an Englishman is seldom at a loss. The writer went all through Macedonia in the campaign of 1913 conversing in English with soldiers every day.

The Baghdad Railway.

A neutral, who has recently visited Turkey and Syria, describes in *The Times* some of the activities which he observed along the line of construction of the Baghdad Railway. He writes:—

The break in the Baghdad Railway over the Taurus Mountains is forty-five miles, and at present is covered by motor service. From 15,000 to 20,000 Turkish peasants are at present employed in completely rebuilding the road. They are widening it at all points, straightening all curves, lowering and equalising grades, making it ready for the heaviest possible motor traffic, all with the appearance of the greatest haste. It ends in a beautiful Alpine valley at a place called Bozanti on the main line, from whence it starts the train for Haidar Pasha. This route can be covered in two and a-half days, or about sixty hours, without changing of cars. It is along this section of the Baghdad Railway that the greatest signs of warlike preparation appear. The tunnel at Bozanti is at least three miles long, and will require at least two years more to complete. It is true that the Taurus is actually pierced by a tunnel which has a small, narrow track running through it, but the opening is only the vault of the tunnel proper. There is a small narrow-gauge track,

Public Opinion

Edited by PERCY L. PARKER

PUBLIC OPINION'S greatly increased and increasing circulation since the war began shows that it fulfils a most useful purpose to-day by way of inspiration and information. It gives a magnificent analysis of all the great problems—social, political, financial, and religious—arising out of this War of Nations which will alter the whole of life for the present generation.

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TWOPENCE WEEKLY

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and this is being used to hurry ammunition through. This naturally interferes with the excavation, and, besides, it is a slow business. The engineers state that by the time the Taurus tunnel is completed all the other smaller tunnels of the approaches on the north and south will have been completed also. The long Bozanti tunnel is holding up the great work.

The Future of Serbia.

Mr. J. Ellis Barker, writing in the *Outlook*, discusses the future of Serbia. He declares that—

The Serbians are not merely "a nation of swineherds" as the Austrians assert. They are a nation of warriors, agriculturists, and artists. They possessed a highly developed civilisation which was destroyed first by the Turks and then by the Austrians. Their ancient churches and monasteries, their music, and especially their poetry and fairy-tales, show that the Serbians are not only a brave and hard-working people, but that they are a highly gifted nation as well. The future should see a great revival in the Balkan Peninsula, and in the new Serbia towns will arise which may vie in wealth and in culture with those of Western Europe. A condition for the peaceful development of Serbia is the elimination of Bulgaria as a factor for evil. The Bulgarians have terribly ill-used their strength in attacking their Allies, who had saved them, first in 1913 and then in the present war. Bulgaria must be reduced to such an extent as to make impossible another criminal attack on the peace of the Balkan Peninsula and on the peace of the world.

Bulgaria's Harvest.

As Bulgaria has sown so will she reap, says Mr. Barker in the same article:—

History is apt to repeat itself. Serbia, being attacked on all sides, was rapidly vanquished. Bulgaria's resistance may be equally rapidly broken by the Allies unless that country should prefer unconditional surrender to abject defeat. In a few weeks' time devastated Serbia may be freed from her tormentors. The moment invites therefore consideration of Serbia's position and future. Policy should be shaped by interest and sentiment, for the moral factor is quite as important in the life of nations as is the material factor. The sentiments of nations, as of individuals, cannot be disregarded with impunity. Serbia deserves the sympathy and consideration of the Allied Powers. Her terrible sufferings call for the kindest and most considerate treatment, particularly as the shortsightedness or the credulity of the Allies is probably largely responsible for Serbia's sufferings. It would appear that blind philo-Bulgarism on the part of the allied statesmen encouraged Bulgaria to stab Serbia in the back. The present war is a war of right against might, of liberty against unscrupulous tyranny. The allied statesmen have repeatedly proclaimed that they are the champions of the small nations, that the oppressed nationalities will be set free by them, that they will reconstruct the map of Europe on the basis of nationality, that they will make good the losses which Belgium and Serbia have suffered on behalf of Europe and of civilisation. Serbians expect that the new Serbia will comprise the whole of the Serbian race.

Germany and the Armenians.

How far is Germany responsible for the most recent outrages committed by the Turks upon the unfortunate Armenian people? The *Glasgow Herald* offers a trenchant indictment of Berlin:—

. . . the only people who have the power to save this wretched nation say not a word. Those people are the Germans. When the massacres began last year a whisper from Berlin could have stopped them. They were not fanatic outbursts on the part of the Moslem soldiery; they were part of a definite and deliberate scheme, organised from Constantinople, and it is impossible that they could have been carried out without the knowledge of the German Ambassador and therefore of the German Government. . . . Official Germany knows perfectly well what is going on, and the reason why official Germany will not raise a finger is that the extermination of the Armenians is in the interests of Germany's political and economic designs in the Near East. In no other way can we explain the attitude of Berlin. . . . But unless German public opinion is thoroughly awakened to this awful crime, to which the Germans are virtually accessory, there seems little hope for the Armenians. Only Germany has the power to save them. Her moral culpability is great in keeping silent and uttering no protest. It is infinitely greater if we consider the devilish *Weltpolitik* which accepts the blotting out of a nation as the providential removal of an obstacle in its path.

Turco-Bulgarian Dilemma.

Neutral diplomatists "who watch the situation with unprejudiced eyes are eagerly looking for the first indication of a breakaway among the luckless Allies of the Central Powers" is the interesting view of the London correspondent of the *Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury*. He writes:—

It is Bulgaria and Turkey who are feeling the strain most severely. They had no financial resources for the war, and Germany, if she can give her allies some officers and plenty of munitions, cannot give them men or money. She can only offer them dubious paper and exchange Turkish Treasury bonds for German War Loan, leaving it to financiers to decide which is the more valuable. Bulgaria when she entered the war was thinking only of helping herself to a slice of Macedonia, which belonged to Serbia, and she is now finding that troubles may attend a successful robber. Neutral diplomatists suspect that Bulgaria has already made tentative offers of peace, but they have no doubt as to what answers will be made to such overtures if and when they are made.

Bulgaria's Terms.

The demands by the Bulgarians will not be exorbitant, suggests the correspondent:—

Bulgaria's requirements will certainly be modest, and Ferdinand would doubtless be ready to abandon his ally if his dynasty were left on the throne and if he could retain a small slice of Macedonia just to show his people that he did not go to war for nothing. Bulgaria, however, has to atone for the sufferings she inflicted on Serbia, and if Ferdinand imagines that his treachery can escape lightly he will soon be undeceived. There is every indication that the cosmopolitan gang who have got the control on Turkey are now under no illusions. They are far too astute to ignore the reality of the situation, and the fact that not one of them is really a good Mahommedan prevents any element of religion entering into their calculations. Neutral observers are convinced that very shortly, if they have not done so already, the Turkish rulers will approach the Entente Powers, but the reply will be the same as will be made in the case of Bulgaria.

Articles to Note.

"A Surprise Invasion" (of Transylvania), in the *Morning Post* (September 13).

"German Intrigues in Greece," in *The Times* (September 13).

"The Roumanians," in the *New Statesman* (September 2).

THE ANCIENT HISTORY OF THE SUDAN.

An interesting paper on "The Ancient History of the Sudan" was delivered recently at the Soldiers' Institute, Khartoum, by Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, Director of Education, who said that our knowledge of the ancient history of the Sudan had changed wonderfully in the last few years. Greek and Roman writers, who used to be our only authorities, told many fabulous stories about the country, which some of them represented as being inhabited by lordly human monsters. In place of these myths archæological researches were presenting us with a picture of development which, however new in detail, proceeded on the same general lines as in other countries. For the period corresponding with the old Empire in Egypt, about 3500 B.C., we had still to depend mainly on the records of reeds preserved in Egyptian tombs, but for the period of the Middle Empire, say, about 2000 B.C., a flood of new light had been thrown by the excavations which Dr. Reisner had been conducting during the last four seasons at Kerma. From these, it appeared that the country was then occupied in force by the Egyptians, and the graves of the Egyptian rulers and garrison which Dr. Reisner opened showed that in their own funerals these Egyptians adopted the terrible practice of burying alive with themselves a varying number of slaves and women, a practice which had survived till quite recent days in parts of Central Africa. The graves of one of the Egyptian governors contained the bodies of over 300 human victims. Side by side with this barbarous custom there were evidences of a much higher state of material civilisation than was previously suspected, the discoveries including gold-legged angaribs, ebony boxes inlaid with ivory and mica, bronze swords, beautiful scarabs, ostrich feather fans, and pottery finer in fabric than anything hitherto found in old Egyptian sites. The lecturer described next the extension of Egyptian rule to Nepata (Gebel Barkel) under the new Empire and the subsequent arrival of refugee priests from Thebes. The rise of the Ethiopian Dynasty under Piankhi was illustrated by quotations from the inscription describing Piankhi's expedition, his anger at the starvation of his enemy's horses, and his siege of Memphis. The story of the emissaries sent by Cambyses to Meroe was also told, also the miserable end of the Persian Expedition, and the lecturer concluded by giving a very brief sketch of the later history of the Sudan during Ptolemaic, Roman and Mediæval periods, up to the final overthrow of the Christian Kingdom of Soba, about 1500 A.D.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

According to information which reaches me from Bucharest—my correspondent wrote some time before war was declared by Roumania—M. Radoslavoff has abandoned the Bismarckian attitude which he adopted earlier in the war. When the Committee of Public Supply was reorganized at Sofia some months ago he opposed, successfully, the suggestion that it should be autonomous in composition, declaring that his was the responsibility of governing Bulgaria. "I would never tolerate the substitution of a private institution for Government control," he was reported to have declared. So it was that the Committee of Public Supply failed to secure the control of the importation and exportation of country produce. The result of Government control was that there was famine in the land, and public indignation has been such that Radoslavoff has had to sing another tune. In face of the grave problem that confronts the country he has capitulated completely, and the Committee is now supreme in all matters concerned with the disposal of produce. It is suggested, however, that he has held on too long to the reins. I wonder!

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In the merry game of give and take the Huns have not scored over Roumania. It will be recalled that, on the declaration of war by the latter, the Germans immediately announced the sequestration of Roumanian capital in Germany, and something like £20,000,000 was involved in the order. Our Bucharest friends have entered upon reprisals, and will be able to sequestrate "or render worthless" German capital to the extent of double that sum. Roumanian Rentes held in Germany represent a very considerable sum, and the Roumanian Ministry of Finance has sent a Note to all Allied and neutral States calling attention to the fact that any scrip of the Roumanian Rentes discovered in Berlin cannot be negotiated. It is estimated that Rentes to the value of between 700,000,000 frs. and 800,000,000 frs. are still held in Germany, and an attempt has been made to dispose of these holdings in the United States.

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One of the discussions at the annual meeting of the British Association last week cannot be passed over in silence—namely, that in the Geographical section on political frontiers. The arguments, which were mainly intended to call the attention of Europe's future map-builders to the difficulties attending the creation of artificial frontiers, were based on the dictum that natural boundaries (such as the Pyrenees between France and Spain, for instance, or the Danube between Western Roumania and Bulgaria) are the only possible lasting boundaries between various States. An academic debate ensued as to which—river or mountain—was the more perfect boundary, and the subject was closed by Sir Arthur Evans, president of the association, who reminded his audience of Serbia's claims to an open window on the Adriatic—a claim which he rightly hoped would be realised at the end of the war.

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Sir Arthur Evans's reminder was most timely. In theorising, with maps in front of us, on how Europe should be partitioned off so as to form a happy family of States, we are apt to lay too much stress on natural boundaries, forgetting that there are political and economic questions of far greater significance to the life of a nation than are its "natural" boundaries. Thus, a Serbia bounded by rivers and mountains, which at the same time prevent her from reaching the open sea, is not only of necessity an anæmic State, but even a possible factor of unrest. Similarly, a Roumania absolutely dependent on the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles for her exports is a crippled organism. Or, again, a Bulgaria surrounded by natural frontiers but cut off from the sea would continue to be a hotbed of unrest in the heart of the Balkans.

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The above is one of the most vital aspects of map-making which must not be forgotten when, at the Round Table after the war, diplomats carve out the future Europe. But there are many others, political as well as economic, which will also have to be considered—such as, for instance, the distribution of races, which has been one of the most vexed questions of all times. If we could give each of the Near Eastern States its assured outlet to the sea, and at the same time, by a system of emigration, re-distribute minorities abroad so that they could live in unison with their majorities at home, we should be in a fair way to create an almost Utopian Europe. In my opinion, therefore, it is essential that these two aspects of the "national" life of each State should take precedence over the "natural boundary" question. Combine both natural and national if you can; but, if not, let the former go overboard. It would be interesting to draw up on these lines the approximate frontiers of the new Near East, but I think the opportune moment has not arrived yet for a more explicit discussion of the subject. Let the above general indication, therefore, serve to show the general lines on which map-making in the Near East will have to be conceived if anything like peace is to reign in that troubled corner of old, war-worn Europe.

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The article on German activities in Asia Minor, written by a neutral in *The Times* on Saturday, throws a welcome light on the present state of the Baghdad Railway in the Amanus and Taurus Mountains and in the vicinity of Aleppo. Unfortunately, not even an approximate date is given, so that it is rather difficult to determine exactly when the neutral writer was in Aleppo and saw the things he wrote about; but I do not think we will err much if we take last spring as the season of his sojourn in Asia Minor. At that time, then, the traveller intending to go to Constantinople from Aleppo could take the train to Islahieh, sixty miles away to the north, where there has been constructed "a network of tracks and railway sidings capable of holding a dozen trains." (No further information is given us as regards the state of the line towards the east.)

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Towards the north-west, however, the following picture of the line is given us. A new road, built within six months or a year, leads over the Amanus Mountains. "It is not fully metalled. There are no guarding walls or finished culverts, and it is apparently only a temporary road, liable to be washed away and evidently only to be used until the tunnel is completed at that point." Twenty-six miles in length, it is exceptionally steep, and is mainly used by German military lorries of 40-60 h.p. It ends at the railway station at Mamoura, distant about five hours by motor from Islahieh. Mamoura itself is the scene of great German activity, but as the line westwards across the Taurus Mountains has not been completed yet, travellers (it appears from the account in *The Times*) have to continue their journey by motor road, about forty-five miles through the Cilician Gates to Bozanti railhead on the Haidar Pasha section. This road is being entirely rebuilt, and 15,000 to 20,000 Turkish peasants are at present employed in this task. It can be covered by car in about two and a-half days.

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The big tunnel through the Taurus Mountains begins at Bozanti. It is at least three miles long, and, "according to the most recent news from the Swiss engineers in charge, it will require at least two years more to complete." It is true (says the neutral writer) that the Taurus is actually pierced by a tunnel which has a small, narrow track running through it, which is being used to hurry ammunition through, but it is only a subsidiary construction, around which the U-shaped definite tunnel will have to be bored. According to the engineers, by the time this tunnel is completed, all the other smaller tunnels and the approaches in the north and south will have been completed also.

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Bozanti itself, like Mamoura, is a centre of tremendous German activities, military as well as otherwise. A big German camp has been constructed, and is served by more than one hundred large 40-50 h.p. lorries, each capable of carrying from 10-20 tons, whilst it is reckoned that no fewer than 300 lorries, the newest type of 60 h.p., are in use on the Taurus and Amanus roads. As for the Bozanti railhead station, it has been, and is still being, extended to such an extent with sidings, crossings, and bridges as completely to cover the narrow valley in which it lies. In conclusion, one point mentioned in the instructive article under review can be referred to here—namely, that in the forty-eight hours' journey from Bozanti to Haida Pasha no fewer than forty trains, eastward bound, passed the neutral observer's train, to which would have to be added the many which passed him at night. So that it would appear that the Turks have not only considerably increased their rolling-stock on this line (a great part of it has doubtless been drawn from other systems, including the British and French lines expropriated by the Government), but that they have also been able to keep their stocks of coal replenished in spite of all our attempts, some of them very lukewarm indeed, to prevent them. Moreover, it is curious to note that thousands of the trucks, wagons and freight cars on the Baghdad Railway have still the Belgian mark upon them. Doubtless they came to Constantinople, after the fall of Serbia, when the Pest-Sofia line had been reopened, and that they brought coal to the Turks, thus proving a double blessing.

COMMENTATOR.

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Alexandria Cotton-Bourse.

History of the Crisis, and why the Moratorium was Established.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 31.

The decision of the cotton brokers of Alexandria not to transact any business in November futures at more than $23 until September 20 has naturally created a very great sensation throughout the country. The reason given by the brokers for this very arbitrary action is that the position has become so abnormal, and that prices have risen so rapidly and threaten to continue to rise, that they cannot find cover for their clients who have sold, and who are faced with differences which it will be quite impossible for them to meet.

As the brokers are, in default of their clients, responsible for these differences, they also are threatened with bankruptcy. They affirm, moreover, that the recent rise in Egyptian cotton is quite unjustified, and that the difference between it and American is out of all proportion. For this reason they consider that any rise beyond $23, the price last dealt in on the Alexandria Bourse, will be unreasonable, so they have fixed that price as the limit beyond which they do not consider that they should go, at any rate for the present. They say that at this price it will be possible for them to tide over the present crisis. It may be remarked in parenthesis that this decision is purely a private arrangement between the brokers, and that it has not been sanctioned by the Bourse Committee, which as a rule deals with such matters.

Position of Merchants.

It should be explained that when in ordinary years the merchant sells ahead to Europe and buys future contracts in Egypt to cover his position, his "contrepartie" may be either the holder of stocks in Alexandria, who sells against his stock, or the cultivator, who sells against his crop to secure the price, or the pure speculator. When the merchant in due course becomes a holder of stock, and sells contracts in order to liquidate his "future" position, his "contrepartie" in that case is either other merchants who have sold ahead to Europe, or pure speculators, or cultivators who are actually selling their crop and so desire to liquidate their own "future" position.

This year the merchants have sold forward on a larger scale than usual in view of the larger crop, and, of course, have bought correspondingly to cover their position. Owing, however, to the abnormal situation created by the complete depletion of the stock in Alexandria, their "contreparties" have been mainly constituted by cultivators and by pure speculators, who have sold in anticipation of prices dropping later on as a result of a larger Egyptian crop. These expectations have not, however, been realised. The Egyptian crop will be smaller than was anticipated by the speculators, and the American will be short. The result has been a sudden and sharp rise, and pure speculators, who have been for the most part sellers, have found it necessary to cover their position.

Unfortunately for them, however, no contracts are offering, for the simple reason that the ordinary holder of stock in Alexandria no longer exists, the cultivators refuse, as is their wont, to fix prices for their crops on a rising market, the owners of early arrivals of new crop likewise decline to sell, as they think better prices lie ahead, and the merchant, who would, under ordinary circumstances, become the "contrepartie" of the speculators on account of his actual purchases of stock necessitating sales to cover his previous purchases of future contracts, cannot assume that position, as he cannot find stock; whilst "bear" speculators are not operating.

Reason for the "Moratorium."

It was in these circumstances, and seeing that the persistent efforts on the part of holders of sale contracts to cover would merely have the effect of further inflating prices, that the brokers decided to protect themselves by declaring what they called a moratorium, in the hopes that that would bring about the required relief and readjustment of the situation. The latter could be relieved if some of the larger estates could be prevailed upon to sell their crops. The Domains might well contribute towards this. That is, however, purely a matter for the Government to decide.

No matter what is done, it is to be feared that there will be several failures as a result of this crisis, but that cannot be avoided under the circumstances. Whether the brokers are right or not in their contention that Egyptian is proportionately too high by comparison with American, will soon be decided, for the official statement of the American crop will be issued at Washington in the first days of September, and that ought to place Egyptian on the basis on which it should rightly stand.

One of the excuses put forward by the brokers for their position is that they are forbidden to speculate, and hence to cover a doubtful position themselves, by the new Bourse regulations, which were put into force on the 16th inst. There can, however, be no doubt as to the wisdom of the Government in insisting on this prohibition. It may be admitted that a certain amount of speculation must necessarily be carried on to make a market, and also to assist the trade to safeguard its position, but there are limits to these operations, and, in framing the regulations as it did, it must not be forgotten that the Government Commission was not only acting in the general interests of the community, but was also respecting the wishes so often expressed by the cotton trade. If any alteration is required in these regulations it is to make some provision for preventing a recurrence of such a combine on the part of the brokers. There should certainly be some machinery which can be put into motion immediately any such action as the one under discussion is taken to intervene and prevent the dislocation of the market and inflict on the offending parties the penalties which their action richly merits.

The "Bearing" Movement.

Although the depletion of the stock in Alexandria was in a measure responsible for the critical situation which has arisen, there is no possible doubt that a serious contributory factor has been the "bearing" movement which has been in operation of late. It is idle to deny its existence, as some people are doing. For some time there has been great talk of a bumper Egyptian crop, and it has been currently stated that the area under cotton would turn out to be 2,000,000 feddans, an area, it may be pointed out, that has never been attained in this country and which is 15 per cent. larger than any previous figure registered. When about a month ago the Ministry of Finance announced that the area was 1,688,000 feddans there was a howl of protest in Alexandria, and at once discredit was cast on these figures, which had, of course, upset the calculations of the "bears." But their manœuvres were without avail, and instead of the market being depressed, prices rose persistently.

Further, to aggravate matters, there came private reports of a short crop in America, and at once prices went up with a bound in sympathy with New York. Then the fat was in the fire, for the "bears," who tried to hedge and to cut their losses, found, as mentioned, that there was no cover offering, and that the more they sought to get out of their dilemma the higher the prices tended to go.

The occurrence of this crisis is in the highest degree regrettable. It may not have been avoidable owing to the abnormal conditions which have come into existence, as so many maintain; but one cannot help feeling that at the bottom of the whole matter are the bearing operations referred to. For this reason one can have little sympathy with those who are hit, and among those who must bear some of the blame are certainly the brokers, who ought to have been more careful in taking on business.

Difficult Settlement.

A settlement took place yesterday and the day before, and according to the latest reports, although it was effected at the price of $23, it was carried out without difficulty. Very great efforts are being made by all concerned to bring about a speedy return to normal, and some of the more public-spirited members of the trade are selling in order to assist in smoothing over matters. It is hoped that operations in futures will be resumed under the old conditions within a week, if not sooner, and those who are considered to know something about the situation say that it was never as bad as was made out. An impartial consideration of all the facts leads to the conviction that the Alexandria market is not strong enough, and that operations are carried out on too fine a margin, in proof of which we have the fact that if conditions tend to become abnormal there is at once panic, followed by failures.

It is to be hoped that this crisis will result in cleansing the "place" of the elements which have all along tended to affect the stability of the local market; but it is very much to be feared, in fact, it is almost a foregone conclusion, that the attitude taken up by the brokers will have discredited the Alexandria market in Europe, with the result that the covering operations required by the trade at home and here will in all probability henceforward be done altogether, or mostly, in Livepool.

GRÆCO-GERMAN FINANCE.

Gloomy Outlook of a Berlin Newspaper.

Of the Greek loans offered for subscription in Germany and quoted on the German Exchanges the following amounts were in circulation at the end of 1915, according to the *Tägliche Rundschau*. The interest of German capital is restricted mainly to the first six loans which, since 1898, have been subject to the International Finance Commission. The 4 per cent. Railway Loan of 1902 stands next with its smaller amount. The annual report of the Commission puts the coupon remittances to the German paying houses as follow :—

	Drachmæ
National Bank of Germany.....	398,000
S. Bleichröder.....	681,000
Dresden Bank.....	340,000

But these figures do not give a complete picture, for they make no mention of those coupon totals which, although in German hands, are redeemed in Paris and London for exchange purposes in peace time. That these are not small sums the following information goes to show :—From July 1, 1912, to June 30, 1913, Greek loans to the amount of 968,000 marks were taken up by German banks (pay counters). In 1913-14, 915,000 marks; in 1914-15, 1,666,000 marks. The explanation is clear. Formerly, when the connections with Paris, London, and Athens were undisturbed, considerable amounts of coupons, particularly 5 per cent. Peir-Lar Loan and 4 per cent. Rente of 1889, at their fixed exchange of 80, were sent to Paris "im arbitragewege" (by way of balancing exchange). On the other hand, we have to bear in mind that our balancing of effects during the war, owing to the altered circumstances regarding exchange, gave opportunity to knock off Greek Loan stock abroad to a total amount of some millions.

In all the circumstances it may be taken that Germany's possession of Greek Loans amounts to about 80,000,000 drachmæ.

Hitherto, the payment of the German coupons has experienced temporary delays which could be explained by interruption of communications rather than from lack of good will. But the balances (in our favour) seem in due course practically exhausted, and their filling up again will depend very much on further political developments (September 8). Even if the security pledged for our loans remain good for the whole service, it is by no means clear whether the necessary remittances for the German coupons will be forthcoming for some time to come.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON REPORTS.

"Prospects Not so Prosperous" at the End of August.

We take the following summary of the reports received from Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture from the *Bulletin* of the Ministry of Agriculture, published at Alexandria, on September 1:—

Weather favourable, though reported as having been somewhat cool and damp at night in some provinces. Water supply sufficient. The cotton worm attack, which was reported to be over at the end of July, reappeared in August with some intensity in parts of Behera and Gharbia, and, to a smaller degree, in Sharkia. The damage, although in some cases important, was of a local nature. Where a severity of attack was noticeable, it could be traced to insufficient care being accorded to the picking of egg-masses. It should be remarked, however, that the spontaneous effort of the cultivators themselves in collecting egg-masses shows that they have at length realized the benefit of the measures so long advocated and enforced by the Government, and that this collection, in the best-managed farms, has been accepted as an agricultural necessity. This, combined with the restrictions imposed for the late watering of bersim, has rendered this pest of comparatively small account.

In Lower Egypt practically all reports agree that the trees have developed much growth and that the flowering on the upper branches has been profuse, owing to the favourable climatic conditions that prevailed until about the middle of August. The bolls on the lower branches are, however, far from abundant, and, when present, are often comparatively small in size. This is due to the sudden changes in temperature at the critical period of the production of first flowers—the heat waves of May and June, assisted perhaps by too frequent applications of water—but is not in any way attributable to insect attack. The success of the crop will depend to a great extent this year on the satisfactory formation and ripening of the upper and middle bolls, and on their escaping the ravages of the pink seed-worm, which, compared with last year, exhibits signs of diminution only in places where the destruction of balls and uncleaned sticks was rigorously carried out in the winter.

Upper Egypt.

In Upper Egypt, picking in the basins, which commenced towards the end of July, became general in August, the yield proving almost everywhere unsatisfactory, and the bolls being reported to be small. In some of the basin-lands the plants had to be pulled during or after the first picking—and in some cases even before—owing to the early flooding. The over-watering reported last month from certain localities has brought on luxuriant growth but very few bolls. The pink seed-worm attack has trebled in intensity during the month, and has spread all over the country, including the cotton cultivation in Assuan, as may be seen from the figures given hereunder, showing the result of the examination made by the Entomological Section of the Ministry of about 30,000 bolls, received from all parts of the country between July 25 and August 24. The percentage of attacked bolls, however, should by no means be considered as representing the real loss to the crop from the pink seed-worm, for at this stage the attack is generally confined to one section—i.e., one-third—of each infested boll, and even that section is in many cases not wholly lost.

Particular attention should be given to the attack by the Earias boll worm, the pest which has been known in Egypt since about 1860. This has diminished each year since the Ministry adopted measures for the destruction of useless cotton bolls and the prohibition of the cultivation of cotton perennially, until at present the pest has become so rare that it is practically non-existent in the greater part of the country.

In general, the prospects of the crop are certainly not as satisfactory as they were reported to be at the end of July.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

ENEMY INSURANCE FIRMS.

Amended Regulations in Egypt.

With a view to providing "for the better control of the operations in Egypt of insurance companies, registered and having their principal place of business in enemy territory, the General Officer Commanding in Egypt has issued the following order by proclamation in the *Journal Officiel*. The order came into force fourteen days after its publication (August 17, 1916):—

A branch or agency of a company registered or having its principal place of business in enemy territory shall not carry on the business of insurance or re-insurance of any description otherwise than under the supervision of a controller appointed for the purpose by the Licensing Officer, and in accordance with the provisions of the present proclamation.

New policies shall not be issued, and lapsed policies shall not be renewed, without the permission of the Licensing Officer.

Loans shall not be granted otherwise than for the purpose of providing for the payment of premiums and interest on loans already made on the security of policies, as and when the same fall due, and limited to the amount of such premiums or interest.

Every fire, accident, or other renewable policy shall be considered to be terminated as at the end of the period covered by the last premium paid; or, in the case of a policy upon which premium has been prepaid to cover a term of years, at the next anniversary of the date of issue following the publication of the present proclamation, subject to the return to the policyholder of the proportionate premium attributable to the unexpired period covered by the policy.

A policy shall not be transferred or modified without the written approval of the Controller.

All moneys at present in Egypt of any such company and all moneys hereafter to be received shall be paid into an account with a bank to be approved by the Licensing Officer, and shall not be withdrawn therefrom for any purpose other than the payment of the company's liabilities in Egypt, or the reasonable current expenses of the branch or agency.

The branch or agency shall not, without the written approval of the Controller, have commercial communications direct or indirect on account of the business of the company with any person out of Egypt, except only with persons resident in the British Empire or in countries in alliance with Great Britain.

Failing a person properly empowered by the company to carry on the branch or agency in Egypt, the business of the company in Egypt may be carried on by a manager appointed for this purpose by the Licensing Officer, at the expense of the company, and such manager shall have power to do all such acts as may be necessary for the proper carrying on of the business in accordance with the provisions of the present proclamation, subject to the supervision of the Controller.

Mr. C. W. Twelves has been appointed Controller under this proclamation.

TRADE NOTES.

Exports to Algeria.

In agreement with the British Government, the French Government has set up at King's House, Kingsway, London, W.C., a special office for the issue of licences for the importation into France and Algeria of goods of British production or manufacture which are included in the list of articles prohibited to be imported into those countries.

Egyptian Tariffs.

The Egyptian *Journal Officiel* of August 3 contains a notice giving the revised tariff valuations for use in assessing duties on certain hessian and jute or hemp sacks on importation into Egypt. The revised tariff valuations which are operative from July 25 until September 24, 1916, or until denunciation, are:—Hessian jute or sacks, common for cotton, 51 mill.; for onions, 53 mill. Twilled hessian jute or sacks, common, 3[illegible] mill. For European sacks the valuation will be *ad valorem*.

Exports from Morocco.

An Order of the General Commander-in-Chief has been issued authorising the exportation of chickpeas and dari (*aldorad*) from the ports of the French Zone, without limitation as to quantity.

Bureau for Salonika.

General Sarrail, the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in the East, has decided to organise at Salonika a commercial bureau for French imports, with a view to forming a tie between French industry and Macedonian trade. The objects of this bureau are (1) to procure for French industry and trade immediate and remunerative business, and (2) to promote in Macedonia a taste for French goods so as to obtain for them after the war the first place on the Macedonian market.

Liquidations of Enemy Firms.

Mr. E. D. Joyce, of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Alexandria, has been appointed Receiver of the business of A. H. Mollik, Alexandria, with instructions to liquidate the same. Mr. F. H. Russell, Gresham House, Cairo, has received a similar appointment and instructions in regard to the business of Joseph Eggert, Cairo.

Openings.

Applications from firms in Great Britain for the names of manufacturers or producers of the following (amongst other) articles have been recorded at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade during the past week, says the *Journal*, published to-day:—

Hosiery, woollen, suitable for Egypt; laces, boot and shoe, cotton; machinery and plant—Glass engraving machines, pineapple canning plant, salt crushers, and evaporators; Skins and hides—Velvet—Persian, and cowhides.

NOTICE

Société Anonyme pour la Fabrication des Cigarettes Egyptiennes marque HADJES NESSIM en liquidation.

Offers for the purchase of the following items of Stock and House Property will be received in the name of EDWARD D. JOYCE, P.O.B. 206, Alexandria (Egypt), Receiver of the above Company, up till 8 a.m. on the 15th of NOVEMBER, 1916:—

(*a*) The TRADE MARK belonging to the Company, together with all the Stock of Tin Poxes, Labels, Cigarette Paper, etc., on which the Trade Mark is printed.

(*b*) The BUILDING situated No. 12-14, Rue Abou El Dardar, Alexandria (Egypt), belonging to the Company.

Details of the above can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, 12-14, Rue Abou El Dardar, Alexandria, between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon, on any day except Sundays, from this date to the 13th of NOVEMBER, 1916.

Offers must be made in writing, under registered cover, to the above mentioned P.O. address, and must be accompanied by a deposit in Cash of 10 per cent. of the amount offered.

Offers may be made for items A and B separately.

The Receiver is not bound to accept the best or any offer made.

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PRODUCE REPORT.

London, Sept. 14.

Currants.

There has been a brisk demand during the week, with the result that practically all sound fruit has been cleared from the market at a further advance of prices. Some samples of new fruit that arrived overland show excellent quality, and prices generally of new crop have considerably risen. The s.s. Gulf of Suez is reported on her way with the first new season fruit, while other ships will soon follow. The stocks of currants in London on August 31 were 2,489 tons, against 3,303 tons last year.

Sultanas.

There has been a good demand with considerable business done in Afghanistan fruit at advanced prices. Greek sultanas are apparently held for higher prices; while Australians are quoted at a slight advance. The stocks of sultanas (of all kinds) in London on August 31 were 2,874 tons against 1,730 tons last year the same date.

Figs.

The demand continues mostly for export, with business done at full rates.

Seeds.

Linseed has been quiet, London-Calcutta closing for spot and afloat at 76s.; September-October, 77s. 6d; October-November, 77s. 6d.; and Bombay ordinary, September-October, at 78s., with small ditto at 77s. Rapeseed is firm but quiet; Torio, September-October, is offered at 59s.; and bold Ferozepore at 58s. 6d. Cottonseed has been dull during the week and shows no change; London-Egyptian spot is quoted £12 6s.; September, £13 5s., and October, £13 2s. 6d. per ton. Rangoon beans are in good demand and show an advance of about £3 per ton on the week.

Oils.

Linseed oil is steady; spot pipes, £36 10s.; barrels ditto, £37 10s., landed terms. Rape oil is firmer; ordinary brown naked spot at late rates, while English refined, barrels, is offered at £46 to £48. Cotton oil is quiet with only little business doing; crude spot pipes at £34 10s.; refined pale pipes, £40; ditto barrels, £41; and sweet barrels, £48 to £51 10s. as to make.

Oilcakes

Cotton cakes in warehouse are practically exhausted, but parcels by a steamer now due have found ready buyers at £10 per ton, ex ship terms; while English are offered at £10 5s. to £10 10s. per ton, ex mill.

Linseed cakes are in strong demand, and values are dearer for all descriptions. Best London made are firm at £14 5s. to £14 10s.; while considerable transactions have taken place in East India seed pures for October-November shipment at £13 10s. per ton.

Locust Beans.

There is a good demand, but whole are quite unobtainable on spot, while kibbled are offered at £11 10s., with meal at £15 per ton.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

The following are among the principal British Chambers of Commerce in the Mediterranean and the Near East:—

Egypt: 6, Rue de l'Ancienne Bourse, Alexandria, and Savoy Chambers, Cairo.

Greece: 7, Place St. Theodore, Athens.

Morocco: At Tangier.

Roumania: 1, Strada Academiei, Bucharest.

Tunis: Rue Es-Sadika, 35, Tunis.

BRITISH COTTON PRODUCTION.

According to figures compiled by the Board of Trade the quantity of ginned cotton produced in various British Possessions in 1915, as compared with the previous year, included the following:—

	1914. lb.	1915. lb.	1916. lb.
Cyprus ..	1,048,992	700,112	—
Malta....	—a	196,490	183,850
Egypt....	494,499,800	644,937,900	—

Prominent Industries of India

The Announcements below are published to acquaint our readers with the opportunity India affords the keen purchaser.

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— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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RESTRICTED TRADING.

Further List of Barred Firms in Egypt.

The following is a continuation of the list of the firms with whom trading by persons in Egypt has been prohibited by proclamation:—

NETHERLANDS.

Binneveld and Schellen, Boompjes, 40b; Pickstraat, 63b, Rotterdam.

Duiker, J., Weteringschans 171, Amsterdam.

Goldschmeding, G. A., Kalverstraat, 56, Amsterdam.

Hertzfeld L. H. Van, Wijnhaven, 24b, Rotterdam; Hoeckel, P. Van, Kruisbroedershof, S'Hertogenbosch.

Kan, Alfred Abraham, J. Lzn., Van Aemstelstraat, 2g, Amsterdam; Kehlenbrink, G., Junior, Wijnstratt 117, Rotterdam; Klembt's (Paul) Scheepagentuur Maatschappy, Boompjes, 16, Rotterdam (Manager, Klunk Seger G.); Krom and Co., Keizersgracht 405, Amsterdam; Kupsch and Abas, 2e, Kostverlorenkade 23-24, Amsterdam.

Leeuw, Simeon De, and Co., Kloveniersburgwal, 72, Amsterdam; Lucardie, Willem, Maastraat 8b, Rotterdam, Coutrai, and Leeuwarden.

Molenberg and Dekker, Stationsstr., 53, Zaandam.

Olie and Vetfabriek "De Schie" N/V., Westerkade, 6, Schiedam.

Peereboom, S., and Co., Taludweg, 45, Hilversum; Prins, E. L., Nieuwehaven, 116a, Rotterdam.

Rompu, J. Van, Dejongestraat, Terneuzen; Ronnen, J. R. Van, Mathanasserlaan, 400, Rotterdam.

Verstegen, J. H., Goudschesingel, 26, Rotterdam; Visser, E. E., and Zonen Handelsvereeniging, Kromboomsloot, 57, Amsterdam.

Wallig, Gebruder, Singel, 260, Amsterdam; Wiener, H., and Co., Raadhuistraat 3, Amsterdam; Wessel, D., Boymanstraat, and V. Hogendorpsplein 5, Rotterdam.

Ingenohl, C., Witte Huis, Wijnhavn 3, Rotterdam.

Nederlandsche Asbestos Maatschappy N. V., Willemskade 19, Rotterdam; Nederlandsche Huistelefoon Maatschappy, Frederiksplein, 28, and Singel 284, Amsterdam; Zuidblaak 38, Rotterdam; Westeringkade 2-4, and Juliana van Stolberglaan, 82, The Hague; Nederlandsche Ijzerhandel Maatschappy Tot Voorzetting der Zaken, Afdeeling Enthoven, The Hague; Nederlandsche Ijzerhandel Maatschappy Tot Voorzetting der Zaken, Afdeeling Hartelust, Leeuwarden.

Schrevel's, H. Import en Exporthandel N.V., H. K. Schrevel, Rechter Rottekade 81, Rotterdam; Schumacher, D., Dufaystraat, 2, Amsterdam.

NETHERLAND EAST INDIES.

Assahan Syndicat Gesellschaft, Medan and Palembang.

Borneo Import and Export Company, Dutch Borneo and Batavia.

Cultuur Maatschappy "Soengei Langka," Batavia.

Export Maatschappy Austria, Bandoeng.

Hallesche Machinenfabriek, Sourabaya; Herrmann, C. H., Batoe Toelis 2, Batavia.

Plantagen Gesellschaft Boenisari, Batavia; Plantagen Gesellschaft Neglasari, Bandoeng; Plantagen Gesellschaft Tjiganitri, Batavia.

Schaap, F. L., Samarang.

Technisch Bureau Altmann, Bandoeng.

NORWAY.

Aanesen, Philip E., Christiansand; Andresen, Christian, Raadhusgade, 10, Christiania; Arnemann, Hans Th., Toldbodgade, 8b, Christiania; Authen, Otto, Munkedamsvn, 9, Christiania; Aktieselskabet Trondhjems Handelsbank, Trondhjem.

Behrentz, Andreas, Aalesund; Braadlan, John, and Co., N. Strandgt, 33-39 Stavanger.

Didrichsen, Moy, and Co., Kongensgt, 14, Christiania.

Engoens Sardine Co., Limited, Stavanger.

Forenede Feldspatbrud A/S., Sarpsborg.

Hudtwalcker and Co., Toldbodgade, 8b, Christiania; Hausvik, Einar, and Co., Vaerfstgt, 2a, Bergen, and Stavanger.

Johannesen, Ragnar, Lovenskioldgst, 3, Christiania; Johnsen A., Skien; Jaeger Sardine Factories, A/S, Haugesund; Jakhelln, C., Lakkegatan 16, Christiania; Jensen, Hermann, Skippegt, 144; K. Adelersgt, 34, Christiania.

Norsk Tarmindustri A/S., Baekkegt, 24, Christiania; Norwegian Sardine Company, Kopervik; Nilsen, Olaf, Trondhjem.

Olsen, Carl O., and Kleppe, Stavanger.

Pleym, Gottfried, Skippergt, 7, Christiania.

Ravn Ragnvald, Engen 18, Bergen.

Stavanger Conserves Fabrik, Lervig 45, Stavanger; Sardinfabriken "Norrig," Stavanger.

Tangeveld, L. A., A/S., Toldbodgade, 8b, Christiania; Thiis, C. Houge, Jorenholmsgt, 25, and Kongstgt 52, Stavanger; Thorbaldsen, Hjalmar, and Co., Kirkegaten, 6b, Christiania.

Waage, Thorbjorn, Holmegate, 22, Stavanger; Witzoe, Endre, Christiansand.

PERSIA.

Serushia Kerman.

Haji Amin-Ut-Tujjar Brothers, Isaphan.

PERU.

Leon, Felix, Pacasmayo.

Raygada, R. Y., Paita.

Schaefer, Carlos, Piura.

Trittau, George, Lima.

Banco Aleman Transatlantico (Deutsche Ueberseeische Bank); Muelle and Dammert, Callao.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Arend, A. Von, Manila; Asinga Co., Limited.

Basilan Plantation Company, Zamboanga.

Cooper Company, P.O. Box 189, Manila.

Determann A. (of Manila Commercial Company), Manila.

El Siglo, Manila.

Fua Matas Company, Calle Rosario, Manila.

Gmür, Otto, and Co., Manila.

La Yebana Cigar Factory, Manila; Lampe, O, (of E. A. and Otto Weber), Manila; Landahl, J. (of Secker and Company), Manila; Lohmann, J. (of E. A. and Otto Weber), Tuguegarao.

Maack, A. (of Manila Commercial Company), Manila; Manila Commercial Company, P.O. Box 442, Manila; Meller, P. (of Manila Commercial Company), Manila; Menzi, J. M., Manila.

Nagel, P. (of Juan Seiboth and Co.), Manila.

Oriente Cigar Factory (La Perla del Oriente), P.O. Box 430, Manila.

Seiboth, Juan, and Co., Limited, Manila; Siegert Siebrand, Manila; Strohecker, P., Manila.

Velhagen (of Oriente Cigar Factory), Manila.

Weber, E. A. and Otto, Cayagan, Manila, and Tuguegarao.

PORTUGAL.

Puls, Guilherme, and Co., Rua Da Nova Alfandega, 108, Oporto.

PORTUGUESE WEST AFRICA, RIO MUNI, PORTUGUESE GUINEA, AND FERNANDO PO.

Iniqo, Alfonso, Rio Muni.

Karsten, Friedrich, Bambadirca.

Lieb, Eugen, Santa Isabel, and San Carlos.

Mansnetter, Boloma; Moritz, E. M. and Co., Santa Isabel.

Perez Y Mora, Fernando Po.

Rolf, Luis, Bissao.

Schwartz, Hans, Geba; Seifert, Paul Boloma.

Titzck, Rudolf, Bissao, Chinde, Bambadirca, Geba, Baffata, Cacheo, and Farim.

Voss, Hans, Farim.

Woermann Linie Fernando Po.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Beer, Sondheimer, and Co., New York; Blumenthal, Simon R. (of Zimmermen and Forshay); Botzow, Herman (of O. C. Kanzow and Co.); Brasch and Rothenstein, Inc., 32, Broadway, New York; Bunge, Mauricio (of Maclaren and Gentles, Inc.); Burin, Alf. (of Brasch and Rothenstein, Inc.).

Carlowitz and Co., 82, Beaver Street, and 35, West Houston Street, New York; Cullen, Charles, Ocala, Florida; Czech, Armin (of International Import and Export Co.).

Dietzgen, Eugene, Co., 166, W. Monroe Street, Chicago, and 218, E. Twenty-third Street, New York.

Electro Bleaching Gas Co., The, Buffalo Avenue and Union Street, Niagara Falls, and 25, Madison Avenue, New York City; Erlanger, E. H., 60, Wall Street, New York.

Falk, Carlos (of Maclaren and Gentles, Inc.).

Goldschmidt Chemical Co., 60, Wall Street, New York; Goldschmidt Detinning Co., 60, Wall Street, New York; Goldschmidt Thermit Co., 90, West Street, New York; Gravenhorst and Co., 96, Wall Street, New York; Grubnau, Carl, and Son, 114, Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.; 74, Wall Street, New York; and Boston, Mass.; Gubelman, Oscar L. (of Knauth, Nachod, and Kuhne).

Hardy, Charles, 50, Church Street, New York; Hasenclever and Co., 24, State Street, New York; Hasenclever, Joh. Bernhardt and Soehne, 21, State Street, New York; Hauser, Morgan H. (of Zimmerman and Forshay); Hirsch, Alfredo (of Maclaren and Gentles, Inc.); Hirschland, Franz H. (of Goldschmidt Thermit Co.); Howe, Robert W. (of Brasch and Rothenstein, Inc.); Humburg, William E., 25, Beaver Street, New York.

International Hide and Skin Co., 59, Frankfort Street, New York; International Import and Export Co., 136, South Fourth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.; Isaacs, J. (of John Simon and Brothers).

Jaffe, Max, 15, William Street, New York.

Kahl, J. A., 82, Beaver Street, New York; Kanzow, O. C., and Co., Broadway, New York; Kanzow, Otto C. (of O. C. Kanzow and Co.); Kempner, H., Cotton Exchange, Galveston, Texas; Knauth, Nachod, and Kuhne, 15, William Street, New York; Knauth, Mary I. (of Knauth, Nachod, and Kuhne); Knauth, Wilhelm (of Knauth, Nachod, and Kuhne); Kupper, Hermann C., 52, Murray Street, and 536, West 111th Street, New York.

Maclaren and Gentles, Inc., 222, Produce Exchange, New York; McNear, George W., Inc., Insurance Exchange Building, 433, California Street, San Francisco, California; Magenheimer, A., 68, Broad Street, New York; Maier, Marx, 200, Fifth Avenue, New York; Merchants Colonial Corporation, 45, William Street, New York; Muller, Carl (of Muller, Schall, and Co.); Muller, Ernest (of Schuchardt and Schutter); Muller, Schall, and Co., 45, William Street, New York; Muller-Schall, Frederick (of Muller, Schall, and Co.).

Nachod, Maris, 15, William Street, New York; National Zinc Corporation, New York; Neuhaus, Richard (of the Electro Bleaching Gas Co.); Neumond, K. and E., 25, Broad Street, New York; Newton, Rollin C., 15, William Street, New York; Norfolk Refining and Smelting Co., Virginia.

Orenstein and Koppel, Pennsylvania.

Pauer, Phillip, and Co., 68, Broad Street, New York City; Pavenstedt, Edmund (of Muller, Schall, and Co.); Perutz, Leopold, 17, Battery Place, New York; Petroleum Products Co. of California, Inc., San Francisco, California.

Rees Louis J. (of Zimmerman and Forshay); Reuter, Broeckelman, and Co., 59, Pearl Street, New York; Richter, Alfred (of Reuter, Broeckelman, and Co.); Roessler and Hasslacher Chemical Co., 100, William Street, and 14, Jay Street, New York; Rubber and Guayule Agency, Inc., 108, Walter Street, New York; Rushmore, Townsend, 82, Beaver Street, New York.

Schall, William, Junior (of Muller, Schall, and Co.); Schenker and Co., 17, Battery Place, New York; Schloetelborg, G. F., 318, Globe Buildings, Seattle, Washington; Schmidt, Paul (of Rubber and Guayule Agency, Inc.); Schuchardt and Schutte, 90, West Street, New York; Schutte, Bunemann, and Co., 15, William Street, New York; Scully, John S. (of Zimmerman and Forshay); Siemssen and Co., 82, Beaver Street, New York; Simon, John, and Brothers, Cotton Exchange Building, 15, William Street, New York; Sonneborn, L., Sons, Inc., 262, Pearl Street, and 206, Water Street, New York; Southern Products Trading Co., Cotton Exchange Building, 15, William Street, New York; Stegemann, Edward, Junior (of Brasch and Rothenstein, Inc.); Superior Export Co., Inc., 90, West Street, New York.

Texas Export and Import Co., Galveston.

Ulrich, Ernst, 15, William Street, New York.

Weber, Edward (of Rubber and Guayule Agency, Inc.); Wehrenberg, Otto (of Phillipp Bauer and Co.); Weingardt, Arend H., 15, William Street, and 120, Broadway, New York.

Zimmerman and Forshay, 9, Wall Street, New York; Zimmerman, Leopold (of Zimmerman and Forshay).

(To be concluded.)

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Refrigeration in Russia.

The Refrigeration Committee of Petrograd (says *Ice and Cold Storage*) publishes in its bulletin a list of new refrigerating installations either completed or in process of construction. At Minsk the executive section of the Town Council has directed one of the Minsk architects to prepare a plan and estimates for the construction of a town cold store. At Varonezh, the constructional engineer, M. P. S. Komaroff, has proposed to the Town Council to construct a cold store and to exploit the same. At Kremenchug, in view of the deficiency in natural ice, a group of citizens is arranging to erect a factory for the production of artificial ice. At Nizhni-Novgorod, the local government cold store has started work; only meat is being stored there at present. Another cold store is projected in the town, and the local architect is preparing the plans. At Simbirsk the army provisions section is co-operating with the town government for the construction of a large cold store in the yard of the town slaughter-house. At Samara, the Town Council has approved the allocation of 10,000 roubles towards the construction of a cold store.

A Gas Crucible Furnace.

Manufacturers abroad, especially in the East, where coal at the present time is obtainable in limited quantities and at largely enhanced prices, are compelled to work under very embarrassing conditions. In some places, while local gas companies are allowed to import a full supply of coal, steam users and others are "rationed," and have to use it sparingly, which, in the case, for instance, of engineering factories and foundries, means retrenchment of production. To such embarrassed firms the recently-proved utility of a modern gas furnace will be of particular interest. The utility of gas furnaces has already been proved in many ways, but what was shown at a recent demonstration, in the presence of reliable experts, was a feat which has never before been attempted commercially—namely, by means of the very latest gas crucible furnace, to melt copper with so low a fuel consumption as is represented by 2.11 cubic feet of gas per pound of metal. Precisely 61 lbs. 7 ozs. of pure metal was placed in the crucible, and this quantity was heated to pouring point in 27 minutes, with a gas consumption of 130 cubic feet, this being at the astonishingly low rate of 2.11 cubic feet of gas per pound of copper placed in the crucible.

Economy.

The economy of the proceeding is so obvious from these figures that further comment seems superfluous. There are numerous foundries in almost every town in the East where gas is available at comparatively cheap rates, and the employment of these modern gas crucible furnaces will be a boon to them at the present time, when the ordinary fuel is scarce, and exceedingly dear for the purpose.

Motor Trade Combine.

The most important item of news this week, remarks *The Light Car and Cyclecar*, in an editorial article, is the statement that a number of big munition concerns are about to pool their capital to the extent of £30,000,000 and sink their identity in a gigantic combine. That this will embrace a section of the motor trade is almost certain, and, as the object is to combat foreign trade after the war, its influence upon the motor industry is obvious. It will, of course, be suggested, continues our contemporary, that such a pooling of interests will enable the problem of the cheap car with a gigantic output to be tackled as has never before been possible, but so far as we can ascertain at present it does not seem to affect the manufacture of light cars, which is likely to be the biggest side of the motor industry after the war, to any appreciable extent. It is early yet to speculate on the ultimate result, however, and the scheme will be watched with the greatest interest. The manufacturers of this country will undoubtedly be faced with some very big problems after the war, and it may be that we shall have to Americanise our manufacturing methods.

MORE FACTS ABOUT ROUMANIA.

Official figures of Roumania's coal production first became available in 1898. In that year the production amounted to 67,000 metric tons; since then there was a gradual increase to about 300,000 metric tons for 1914.

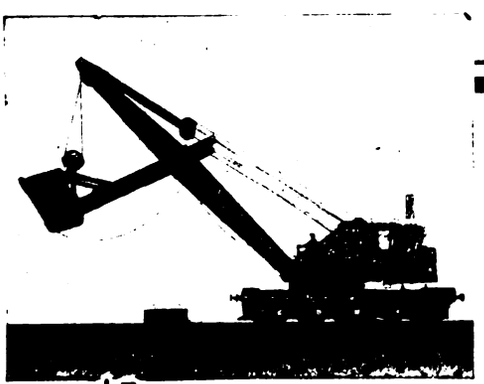
In the fiscal year 1912-13 Roumania had 2,167 miles of railway, which carried 11,428,088 passengers, 9,399,888 tons of goods, resulting in total receipts of £4,437,917, of which £2,611,237 covered expenses, leaving £1,826,680 as net receipts. During that year there were recorded 369 accidents—151 killed and 218 injured. Of killed there were 14 passengers, 54 employees, and 83 others.

In view of trade extension with the United Kingdom, it is of interest to note the following figures about Roumania's mercantile marine. The last official figures available are for 1911, in which year Roumania had :—

Sailing vessels....	497	Net tonnage ..	150,739
Steam vessels	96	Net tonnage ..	22,202
Total	593		172,941

out of a total for Europe of—

Vessels.....	79,816	Tonnage	24,895,459



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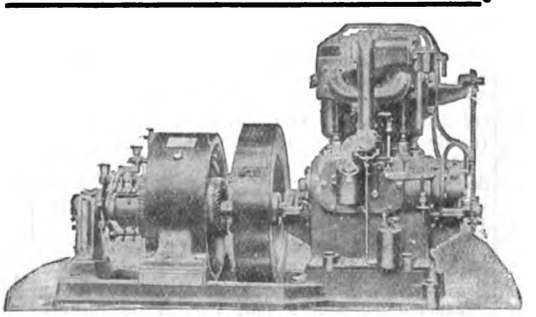

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SHIPPING NOTES.

The Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company's s.s. Prince Abbas has been sold to the Hudson's Bay Company. The steamer's tonnage is 2,030 gross, 852 net. She was employed in the mail service between Suez and Port Sudan, and has now been handed over to her new owners.

Owing to a fire at Malta, the Greek steamer Prinkips Georgios was towed out of the port, but subsequently sank four miles outside the harbour. She was loading benzine in the quarantine harbour, and was a boat of 448 tons, built in 1891. She was owned at Syren by E. A. Tonstanos.

Good foundation, no doubt, exists for the report that closer relations will obtain after the War between the Hamburg-Amerika and the North German Lloyd lines, says the *Financial News*. It is stated that both companies are reorganising their directorates and finances by enlisting the support of German financiers who have made good profits out of the War, and are disposed to employ their gains in endeavouring to re-establish the German mercantile marine.

THE CITY OF LUCKNOW.

Captain Andrew Richmond, of the City of Lucknow, has been relating his experiences of the torpedoing of his vessel in the Mediterranean some time ago. The vessel had been released by the Admiralty for transport work, and proceeded to Alexandria, where she loaded a cargo for home. When reaching a position east of Malta, it being about ten o'clock on a Sunday morning, Captain Richmond noticed when going on the bridge a torpedo about 200 yards off his vessel, and coming directly for her. Captain Richmond at once ordered the helm to be thrown hard over, with the hope that the torpedo might pass under the stern. Unfortunately its proximity was such that the vessel's head had only turned a few degrees when the torpedo struck the stern and exploded with terrific violence, laying the whole after-part open and throwing many parts and articles high into the air. It was fortunate that the vessel had altered her course even ever so little, otherwise it was considered that she would have been struck in the way of the engine-room, in which case it is possible that serious loss of life would have resulted. As it was, there was nobody injured, and although the City of Lucknow disappeared in about ten minutes, everyone in the meantime had got away in the boats. It so happened that Captain Richmond was on his round of inspection just before observing the torpedo, and all hands were on the alert and ready to man the boats, which were already swung out.

Captain Richmond speaks very highly of the behaviour of his native crew, amongst whom there was not the slightest sign of panic, and absolute discipline was maintained without the slightest trouble. Since the sinking of his vessel in April last Captain Richmond has been acting as assistant to the marine superintendent, and taking relieving duty, at present being in charge of the City of Poona *pro tem*. Captain Richmond joined the City Line of steamers in 1900, and whilst chief officer of the City of Paris in July of last year obtained his first command—in very tragic circumstances. The vessel had sailed from Liverpol for Calcutta, but had only reached Point Lynas when she was chased by an enemy submarine. Fortunately she succeeded in getting clear away, but Captain Campbell, who was in command, shortly after was taken ill, and three days after died at sea.

COMPANY MEETING.

P. and O. Company.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the stockholders of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, held at the offices, 122, Leadenhall Street, E.C., a resolution approving a conditional agreement with the New Zealand Shipping Company, Ltd., and increasing the capital, was passed unanimously. Lord Inchcape (Chairman of the company) presided.

The Chairman said: For a number of years past the British India and Federal and New Zealand companies have worked in alliance in the trade between the United Kingdom and Queensland, and this has led up to a proposal to bring about a complete fusion of interests between the P. and O., the British India, and New Zealand companies. The P. and O. shareholders have seen the circular which has been issued by the Board, and the agreement which has been arrived at, subject to the concurrence of the P. and O. shareholders and the consent, under the Defence of the Realm Act, of H.M. Treasury, which latter has been obtained. The New Zealand Ordinary shareholders have practically unanimously accepted the provisional offer, which was made subject to 76 per cent. of the shares being offered to the P. and O. Company and to the approval of the P. and O. Company in an extraordinary general meeting. Of 90,672 shares something like 90,215 have adopted the proposal, and the remaining few will no doubt also come in in due time. If they don't no harm is done. Some are owned by people whose address cannot be found. In one case a small holder thinks we are not paying enough. The P. and O. Board are of opinion that the fusion of interests will work to the advantage of the P. and O. and British India Companies, and they confidently recommend it for your acceptance.

The New Zealand and Federal fleets comprise 27 steamers, of an aggregate gross tonnage of 225,037 tons, and there are several new ships contracted for, some of which are approaching delivery. The assets of the New Zealand and Federal companies, apart from the ships, are valuable and liquid, and amount to a sum which, together with the ships and the business, make the proposed exchange equitable. The payment to be made for the £10 paid Ordinary shares of the New Zealand Company, which company owns the whole of the Federal Company's Ordinary shares, is £10 of P. and O. Deferred stock, worth on the market to-day about three times that amount—and perhaps a little more. While the bargain, so far as the New Zealand and Federal shareholders is concerned, is a good one for them, it is, in the opinion of your Board, not a bad one for the P. and O. and British India companies, and we have no hesitation in recommending it for your acceptance. In the year 1910 the P. and O. Company purchased the Blue Anchor Line, running to Australia, and have had no reason to regret this addition to their business. The acquisition of the New Zealand Company is simply following the precedent established at that time, and I am sanguine enough to hope that the shareholders will not have any occasion to regret the step which, with your approval, we now propose to take. I therefore beg to propose the following resolution:—"That the conditional agreement dated 30th June, 1916, between the New Zealand Shipping Company, Ltd., and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, be approved and confirmed; that the capital of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company be increased from £1,798,133 Deferred stock to £2.704.853 Deferred stock by the creation of £906,720 additional Deferred stock, thus making, with the addition of the existing Preferred stock of the company, the total capital of the company £5,744,853, such further capital (as far as required for carrying out the said agreement) to be issued in the terms as to dividend and otherwise thereby provided."

COMPANY REPORTS.

Egyptian Hotels.

The report of the directors, to be submitted to the nineteenth annual general meeting of the company to be held at the company's offices, 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., on Wednesday next, states that, after charging all expenses in connection with the working of the hotels, the profits of the hotels were £29,000 15s. 1d., as compared with £6,284 17s. 5d. in the previous year, and £30,651 12. 8d. in the pre-war year. After providing for the charges payable in London and Cairo the accounts show a profit of £27,024 10s. 8d. The balance of undivided profit brought forward from last account is £2,548 12s. 2d., making a total of £29,573 2s. 10d. From this has to be deducted debenture interest, £3,553 9s. 5d.; one-fifth of the debenture expenses (reducing the balance carried forward on this account to £1,149 19s. 10d.), £574 19s. 10d.; depreciation of plant, fixtures and fittings at hotels, £5,344 0s. 3d.; leaving an available balance of £20,100 13s. 4d. The directors recommend a payment of one year's dividend of 5 per cent. on the preference shares, thus completing the payment to 1915 and absorbing £5,750, and that there be added to the reserve fund £10,000, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £4,350 13s. 4d. In May, 1915, the Ghezireh Palace Hotel was requisitioned by the military authorities and transformed into a hospital—the No. 2 Australian General Hospital—and was used as such until March 15 last. The Semiramis Hotel was requisitioned by the military authorities from November, 1915, to March last as a residence for the nursing staff. The amount of compensation to be paid by the military authorities for the temporary occupation of these properties, and for the wear and tear thereof, as well as for structural damage, etc., is being fixed by an arbitration board. A sum has been received on account, but no credit in respect of the balance has been taken into the accounts for the year under review. The special charges for food and hotel accommodation referred to in the last report as being made to members of the military force in residence have been continued, and have resulted in a very considerable increase in the takings of the year, from which a modest profit has accrued, and appears in the accounts. In accordance with the company's articles of association one of the directors retires, and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. The director retiring is Sir Wm. B. Peat.

European Oilfields.

The report of the European Oilfields Corporation for the year ended 13th April states that the Russian profits have been converted at the exchange of Rs 14.131 to the £1, being the average monthly rate ruling during the year, while the floating assets and liabilities have been converted at the rate of Rs15.75 to the £1, being the rate ruling at the date of the balance-sheet. The accounts show a gross income of £56,551, of which £56,149 comprised the profit on trading and £401 miscellaneous receipts in London. General charges absorbed £3,794, Debenture service £15,125, and income-tax £2,747, leaving a balance of profit of £34,884. Of this £25,000 has been added to reserve for depreciation, renewals and general purposes, and £1,976 is applicable to the redemption of profit sharing notes. The remaining £7,907, added to £42,427 brought in from the previous year, leaves a total of £50,334 to be carried forward. During the year £8,581 Debenture stock has been purchased and cancelled, the amount outstanding being thus reduced to £153,468. The liabilities were reduced by

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£11,000, simultaneously with an increase of £3,500 in the assets. Since the date of the accounts there has been a further improvement in the cash position. The operations of the company in Baku as well as those for the previous year are summarised in the subjoined table:—

	1915-16.	1914-15*.
	Poods.	Poods.
Gross production of crude oil	4,655,427	4,555,000
Weekly average	89,527	99,022
Crude oil used for fuel	288,001	255,152
Weekly average	5,538	5,547
Quantity available for sale	4,367,426	4,299,848
Weekly average	83,989	93,475
	Kopeks.	Kopeks.
Average price realised per pood	44·48	34·05
Depth drilled	218 sag. (1,528 ft.)	498 sag. (3,486 ft.)

* 46 weeks only, owing to strike.

The production during 1915-16 was not maintained at the level of the previous year, but the directors report that the average weekly output for the current year to date is 101,910 poods, as against 88,876 poods for the corresponding period last year. In addition to 48 wells baling at the close of the year, there were four wells being deepened, three being repaired, and two being drilled, making a total of 57. Working expenses were heavier owing to the higher cost of material and to war bonuses to workmen to compensate for the greatly increased cost of living. The Russian Government fixed a maximum price for crude oil of 45 kopeks per pood as from February 20, 1916. The employees liable to be called up for the first and second reserves have been exempted until January 1, 1917. From November 1, 1916, a new contract will come into force, under which the entire production until May 1, 1919, will be taken at 1 kopek per pood over the average monthly Bourse price, with a minimum of 42 kopeks. On the properties of the Romany-Zabrat Oilfields, a paying oil source has been struck in No. 2 well at a depth of 323 sagenes (2,261 ft.), and a production obtained ranging up to 1,800 poods (29 tons) per day. Water difficulties have arisen, however, and steps have been taken to deal with them. No. 1 well, now at a depth of 285 sagenes (1,995 ft.), is being deepened to the same source. No. 3 well has been drilled to a depth of 243 sagenes (1,761 ft.), and a new well (No. 4) has been authorised.

ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Street, E.C.

This week's business has been on a very small scale. There has been quite a holiday feeling. Egypt has been doing practically nothing, probably owing to the fact that all interest on that side is at present concentrated on the heavy fluctuations which are occurring in cotton. National Banks, on local buying, have further advanced ¼ to 13⅜, in the neighbourhood of which price about 250 shares have changed hands. Khedivial Mail shares have continued to be well supported round 29s., and Alexandria Water are wanted at 11⅝; but there has been no business owing to the absence of sellers. All the other Egyptian shares have been quite inactive, and sellers remain scarce.

In Greek securities business has also been on quite a small scale, but prices are keeping very firm. Some small lots of 1881, 1884 Monopolies and Rentes have changed hands round current prices.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah.—Production for week, 6 tons (last week 8 tons). Hurgada.—Production for week, 621 tons (last week 500 tons).

Baku Russian Petroleum.—Estimated gross production for week ended September 9, 87,900 poods.

Maikop Orient Oil.—Cablegram dated September 3:—Plot 435a.—Well Three.—Drilled 58ft., depth 1,108ft. Well One.—Production for week, 165 poods.

Spies Petroleum.—Production, including 30,970 poods from ambars, for week ended September 10, was 178,535 poods, or about 2,880 tons; total production for year from January 14 to September 10 was 5,887,695 poods, or about 94,963 tons; total production for corresponding period last year was 9,539,140 poods, or about 153,857 tons.

Ural Caspian Oil.—Total production for week ended September 7, 151,220 poods (or 2,439 tons).

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27, 1915.	Price Sept. 8.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	78	78
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	62½	62½
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93⅛	71⅜	71⅜
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	81	81½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	71½	71½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	67	67
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	57	57
Do. 5 %, 1894	56	56	56
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	50½	50½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	53	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50½	50½
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	68	67½
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	77	77
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	55	55
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	77½	77½
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	xd	xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	85	85
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	78	78
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	52	52
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65⅛	37½	37½
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	4⅜	4 11/16
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	6 11/16	6⅝
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	69	69
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	71	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11⅞	12
Bank of Abyssinia	⅜	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	2	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	6 15/16	6 15/16
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6⅜	6⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅛ xd	3⅛ xd	3⅛ xd
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5⅛	5⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	5	5
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5½	5 1/16
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	88⅜	88⅜
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89⅜	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅜	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	10	10
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	11½	11½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	59½	59⅜
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	55	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10 1/16	10 1/16
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	55xd	55xd
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	15/6	15/6
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	91	91
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	⅜	½	½
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2¼	2¼
Do. Do. Def.	⅜	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	6½	6½
Do. Pref.	4⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	9/-	9/4½	9/3
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	98	87½	87½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	5/-	⅜	⅜
Do and Foreign Trust	1⅜	⅜	⅜
Gharbieh Land Co.	⅜	⅜	⅜
" " Founders	—	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	96	96
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	77	77
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	9/3	9/3
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	1/16	1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	⅛	⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11⅝	11⅝
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1⅛	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	25/6	25/6
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	95	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1 1/16	18/3	18/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	29/-	28/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3 1/16	3 1/16
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	89	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2⅛	1⅛	1⅛

OIL.	Price on Sept. 6	Sept. 13.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/6	8/3
Anglo-Persian	21/9	21/9
European Oilfields	3/9	3/9
Roumanian	18/6	17/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Sept. 6.	Sept. 13.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4745	4600
Credit Foncier Egyptien	650	650
Turkish Unified 4%	66.50	66
Egyptian Unified 4%	90.15	90.15
Serbian, 1895	65	66

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON SEPTEMBER 1.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	12½	to 12⅝
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	86	,, 88
Alexandria Water Co.	£	11⅜	,, 11⅞
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5⅛	,, 5⅜
,, priv.	L.E.	3⅛	,, 3¼
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	130	,, 131
Bons de Panama	Frs.	10½	,, 103
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	60	,, 61
,, Privilégiée	Frs.	90	,, 95
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	75	,, 76
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2⅛	,, 2⅜
Comptoir Financier et Commercial	£	⅛	,, ⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	£	3/32	,, 1
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	⅛	,, ⅜
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	4	,, 4⅛
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	4⅛	,, 4¼
Unifiée	L.E.	83	,, 83¼
Privilégiée		72	,, 73
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4⅜	,, 4⅞
,, Fondateur	£	24	,, 26
Pressage et dépôts	£	28⅛	,, 29½
Nungovich Hotels	£	2⅜	,, 2½
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	4½	,, 4⅝
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3¼	,, 3⅜
,, Ord.		19/9	,, 20/-
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3⅜	,, 3½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£	5⅛	,, 5¼
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	104	,, 105
,, Jouissance	Frs.	154	,, 156
Egyptian Markets		25/-	,, 26/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	210	,, —
,, Div.	Frs.	140	,, —
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	115	,, —
Egyptian Salt and Soda		18/-	,, 18/3
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	584	,, 587
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	304	,, —
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	245	,, —
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	257	,, —
Delta Lands		⅜	,, 7/16
Port Said Salt		33/6	,, 34/-
Cotton Ginners		⅜	,, —
New Egyptian Co.		7/6	,, 8/-
United Lands	P.T.	—	,, —
Levant S.S. Co.		26/6	,, —
,, Deferred	£	5	,, —

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended Sept. 9.	1916. Week ended Sept. 7.
Cattle markets	481	578
General markets	345	394
Cattle markets closed	13	2
Receipts (£)	826	972
Total from commencement of year (£)	35,004	36,550

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended August 20, 1916.

	1915. £E.	1916. £E.
Aug. 10-Aug. 20	3,879	4,798
April 10-Aug 20	54,431	66,731

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

A supplement to the *London Gazette* has been issued containing further lists of persons and firms in Egypt with enemy intereste which have been licensed by the Egyptian Government to carry on business for the purpose of liquidation only.

At the last meeting of the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association, on September 5, 1916, a letter from the Department of Agriculture of the Sudan was read, with reference to a consignment of cotton which the association recently sold for the Sudan Government. This cotton was grown in the Sennar Province on what are called "gerf" lands, which are periodically inundated by the overflow of the Blue Nile in flood times. The cotton is of very good quality, and as soon as the Government can arrange to place an Inspector of Agriculture permanently in that part of the country there should be an increased output of cotton there.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 281.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

In spite of the German Emperor's eagerness to acclaim the Bulgarian advance in the Dobrudja as a decisive victory, it is still too early to appraise the enemy's success in this region at its real military value. The garrison of Tutrakan failed to make good its escape and was overwhelmed; at Silistria the Roumanian troops were better prepared, and the German-Bulgarian force entered a deserted town. In the week that has elapsed since then the population of Germany has had time to look round for the fruits of the decisive victory, only to learn that a decisive victory, like a "strategical retirement in accordance with prearranged plans," does not always bear the meaning put upon it by the unenlightened. Meanwhile the Roumanians have fallen back on a line which serves to protect Constanza, their chief port on the Black Sea, and the great bridge over the Danube at Cernavoda which carries the railway to Bucharest.

The Russian troops who had penetrated as far south as Dobritch have also been withdrawn northwards, but, with part of the Roumanian Army, have kept in touch with the enemy during their retirement. Consequently, in addition to the natural difficulties of the ground they have to cover, the Bulgarians have had some opposition to overcome. It is, therefore, not surprising that their later bulletins should be content with the admission that the Russo-Roumanian forces have taken up a strong position guarding the railway. On the other hand, a Roumanian official statement claims a success at Enigea, nineteen miles south of the line. This would point to the arrival of reinforcements which have enabled our Allies to assume the offensive. The enemy's chance lay in a rapid thrust which would take him to the railway line and to Constanza before the Roumanians had time to organize their defence. He may yet try to force their present position; but unless he can drive straight through it the situation on the Greek frontier will make the Bulgarians increasingly loth to tie up large forces in the Dobrudja, where not even the attainment of their sole objective would constitute the decisive victory so prematurely heralded to an expectant public in Germany.

The Balkan correspondent of *The Times* supplies an interesting explanation of the failure of Roumania to provide for the defence of her Dobrudja frontier. There is reason to believe that Bulgaria was inclined to favour the maintenance of friendly relations with the Roumanians. This feeling was reciprocated by the Roumanian Government, which refrained from declaring war on Bulgaria with the *bonâ-fide* intention of avoiding any act of hostility. Such an arrangement by no means suited Germany, and the anxiety which was displayed in the German Press over Bulgaria's delay in declaring war on Roumania will be remembered. As a matter of fact Bulgaria made no declaration of war against her neighbour. Under the direction of Marshal von Mackensen and his German officers hostilities were begun without any formalities; the Dobrudja frontier was crossed and full advantage was taken of Roumanian unpreparedness. If this explanation is correct in all its details, it would follow as a natural corollary that the Roumanian military command was satisfied that no extreme danger threatened by way of the Dobrudja in any circumstances. In that case there may well be a strong probability of the German Emperor having to revise his estimate of what is or is not a decisive victory.

Not the least satisfactory feature in the Near Eastern situation is that the Roumanians should be following up their successes in the Carpathians apparently undeterred by events in the Dobrudja. They are now in touch with stronger forces of the enemy, and progress is naturally slower. The main opposition is being met in the southern portion of the line. In the defile of Merisor fierce fighting, lasting for two days, is reported. Positions were taken and retaken several times; but the Roumanians remained masters of the field. A later enemy report, however, states that they have had to abandon Petroseny and the Szurduk Pass. It is in this direction that the main Austro-German reinforcements are being sent. At this point the Roumanian advance assumed its most dangerous aspect, as the mountain barrier between the two countries is here at its narrowest, and an invasion of the plains of the Banat would mark a critical stage of the campaign for Austria-Hungary. The Austro-German forces would be expected to concentrate on one part of the Roumanian line rather than to dissipate their strength over the whole front. Public opinion in Hungary has been deeply stirred by the intervention of Roumania, and however pressing the claims of other regions may be, political considerations will prompt the German military authorities to make a supreme effort to reassure the Magyars.

The Allied offensive on the Greek frontier is being prosecuted with great vigour, mainly on the western wing, where until recently the Serbians were bearing

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the brunt of the fighting. It was obviously undesirable that these gallant troops should be called upon to pay an excessive price for the success of the whole Allied enterprise, and we welcome the appearance of the French and Russians on the extreme left of the line. Whether as a result of the earlier strain imposed on the Serbians there has been a redistribution of troops in this sector, or whether topographical considerations brought the Serbians first into touch with the enemy we do not know. But it was French and Russian troops who engaged the Bulgarians between Rosna and Florina, and the French actually took Florina by assault on September 18. These troops, continuing their turning movement, are now marching on Monastir, which the German and Bulgarian Staffs are believed to have evacuated. Meanwhile, the Serbians were confronted by the high peaks of Kaymatchkalan, north of Ostrovo and just within their own country. A systematic advance and desperate fighting finally gave them possession of this coveted position, and the Serbian Army had the satisfaction of standing once more on its own native land.

As far as can be gathered the initial thrust across the Struma is not being followed up by the British troops. The difficulty of a front of an indefinite length as the offensive develops can be avoided by holding the Struma line, at least until the western wing has swung further north than it is at present. On the other hand, if, as seems possible, the Bulgarians have been found in unexpected strength to the west and south-west of Seres, there may be a considerable amount of work to be done in this neighbourhood before the successes south of this point are extended. It must not be forgotten, however, that the Russo-Roumanian forces in the Dobrudja require the maximum support from the Salonika offensive, and to ensure this, the thrust must be directed against the territory which the Bulgarians are least anxious to lose. If the capture of Monastir can be made to coincide with a successful advance up the Vardar, it will not be long before the war-wearied people of Bulgaria become suspicious of the strategy which sends their troops to the Dobrudja, where there was no need for any fighting to take place, and leaves the approaches to Sofia insecurely defended.

If nothing more should be heard of Greece during the present war, she will have made her contribution to its history. The Greek Fourth Army Corps, consisting of three divisions of infantry, with an artillery regiment of nine batteries, was stationed in the territory overrun, by agreement with the Greek Government, by Bulgarian troops. This body of soldiers, in all about 10,000 strong, has allowed itself to be kidnapped by the Germans, and has been sent to Germany to be interned there as "guests" until the end of the war. Although the details of this amazing exploit have not yet been confirmed, it is not difficult to realise what happened. The German and Bulgarian Staffs were evidently of opinion that Greece's neutrality could not be relied upon as a permanent factor, and resolved to reduce the strength of the Greek army by the number of men whom chance and Greek connivance had placed in their power. The German version is that the General Commanding the Fourth Army Corps "found himself faced by an untenable situation. The troops entrusted to him were threatened with hunger and illness . . . and on September 12 he begged the German Chief Army Command to take under its protection from the pressure of the Entente his brave troops, who were loyal to their King and Government, and furnish them with an asylum and provisions. This request was granted. . . . It was arranged with the Commanding General that the Greek troops should be transported, fully armed and equipped, as neutrals, to places of refuge in Germany. They will enjoy the privileges of guests here, until their country is evacuated by the Entente intruders."

To enhance the verisimilitude of this delightful explanation the Germans have subsequently embroidered the narrative with stories of the desperate condition of the Greek troops and of the refusal of the British naval authorities to transport them from Kavalla. This allegation is disproved by the fact that the British took off as many soldiers as desired to leave, together with a quantity of war material. It is probably true that a highly placed Greek officer played the part of devil's advocate in the transaction. A Greek report states that the officers of the Army Corps met in conference to decide upon the course to be adopted in view of the Bulgarian summons to evacuate the town. A proposal that resistance should be offered and another to surrender to the Bulgarians were rejected; but the conference decided unanimously to surrender to the Allies. The protocol of the meeting was signed by all the officers. Subsequently, however, after a conference with some German officers, a certain Colonel Hazzopoulos "ordered the surrender of the troops to the Bulgarians, and succeeded in carrying with him the larger portion of his officers and men by means of a lying statement that the Allies had refused to allow them to leave by sea." It has yet to be explained how a colonel comes to be responsible for the fate of an Army Corps, and the discrepancy between this statement and the Gereman reference to the general commanding the Corps will be noted. The Greek Government has hastened to announce that the Kavalla commander received orders to transport his troops to Volo, and his action is denounced as treason.

Such an incident as the kidnapping of an Army Corps could never have happened outside Greece, and it would not have happened there if King Constantine and his Government had not adopted their strange attitude towards the war and towards their obligations to Serbia and the Allies. In defence of the Fourth Army Corps it must be stated that, when once they had received instructions to surrender forts to the Bulgarians, they may have felt obliged to carry out the policy to its logical conclusion and surrender themselves as well. Under a King and Commander-in-Chief who let it be clearly seen that nothing would induce him to fight for fear of "the frightful costs that war would involve" an army can hardly fail to become hopelessly demoralized. All that happened at Kavalla will seem more or less natural to everyone, we believe, except King Constantine.

Once more the Germans are likely to be found to have overreached themselves. They had established in King Constantine a genuine terror of their military strength, which was proof against the pressure of the Allies and the menace of a revolution in Greece. But they overlooked the power of ridicule. The spiriting away of one of his Army Corps, amid protests of loyalty "to the will of their War Lord and his legal Government," has made King Constantine the laughing-stock not only of the world, but of the ages. Unless we are mistaken, Germany by this one stroke will have brought about what sheaves of Allied Notes and the gathering of Allied naval squadrons failed to accomplish—the removal of the King of the Hellenes from the sphere of German influence and German intimidation. It is unthinkable that even King Constantine should pocket this affront at the hands of the very people whom he has been championing at the expense of honour as well as of reason. As the Greek Premier has made representations to Germany with a view to securing the prompt return of the Kavalla soldiers to Greece, with their arms and ammunition, the future course of the negotiations between the two countries will be watched with interest. The effrontery of the German action, however, remains, and Greece will have to decide whether she can be satisfied with the mere return of the Army Corps, even if she be fortunate enough to gain this point.

The resignation of M. Zaimis left King Constantine confronted with the difficulty of selecting another Prime Minister. After failing to induce M. Dimitrakopoulos to accept the post, he found M. Kalogeropoulos, a leading member of the Theotokist party, willing to under-

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take the task of forming a Cabinet. Taking the portfolios of War and Finance for himself, the new Premier distributed the rest of his offices among politicians who, with one exception, are reckoned, as he is, as anti-Venizelists. The constitution of the Cabinet contravenes the Allies' stipulation that Greece should be given a business Government and not one steeped in political prejudice. But the personal sympathies of M. Kalogeropoulos are understood to be with the Entente, and the fact that his acceptance of office coincided with the removal of the Kavalla Army Corps to Germany may induce the Allies to allow him to prove his capacity for steering Greece into less troubled waters. For the present, however, M. Kalogeropoulos has not been recognised by the Entente Ministers in Athens. It is probable that after the experience of many months the latter may feel tempted to judge the new Government by its acts rather than by its protestations of friendliness.

The report of a Russian success in Persia is the first news that has been published for many weeks regarding the situation in this theatre of the war. As has been hinted in these columns, it was to be expected that some little time would have to elapse before the Russians were in a position to oppose the Turkish advance. We know now that the enemy forces reached a point about half-way between Hamadan and Kasvin, and we may be sure that in the meantime Turkish communiqués will not have been remiss in making the most of these successes. Now, however, the Russians have resumed the offensive. Striking south-east from the direction of Tabriz, our Allies threatened the communications of the enemy columns and compelled them to fall back. The whole expedition is now reported to be once more within twenty miles of Hamadan. The Russians have occupied Kuridjan, and we may hope to hear that the invaders are now in process of being expelled finally from Persian soil.

The experiences of a body of British troops stationed "somewhere in Egypt" afford an interesting commentary on the reports which the German Press never wearies of circulating about the bad relations between our soldiers and the Egyptian natives. There is no reason to suppose that the case is peculiar; but the information that reaches us supplies certain details which illustrate in this instance an almost embarrassing insistence on the part of the native population to testify their good will. Sums of money were subscribed to put up shelters for the troops, to provide comforts for those in hospital, and to erect a shelter for Yeomanry horses. In May last a British soldier died in hospital at the place in question. He was buried on a site about a mile from the eastern bank of the Nile in the open desert. Subsequently, the leading native notables on their own initiative instituted a lottery in order to raise the necessary funds for the purchase of part of this site for its presentation to the British community as a burial ground. The amount raised enabled a wall to be built round the proposed cemetery and an iron entrance gate to be erected, while the balance, amounting to £30, has been placed in the local branch of the National Bank for future expenses incurred in connection with the cemetery.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* announces that the Egyptian Government is seriously contemplating the execution of irrigation works on the White Nile, just south of Khartoum. A start may be made this autumn on the project, which consists in the construction of a dam at a cost of £E.1,000,000. The building of this dam was one of the contemplated enterprises which had to be put on one side at the outbreak of war. It has, however, become a matter of urgency owing to the series of low Niles, which points to the possibility of an abnormally high Nile, if not a cycle of high Niles, in the near future. With the extended cultivation in Egypt to-day, it is pointed out, there is a grave danger that any great increase in the volume of water coming down the river may prove more than the existing irrigation works can cope with.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 5.

The 1917 Census.

A decree has just been promulgated ordering the taking of a census next year and empowering the Department of State Statistics, under the auspices of which the work will be carried out, to mark all dwellings with whatever distinctive marks it chooses, and to call upon any Government servants to assist its representatives. The intention to take the usual decennial census was reported some time back in this correspondence, and the preliminary work is already well in hand. Some idea of the work involved may be gathered from the fact that at the last census (1907) no less than 1,926,620 dwellings had to be numbered and subsequently visited for the collection of the requisite particulars of the inmates, and that the number has probably very much increased since then. This time the difficulties of organisation, etc., will be accentuated owing to the impossibility at the present juncture of obtaining a sufficient staff of qualified and responsible supervisors. The census could, however, not be put off until after the war, as that would have upset the statistical tables, and so the Department has courageously decided to face all the extra difficulties in the interest of the country.

Precautionary Measures.

The Government has just issued a circular to the provincial authorities, advising them that cholera has appeared amongst certain of the troops in Sinai and laying down what steps they are to take to prevent the disease entering Egypt. For fear that the publication of this notice may cause alarm to people at home and elsewhere, let me say that it is a purely precautionary measure. Cholera has, it must be admitted, appeared amongst our troops in Sinai, but it was most drastically dealt with as soon as it was detected and so far no further cases have been declared. Our men caught it from the Turks, who apparently had it fairly badly. It appears that the Germans who accompanied them had given strict orders that whenever any suspicious death occurred a notice to this effect was to be put up over the place in Turkish and European characters. Quite a number of these notices were found, but they were put up as a warning to the Germans and their men and not from humane motives. The reason it has been thought advisable to issue the above-mentioned circular is that, despite the vigilant cordon which is still maintained, some of the Labour Corps may get across the Canal without examination, and so carry infection into Egypt. The risk of their doing this is, however, very remote, but the Government has very wisely thought it best to take all precautions.

Quarantine stations have been organized at Tor (Sinai Peninsula) for pilgrims returning to Egypt and the West, and at the island of Kamaran (Southern Red Sea) for those returning to India and the Far East.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, September 6.

The last fortnight has been big with events; first of all, the replacement of General Dusmani, Chief of the General Staff, and of Colonel Metaxas, the Deputy Chief, as well as that of other members. Thanks to the *savoir-faire* of M. Zaimis, their removal was quietly effected, and almost without the country knowing that it was at the Allies' demand. Incidentally, the Venizelist Press had paved the way by showing the necessity for the resignation of these officers who, as advisers of the King, had wielded a Pro-German policy, so as to furnish substantial proof to the Entente. The replacement of M. Dusmani by General Moscopoulo, of whom General Sarrail thinks highly, has helped to assure this result.

The Great Venizelist Meeting.

M. Venizelos' speech at the great meeting on August 27 was a hammer blow. With his characteristic openness and courage M. Venizelos pointed out to the people the pernicious influence of the King's entourage. Both the people and M. Venizelos' adversaries were shown in this speech that he is neither anti-royalist nor anti-dynastic, and that, on the contrary, after having saved and consolidated the dynasty at a time when it was proscribed, he still tries to save it from bad influences and perils which menace it and the nation alike. Only in such an aim, and rightly counting on the people's affection for the King, did M. Venizelos advise them to appeal direct to his Majesty, so as to put him on his guard against the influence of military advisers and his own Pro-German and absolutist tendencies.

"The Liberal Party," said M. Venizelos, in conclusion, "is neither the enemy of the Crown, the reigning house, nor of the King personally. It merely insists on the observation of the constitutional régime, which is also in the real interests of the Crown." These words are in perfect accord with the counsels of the late King George, that perspicacious diplomat, who reigned half a century over a Greece untroubled by the least internal disorder.

The King's Refusal.

It is, therefore, regrettable that the King should have refused to receive the deputation of the meeting charged to present him with the address adopted by the people, for the refusal only proves that the King is still under the sinister influence of his false counsellors.

During the King's short illness, the *Hestia* asserted that his state of health and the political situation had caused him to inform the President of the Council of the necessity of confiding the kingly functions to a regent. This statement has been denied.

Roumania's Departure from Neutrality.

The most recent events have exercised a great pressure on Greece, tending to impose inexorably on the country the policy so long mapped out by M. Venizelos. After the Bulgarian invasion of Greek territory, Roumania's intervention cast a bombshell among all the Pro-Germans of Athens. Even the most uncompromising neutralists have modified their views, and their Press demands that Greece also shall cease to be neutral, but not at once, as M. Venizelos wishes. One must still wait for the Allies' conditions, is their cry. "Greece," says the *Nea Himera*, should in her own interests not side with the Entente at once, for it would result in making it impossible for Bulgaria to defend herself against Roumania and the Entente." The paper's arguments are that in this event Bulgaria would have to detach herself from Germany, in which case Greece should co-operate with the Bulgarians.

The King's Attitude.

The King's declarations to the Entente Ministers since Roumania's intervention show that his Majesty also recognises the necessity of a re-direction of Greece's policy. These declarations gave the impression that the eve of abandoning neutrality was at hand. But the belief was premature. Apparently, the slight advances and slight successes of the Germano-Bulgars against Roumania have revived the fear of Germany which haunts military circles. Consequently, Greece's intervention will depend on happenings on the Roumanian front. It may come soon if the Roumanians secure an important victory. On the other hand, it may be postponed indefinitely if the Roumanians are defeated, or if the military situation remains uncertain and stationary. In the case of intervention on the side of the Entente, France and England will have to provide all the material required by the army after the long mobilization which has used up and deteriorated all the equipment. Although the army lacks nearly everything, its re-fitting out should be capable of being done quickly.

The Arrival of the Anglo-French Squadron.

The presence of a powerful Anglo-French squadron in the Piræus has undoubtedly assisted to swing Greek policy towards the protecting Powers. The arrival of the fleet, whose aim was the expulsion of German propaganda, inspired panic among all the Boches of Athens and their Greek associates. Thus, in order to repair a grave fault of the Entente, namely, that of allowing Germany to exercise for so long, by methods of corruption, such a vast propaganda in Greece, a whole fleet has now been necessary to expel the propagandists. For two years Baron Schenck, the arch-propagandist, has managed, by the aid of the newspapers which he won over, to effect, little by little, such a change as one would have thought impossible in Greece. In a country whose heart always beats for the Powers which created it, where, especially since the war made by the Kaiser in 1897 against Greece, the Germans were detested by everyone without exception, that was a veritable miracle for which one must render homage to the skill of the Baron, or, rather, to his money.

An Historical Monument.

Baron Schenck's name will remain historical in Athens. In one of the principal squares of the capital a disproportionately high building, still under construction, has arrived at its fifth storey. The owner, who is the editor of an evening paper, has, after being an ardent Venizelist at the beginning of the war, become a vehicle of the German propaganda. This building, the circumstances of whose erection everyone knows, will remain an historic monument of German corruption, to the shame of the country.

It is affirmed that Schenck has in all spent over ten million marks. Between July 20 and August 20 only he received through one Athens bank 2,400,000 marks as the first instalment towards the Greek elections. Thus he managed, through his spies of both sexes, to learn everything that happened in Athens. In suppressing this scandalous organization, which operated under the auspices of all the anti-Venizelist Governments, the Allies have decidedly rendered a service to Greece by freeing her from those who corrupted her patriotism and her honour, and created division and discord.

At the last moment the incorrigible pro-Germans sought to defend their protégés, and to render them a last service by having them arrested, not by the English military police, but through the intermediary of the Greek Government and by Greek mercenaries. Nevertheless, the Augean stables have been cleansed. The Boches have departed, and have ceased to infect the atmosphere of Athens by their presence.

NEW GREEK CABINET.

A new Cabinet has been formed in Greece under M. Kalogeropoulos, a leading member of the Theotokist Party, who has already held office with distinction as Minister of the Interior and as Minister of Finance. The following is the constitution of the new Ministry:

M. Kalogeropoulos	Premier, War and Finance.
Admiral Damianos.....	Navy.
M. Roufos	Interior.
M. Karapanos	Foreign Affairs.
M. Kaftangoglu.....	Communications.
M. Vokotopoulos	Justice.
M. Kanaris.....	Public Instruction.
M. Bassias	National Economy.

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STATE OF PALESTINE.

We are indebted to a correspondent for the following interesting extracts from a letter received from a neutral resident in Palestine who has recently arrived from Jerusalem:—

Lack of Transport.

There have been great changes in the means of communication in Syria and Palestine during the time of the war. Early in 1915 the railroad between Jaffa and Lydda was torn up. Trains have been running twice a week only between Jerusalem and Ramleh, and very often they were needed for the military, so that civilians were unable to use them. Therefore, travelling between Jerusalem and Jaffa has had to be by carriages, and only five of these have been running owing to the absence of horses. All animals for transport—camels, mules, horses, and donkeys—were long ago taken for military service, and this has greatly added to the general distress.

Enormous numbers of olive trees, and also the eucalyptus trees near Jaffa and the oaks of Galilee, have been cut down, and the wood used as fuel on the railway, and also to make charcoal for the engines used for the irrigation of the Jaffa orange gardens. These engines were formerly worked by petroleum, but this is now unobtainable; and the orange gardens, formerly so flourishing, are suffering very much for want of proper irrigation. The distress and lack of transport were so great that in the early spring many of the fellaheen women carried baskets of oranges, containing 120 oranges in each, on their heads all the way from Jaffa to Jerusalem in order to earn a few piastres.

Scarcity of Commodities.

The peasants who used to plant "simsim" (sesame), which was formerly a profitable crop, now plant "durra" (maize), from which the cheapest kind of flour is made. Even maize flour and barley flour are so expensive that very little at a time can be bought. There has been hardly any lighting at all after sunset, as there is no petroleum, and olive oil and sesame oil are very scarce, and are needed for food. The price of all the necessaries of life is enormous. Sugar costs £1 (Turkish) per rottle (about 6 lbs.), a packet of candles 24 piastres, and petroleum, if obtained at all, is worth from £6 to £10 (Turkish) per box. Other articles are equally expensive, e.g., the commonest calico costs 12 piastres per pic, and a reel of sewing cotton is worth 30 metalics (about 1s. 3d.).

In the spring there was an outbreak of typhus, and there were not only many deaths amongst the natives, but several well-known German and Greek residents died of it.

Jerusalem to Damascus by Road.

The most astonishing change is the vastly improved number and condition of good carriage roads in the country, made, of course, for military purposes. The chief new roads are the following:—(1) From Hebron to Beersheba, and twenty miles beyond it to the south; (2) from Latron to Gaza (this road runs south-west); (3) from Jericho to Salt and Amman, eastwards; (4) the important road northwards, from Nazareth to Tiberias and a Jewish colony called "Jaouneh," crossing the Jordan at the bridge of "Jisr Benât Yakoub" to Damascus. As Nazareth was already linked with Jerusalem by a carriage road before the war, it will be seen that a carriage can now travel all the way from Jerusalem to Damascus. This journey was actually accomplished last April by a motor-car in *one day!* The car started from Jerusalem at 5 a.m., stopped for lunch at Tiberias, and reached Damascus at 7 p.m.! The same journey by train takes considerably longer, as one has to go by rail from Jerusalem to Lydda, then viâ a German colony called "Wilhelma" to Tut Karam, then the line turns westward to the Valley of Nablus, and viâ Samaria and Dothan to Jenin. This way of travelling between Jerusalem and Damascus needs two days, and there is a train service twice a week. At Damascus the train meets that of the German "Berlin to Beersheba" train service!

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, August 30.

Commandeering of Mules.

By order of the High Commissioner, in a *Gazette* of August 22, island mules are requisitioned for military purposes. All owners of mules are required to hold them in readiness for sale at appointed times and places, to be notified. The prices will be fixed by a committee appointed by the High Commissioner, and will consist of an official of the Colonial Service, a military officer, and one native member. Any person failing to obey the order is liable to a fine or imprisonment, or both.

The Legislative Council.

It is probable that in the approaching elections there will be sharp contests in some of the districts. The island is divided into three electoral divisions, comprising the linked districts of Nicosia-Kyrenia, Famagusta-Larnaca, and Limassol-Papho. In each division one Mohammedan and three non-Mohammedan members are elected. The High Commissioner and six non-elective members bring the total of the Assembly to eighteen. In several districts the present members will seek re-election, but will be opposed by fresh candidates. Canvassing is being actively carried out, especially at Larnaca, where two new candidates are to be proposed.

Archiepiscopal Election.

Difference of opinion still prevails. The proposal of the *Phoné tés Kypron* ("Voice of Cyprus") that the Archimandrite Chrysastomos Papadopoulos, Professor at Athens, should be elected has found many supporters; while many are in favour of the Bishop of Kition. The *Anagennesis*, of Cairo, approves of the *Phoné's* choice, but considers it unlikely that the Archimandrite would accept the appointment, and that he may be "reserved by Divine Providence for another important and distinguished position." There is still a great hope that there will eventually be unanimity or a very decided popular majority for one or the other of those named.

Troubles of Cypriot Emigrants.

Notwithstanding the warnings given by the local Press, large numbers of Greeks have left the island, chiefly for the United States, viâ Egypt, Marseilles, or the Piræus. Many of these have met with difficulties, which include the failure to obtain passages, as promised by agents in the island. Some, over 100, have been kept waiting over a fortnight at Port Said, and are unable to proceed for want of funds. Others are kept at Alexandria, and are in sorry plight. It must be said that many have only themselves to thank, or, rather, blame, for their rashness in leaving Cyprus at such a time, in spite of many cautions. The emigrants include some of the Greek Government officials, the low rate of whose salaries has led them to risk seeking a living elsewhere.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

A SUGGESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In view of "Corsair's" philanthropic suggestion in your issue of August 4 that funds should be raised in England for the benefit of the Turkish and Laz refugees evicted from the Armenian provinces, may I press the following further schemes on your attention?—

1. Funds and Armenians should be collected for the benefit of the distressed and unoccupied Kurds, whom "Corsair" most unaccountably omits from his list of Oriental beneficiaries of our charity.

2. Employment to be found for the many Macedo-Turkish "Chetés" and Macedo-Bulgar "Comitajis," who, owing to the unfortunate fact that war is war, are likely soon to be deprived of their means of livelihood.

3. Since one of these days a number of personages of importance now resident at Constantinople are likely to lose their posts and emoluments and be reduced to penury, may I suggest that a fund entitled the "Distressed (Turkish) Gentlemen's Fund" be opened, and that the proper departments of State be requested to sanction the purchase, through the U.S.A. Ambassador at Constantinople, of buildings in which these unhappy victims of the war, who will have lost their little all, may be housed?—I am, etc.,

Gyotumdensor,
(Brother of Aristotle of Stagira).

August 20, 1916.

The anticipated meeting of the Mesopotamia Commission, of which Lord George Hamilton is chairman, has been postponed from the present week to next, and it is proposed that the Commissioners should sit again in private next Tuesday.

The Commission on Commercial Policy will, it is understood, not be sitting again for a few days. The chairman of this Commission is Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 17.*

War in the Air.

Last week the political atmosphere was indeed heavily charged. You could almost smell powder! Nervous systems were strained to snapping point, and one quite had the impression that it was "touch and go." None the less a general relaxation set in and the critical moment passed. As a result of the tremendous pressure brought to bear on Sovereign and Government by the German and Austrian representatives? Who can tell? There are those who think that the question of compensation still constitutes the main obstacle to Roumanian intervention. The Russian advance, on the one hand, with the offensive from Salonika, would appear to be a guarantee for Roumania, and should, therefore, if anything, hasten a change in her attitude; on the other hand, the solution of the diplomatic bargain would seem to have suffered some further delay as a result of Russian successes.

Now, once more, there is war in the air, and I am inclined to believe that we are dealing with the genuine article this time, in spite of our all having had the opportunity of growing sceptical in the course of the last two years, during which there have been more false alarms than I can remember. It seems that the Entente Ministers have not been inactive either. They still had a card to play, and, unless I am misinformed, they have played it, and won what they stood to win. Why was this card not played before? Has the new recruit to the diplomatic ranks of the Entente in Bucharest brought with him wider powers than were possessed by his colleagues?

Signs and Symptoms.

August 1 being the anniversary of Tsar Ferdinand's accession to the throne, a *Te Deum* was celebrated at the Bulgarian chapel. The Boche Ministers were present at this solemn ceremony, as well as M. de Monteforte, the Persian Charge d'Affaires, who manifestly does not shirk the responsibility of committing his country.

Receiving on the same day the congratulations of a deputation of Bulgarian schoolmasters, M. Simeon Radeff is said to have exhorted them to hold themselves in readiness to leave shortly for Kronstadt: for the Hungarian frontier, be it noted, not the Bulgarian.

The German and Austrian Ministers have despatched a considerable portion of their belongings across the frontier, inclusive of the Count's offspring and other youthful members of these Legations, who, "having terminated their cure in Sinaia, have no reason for prolonging their stay in view of the existing epidemic of scarlet fever." This morning's paper informs us that during the last three days no less than 500 Austro-Hungarian families have left the capital and taken the way of the frontier. This still leaves us with some sixty thousand spies. Do those who have left represent the honest or the incompetent section of the Boche community, or is it that they have already accomplished their unwholesome work?

Bulgar Impertinence.

In fulfilment of orders given by the Government all the barges and lighters belonging to the Roumanian river service have been withdrawn from Bulgarian ports and towed into Roumanian waters. The lighter at Rustchuk could not be removed owing to its occupation by Bulgarian soldiery and the arrest of the Roumanian lightermen.

For some time past the Bulgarian authorities have refused permits to the functionaries of the Roumanian river service to leave Rustchuk. The Roumanian Legation in Sofia, acting upon instructions received from Bucharest, has made representations for the release of these employees. The Bulgarian Government have replied that they will in no case be allowed to leave Bulgarian territory for the present, their retention being dictated by military considerations. A similar communication has been received by the Consul-General at Rustchuk, who has himself been refused authority to cross the frontier. These restrictions are explained, though not justified, by the assumption that the individuals in question are up to a certain point cognisant of the military preparations which have been made along the frontier.

Last week there arrived at Rustchuk no less than eleven tugs each with five barges in tow containing troops and munitions of war. Others have since been seen passing down the river with pontoons for floating bridges. The arrival of Turkish troops is also reported. On the other hand, it is said that the Austro-German troops who are so very much in evidence are in reality only humble Bulgars in disguise, promenaded from point to point in the puerile affectation of terrifying the Roumanian General Staff.

Provocation—or Simply Bluff?

The German and Hungarian Press, but especially the Bulgarian, having first made advances of a flattering nature, followed by advice purporting to convey an impression of disinterested concern, both of which were ill received in Roumania, has now broken out into invective of the most undisguised variety, accompanied by frightful threats of what will happen to Roumania in case of her having the temerity to turn against her ancient benefactors, the Central Powers. Many of the Roumanian papers are inclined to regard the doings of the Bulgars as unmistakable acts of provocation. On first sight one would judge this to be overrating their audacity and feel tempted to disregard the whole matter as simple bluff. But they may not be far wrong after all, for we must remember that the Bulgars would scarcely do anything without the authority of their masters. And it is possible that Germany, deeming a prolongation of Roumanian neutrality to be impossible, may be endeavouring, by wilful acts of provocation, to precipitate the crisis prematurely, in the hope of thus embarrassing the Roumanian General Staff.

August 24.

Count Czernin's Diplomatic Bag.

In one of my last letters I spoke of the exodus of Huns, and mentioned that the Austro-Hungarian Minister had sent his children over the border. There occurred in connection with their journey an incident which is also significant in its way.

The personnel accompanying the Minister's family was armed, of course, with *laisser-passers*, but apparently had no permit for the export of food-stuffs. Now it happened that the Customs officer found among their trunks 50 kilogrammes of flour and a quantity of bacon and fat, which he was unkind enough to confiscate. Complaints were, of course, made in high quarters, but the official was found to have done his duty.

We are sorry for the Count, for the accident is a little humiliating for the representative of his Apostolic Majesty, Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary. Also for the Count's relations in Austria, who, before this annoying *contretemps* took place, were without a doubt looking forward to a change in their diet.

The Small Change Crisis.

The speculators in small change have, it seems, got themselves into quite serious trouble, for according to a resolution taken at the Ministry of Finance all one-franc and two-franc pieces will be considered without value from September 14 (N.S.) onwards, the National Bank at this date putting into circulation paper money of one and two francs to the value of twenty-five millions. Speculators will thus be obliged to get rid of all the silver coin they have accumulated, amounting in some cases to many tens of thousand francs, within a very brief period, or keep it for good. There are actually in circulation eighty-six millions in silver coin and twenty-five millions in notes of five francs. The current silver coin will subsequently be replaced by coins bearing the effigy of King Ferdinand.

* Delayed in transmission.

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NOTES FROM BULGARIA.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 24.

The accounts of the state of affairs in the Bulgarian army which filter through, despite the closing of the frontiers, show that there is a widespread feeling of discontent. The soldiers have not received any pay for six months. They are badly fed, and every movement of troops has to be made by road, at all times execrable, as the railways are used entirely for the transport of ammunition, though German and Austrian troops, when moved, are invariably taken by rail, while they are regularly paid and well fed.

This difference in treatment is naturally very galling to the Bulgarians, and quarrels between the soldiers of the two armies are of frequent occurrence. On more than one occasion these quarrels have led to bloodshed.

Ravages of Cholera.

Though every effort is made to conceal the truth, the few persons coming from Bulgaria agree in their accounts of the severity of the cholera epidemic, which is making great ravages, especially among the Bulgarian troops occupying Eastern Macedonia. On the appearance of any symptoms of the malady the patient is hurried away, his death being reported as due to any illness but the real one.

Scarcity of Wheat.

At a recent sitting of the Sobranje, Deputy Dimitroff addressed an interpellation to the Government regarding the inferior quality of the bread being supplied to the public in Sofia, Philipopolis, and other Bulgarian towns. M. Radoslavoff, in reply, stated that in view of the danger of the country being denuded of wheat, the Committee of Public Supply had issued an order providing for the addition of a certain quantity of bran and maize to the flour used for bread. On inquiry, however, it had been found that, in the larger towns, the bakers had exceeded their instructions, and by various mixtures had reduced the quality of bread to such an extent as to render it unfit for consumption. M. Radoslavoff observed that there was no actual scarcity of wheat, sufficient supplies remaining from the old crop, and he promised to take stern measures against the offending bakers. The fact remains, however, that good bread is unobtainable, and the prices fixed for wheat scarcely bear out the Premier's assurances as to the abundance of supplies.

Cattle in Serbia.

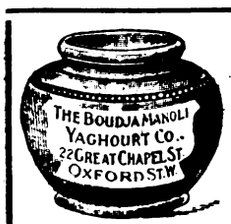
The Ministry of Finance has published the result of the census of animals taken in the portions of Serbia occupied by Bulgaria. In Old Serbia, Macedonia, and Western Thrace there were at the end of May 2,072,800 sheep, 722,300 goats, and less than 450,000 oxen and cows. The region most rich in cattle is Monastir, after which comes Nish.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN BULGARIA.

We are glad to learn that the fund raised by Madame Jonescu in aid of British prisoners in Bulgaria reached a total of £184 2s. The account of the fund, which is now wound up, was taken over free of charges by the Bank of Roumania, which also very kindly undertook the remittance of the money.

TURKEY'S PROVISIONAL STAMPS.

Mr. Fred. J. Melville writes in the *Telegraph*:—Turkey has practically exhausted the patience of collectors in neutral countries by her excessive output of provisional stamps. A Swiss correspondent tells me there was a great rush for the first dozen or so of the Turkish varieties, but now that the number of different stamps issued in connection with the war has increased to 78, very few collectors are troubling to keep pace with the stamp-issuing activities of the Turks.



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BERLIN-BAGDAD RAILWAY.

Sir Mark Sykes and "Kultur."

At the invitation of Mr. I. W. Raymond and the Overseas Dominions War Service Contingents, 200 wounded soldiers from every colony of the Empire were entertained at Caxton Hall last Saturday afternoon. General Sir Sam Hughes presided.

Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., spoke on "The Past, the War, and the Future." He said that while not knowing the day or the hour, it was impossible for one who had gravitated for ten years between Berlin, Vienna, Constantinople, and Baghdad, as he had done, not to have felt that the war was coming sooner or later. He was not in the least criticising the people who thought it was not coming, but he thought the more people knew the ground the more certain they were that the war was coming.

The three great things between 1815 and 1915 were cosmopolitan finance, international socialism, and "kultur." "Kultur" took all the bad of past civilisation and none of the good. It had no law, no chivalry, no concessions to smaller nations. It had taken the Napoleonic military system, and its ruthless order, discipline, and mercilessness were taken from the feudal caste and the War Lord. Its purpose to develop upon all these lines was nothing more or less than absolute world-control.

Sir Mark Sykes referred to the Berlin-Baghdad Railway as playing the big part in the idea of world-domination, and said no heights of heroism and no depths of villainy were too high or too deep for the discipline of "kultur" to rise to or sink to. They had no moral at the back of them, but we refused to see the world enslaved. The kennel might be comfortable and the chain of gold, but we wanted none of it.

"Kultur" had enslavement at the back of it, and meant nothing but that. It was belly-worship, soulless, cruel, unrighteous, and enslaved. The struggle against it must be long and bitter, because so long as that Berlin-Baghdad combine held together there could be no guarantee for the future peace of the world. Germany could pay a big price. She could give Poland, Belgium, Alsace-Lorraine, Mesopotamia, etc., and yet her idea would not be broken. The Berlin-Baghdad railway would be untouched, and she would have a land communication to Africa and Asia, whilst we were left with the sea, menaced by submarines. We had got to break that spell and that belief in world-domination. The German would become civilised when he knew that world-domination was false, and could not be gained. He would never lose his illusion, he (Sir Mark Sykes) believed, until the idea of that line which he had been thirty years intriguing for was taken from him. The intrigues of peace were no less creditable than those of war. The railway was to have been built by 1917, and he believed that was the real war date. The Allies were fighting for all that "Kultur" was fighting against, and the great thing for us was the solidity in the future of the alliance between England, France, and Russia. The labour powers of the Entente must have an agreement.

"REORGANIZING" THE ARMENIANS.

The Turkish Government, writes a correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, after having massacred half a million Armenians in the course of last year, has recently undertaken the task of "reorganizing" the fundamental statutes which govern the Armenian people and the Armenian Church in Turkey.

According to a telegram published in the *Hamburger Nachrichten* of August 15, the Turkish *Gazette* at Constantinople has published a new "statut organique" of the Armenian Patriarchate in the Turkish Empire. The first article of the new statute provides that the old historical catholicates of Sis (in Cilicia) and Akhtamar (an island in the lake of Van) have been suppressed and their functions amalgamated with those of the Armenian Patriarchates of Constantinople and Jerusalem. The title of the spiritual head of Turkish Armenians must henceforth be granted to the latter. All intercourse between the Turkish Armenians and the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin is entirely prohibited. The seat of the Armenian Catholicos-Patriarch of Jerusalem will be situated in the Convent of the Holy Jacup Mariakub (*sic*), and his jurisdiction will extend over all Armenians throughout the Ottoman Empire. The Catholicos-Patriarch will further enjoy the right of communicating directly with the Turkish Minister of Religions (Kultusministerium) in regard to matters of a religious character.

The new statute goes on to regulate the procedure of the election of Patriarch; the constitution of the Church Council and the Mixed Council; the relationships between the Patriarch and the administrative Assembly of the Armenian people in Turkey, as well as those between the former and the provincial bishoprics. It may be interesting to recall that the Catholicos residing at Etchmiadzin (in Russian Trans-Caucasia) is the spiritual head of all Armenians, by whom are ordained all bishops for Turkish Armenia. The constitution governing Turkish Armenians and their relationships with Turkish authorities was granted by a Firman in 1863. It is a body of liberal rules and statutes by which Armenians in Turkey manage their national institutions—from the election of the Patriarch down to a marriage dispute. Perhaps the new statute published by the gang at Constantinople is meant to abrogate the Constitution of 1863 and upset all its provisions.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I have been taken gently to task by a correspondent—whose letter is published on another page—for what he terms my "philanthropic suggestions" anent helping Moslem refugees in Asia Minor, at Tiflis, and elsewhere. If, as I suspect after reading his letter, the writer regards me as a rabid Turcophile, I am sorry. As a matter of fact, I am nothing of the sort. The Turks, like the Bulgarians, have made a huge mistake; they must—and will—be hammered for it; and, in my opinion, they richly deserve what they will get. But when we think of them in this way we are surely thinking of the responsible parties—the Envers and Talaats in Turkey, and Ferdinand, Radoslavoff, Tontcheff, and the rest of the gang in Sofia. These men have sacrificed everything and everybody to their own ambitions. They merit no sympathy at all, and assuredly they will receive none from me, whatever fate befall them. But for their dupes, the peasants who have been so tricked and deceived, I find it impossible to avoid feeling a certain amount of pity; and as to the women and children, who suffer perhaps more than the men, surely "Gyotumdensor" would not wish that they should be debarred from receiving help, even from their enemies! In any case, I was, after all, only passing on an appeal, originally issued by Mr. Phillips Price and M. E. Zolanievicz, who had seen for themselves what the poor folk on whose behalf they pleaded were suffering, and who, presumably, felt that it was a suitable case for the forgiveness of our enemies, even though they happened to be Turks.

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This is not the first time that it has been suggested that I take too favourable a view of the Turk. So I may as well make it clear, once for all, that I am not concerned to defend the Turks, as a race, or to depict them as perfect. My attitude may be summed up in Rudyard Kipling's lines:—

I do not love my Empire's foes,
Nor call them angels; still,
What is the sense of 'atin' those
'Oom you are paid to kill?

True, I am not "paid to kill" any one; and, unfortunately for myself, I am unable to take any active part in the operations now afoot. But, for all that, I do *not* "love my Empire's foes," and have not the slightest wish to represent them as "angels," which they certainly are not. All I have done, I think, is to pass on stories that have reached me from friends, known and unknown, who have actually faced the Turk, and found him not quite so black as he is painted. I have carefully refrained from "touching up" these stories, and every one of them is, to the best of my belief, trustworthy. It strikes me as strange that nine out of ten men who have fought the Turk speak well of him (as a fighter and an enemy), and that the tales they tell of him are so favourable. But there the fact is, and I cannot change it.

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Only two days ago, for instance, a lady, whose word would certainly not be doubted by any of my readers or critics, told me of an incident narrated to her by an Englishman who had been through the Gallipoli campaign. This Englishman was one night occupying an advanced post, when he saw a Turk crawl out of their lines and into a hole in No-Man's-Land. For some reason, the watcher did not fire, but informed the man who relieved him of the incident. To make a long story short, for three nights running the Turk was seen to crawl to this particular hole; then, on the fourth day, the British advanced, and in the hole found one of our own wounded, to whom the Turkish "sniper" had nightly carried food and drink. Such an incident speaks for itself. Again, I was talking recently to a friend—an Englishman, who had spent some fifteen years in Turkey, and who certainly does not greatly love the Turks—who is serving with the Australian forces, and I asked him what the Australians thought of the Turks and their fighting. "Well," he replied, "it is a strange thing, but they all swear that he is a straightforward enemy and a clean fighter."

***

For all that, I am quite prepared to believe that there is another side to the picture. For instance, it appears to be an established fact that out of nearly 10,000 British reported "missing" at the Dardanelles, an alarmingly small number—barely 400, I am told by one who ought to know—have turned up alive, as prisoners. The Bulgarians, on the other hand, have, I believe, produced over 70 per cent. of the missing. That seems to indicate that "bono Johnny" was not always quite so "bono" after all.

***

The report, sent home by the *Pall Mall Gazette's* Cairo correspondent, that a steam roller, fitted with a gorgeous armchair of slab, was amongst the spoils captured at El Fasher, opens up rather interesting possibilities. It is all very well to suggest that Ali Dinar used the dainty vehicle as a private motor, but in view of all the talk—and writing—about "*The* Steam Roller," I am inclined to suspect that he was anxious to do a bit of "rolling" in his part of Africa. Possibly he pictured to himself a triumphal progress to Khartoum and Cairo, with rows of prostrate officials—Anglo-Egyptians—spread before his own particular car of Juggernaut.

***

The letter, "written on papyrus thousands of years ago" by a young soldier from Alexandria to his mamma, and published recently (in translation) in a contemporary, is a very human document. The youngster, I observe, began by asking for money, and by stating that the four hundred drachmæ he had are "all gone"; he goes on to remark that his father did not give him a penny; and he contrasts this with the good fortune of a certain Valerius, whose mother sent him (the ancient equivalent of) cholera belts, oil, and baked meats, and two hundred drachmæ. He pleads: "Send quickly," adding that he has already had to borrow from a comrade; and he asks for a pair of "shorts." And, be it observed again, he writes to *his mother*—not his father, who seems to have been a trifle close-fisted. Yes, it was a very human epistle, and might easily have been sent home from the Front a week ago.

CORSAIR.

SEPTEMBER—THE MONTH OF THE SUDAN.

The month which is now drawing to a close is historically one of the most important in the calendar of the Sudan. It was in this month, in 1882, that was fought the battle of El Obeid, when the Egyptian troops proved unexpectedly successful, defeating the Mahdi's troops for the first time in their experience, under that chief's leadership. On the 24th of the month a relief column of about 2,000 men was despatched from Dueim under Ali Bey Satfi, and was directed on Bara. It had two engagements with the Mahdists; in the first of these it was successful, but in the second it was defeated with a loss of some 1,130 men, the survivors making good their escape to Bara.

On the 15th of this month, in the same year, had occurred the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, a place situated about sixty miles north-east of Cairo, and the scene, some fifteen hundred and fifty-four years before, of the defeat of the Egyptian King Taharka, by Esarheddon, the Assyrians thereafter overrunning the whole of Egypt. In the more recent battle of Tel-el-Kebir the late Lord (then Sir Garnet) Wolseley defeated Arabi Pasha after that ambitious Egyptian officer had organised a rebellion against the Khedive, the object of which was to put an end to foreign interference in Egyptian affairs. Two days later the British occupied Cairo, and from that time to this British garrisons have been established there. Two years later, in the same month, the unfortunate Colonel Stewart, of the 11th Hussars, was foully murdered at Hebba, after being decoyed ashore in company with Power, Herbin and some Greeks, who were all despatched on the road to Cairo by Gordon.

The year of 1896 witnessed, in the same month of September, the occupation of Dongola, the Egyptian Army finding their entrance made easy by reason of the Mahdists, who at this time were beginning to show the same falling away in *moral* as the Germans are displaying to-day, refusing to meet them in the open, and bolting southwards in a disorganised rabble. Two years later, September, 1898, the important town of Gedaref was captured, being seized by a small column from Kassala, under Colonel Parsons, after a hazardous and successful fight. Yet again, during the same month, but a few days earlier, Wad Medani had been occupied. But the most important of all events in this momentous month was the Battle of Omdurman, the scene of the late Lord Kitchener's complete victory over the Khalifa. The eyes of the visitor to the Sudan are always intuitively first directed to the long, low ridge of the Kerri hills lying to the north, which mark the scene of this great and final struggle against the Dervishes, the winning of the contest freeing the Sudan for ever from barbarian rule. Other and less important events in the once unhappy and stormy history of this now prosperous country associated with the fateful month of September are the occupation of Berber in 1897, the action at Hafir in 1896, the occupation of Roseires in 1898, and the fall of Kassala in 1885.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ON THE GALLIPOLI PENINSULA.*

In the volume under review Mr. Creighton has given us the fruits of his diary, kept while he was with the Twenty-ninth Division, first in England and Egypt, and then at Gallipoli, where he stayed until August 9, when he was invalided from the Peninsula. At that point his narrative stops, for though he afterwards returned to Mudros, and was engaged in organising a scheme for recreation and canteens, he had no further official connection with the Division. Naturally, his diary is very largely concerned with the actual operations, and as it would be an impossibility for any individual, however situated, to be able to see more than a section of the fighting, his narrative is elaborated by several excellent accounts of the various operations by officers concerned, some of whom were subsequently killed in action. It is not, however, solely on account of the glimpses which it gives of the fighting that the book is of interest. Mr. Creighton is evidently a keen student of men and affairs, and his diary is the best possible testimony to the acuteness of his observations. Before being attached to the Twenty-ninth Division he was with the New Army, and he shows that he was greatly struck by the contrast between the regular troops and those who have only joined for the war. Whether he is right, and there is any difference, and, if so, whether it is merely of a superficial character, must remain a moot point. One interesting question suggested by a perusal of his diary is the extent to which religion enters into the life of a soldier. Probably it depends on the individual as to whether or not war results in a quickening of the spiritual sense. At the beginning of his book Mr. Creighton confesses he was far from optimistic, as he found the regulars more difficult to approach than the men of Kitchener's Army, and he wrote:—"I feel quite at sea as to how to do any direct religious work with them, and almost inclined not to attempt any, but just to try and get to know them." It should be said, however, that his later experiences were of a very different character. Throughout Mr. Creighton was filled with admiration for the Twenty-ninth Division and the other troops which took part in the difficult operations in the Peninsula. In one of his many tributes to them he says:—

> There are many other divisions, both in France, in the Dardanelles and elsewhere, which have covered themselves with imperishable glory, but it may be doubted whether any have played a more striking, picturesque, and inconceivably difficult part than the 29th and the Australian and the New Zealand contingents. From the beginning of operations till the final close they continued on the peninsula with practically no rest and no change. They were continually in the forefront of the battle. Their casualties were appalling, and their ranks were thinned by sickness and frost-bite. The regiments had continually to be made up with large drafts from England, and their officers were constantly changing. . . In the eyes of the world the whole expedition appears to have been a complete failure. But those who saw anything of the valour and endurance of the officers and men who took part in it cannot accept this verdict. They conquered where others would have failed; and whoever may be blamed by future historians for the failure to get through to Constantinople, it will not be the men who did the fighting.

SONGS OF THE DARDANELLES.†

Mr. Lawson is an Australian singer, and his note in these verses is clear, breezy, and patriotic. This is not his first book; he has sung before, and whilst he is something of a rough-and-ready singer he makes the true appeal, and to an audience that does not sit in boxes, and likes to hear songs of things it knows and reads about—of the great war and how the children of the Colonies have responded to the Motherland's call, of how they fight, and how they die, and of our great ally, Russia, and her people. He understands "Ivan," and sings a song for him. He understands the weakness and the strength of the English gentleman, and his verses on "The Lady of the Motor Car" shows that he understands the Englishwoman in times of peace and in times of war. He has a song for the Salvation Army, and of its good works around the world. But the war note is predominant, and runs through all his lines.

THE LEBANON AND THE ALLIES.‡

This pamphlet, translated from the French, is an eloquent—and thoroughly Oriental—plea for consideration of the position of the Lebanon by France and England. Although in some passages the meaning is obscure and some of the statements can hardly be accepted literally, yet the author gives a number of facts regarding the Maronites which are by no means widely known in England. As an example of the author's style a passage near the end of the pamphlet may be quoted:—

> Thus, on the summit of the White Mountain, illumined by the shining halo of Christ, one can picture, always near its celestial origin, a glorious battalion looking upward and grouped around the Patriarch at the foot of the Tree of the Cross. Touching and evangelic vision! People unique and magnanimous, who covered Lebanon with thy life-blood for the triumph of truth, of justice, of "the great consolation and the great light of humanity."

* "With the Twenty-ninth Division in Gallipoli." By the Rev. O. Creighton, C.F. (London: Longmans. 3s. 6d. net.)

† "Songs of the Dardanelles, and Other Verses." By Henry Lawson. (London: George G. Harrap and Co. 2s. 6d. net.)

‡ "The Entente Cordiale in Lebanon." By Prince Ferdinand Tyan. (Fisher Unwin. 1s. net.)

THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH.*

In this, the least expensive as well as the most recent, edition of the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, the editor deals with his subject from its starting-point. He presupposes that the reader possesses no specialised knowledge of the worship of the Orthodox Church, but only a normal acquaintanceship with the liturgical customs of England and the West generally. A general description of the service is first given, with details concerning the vestments of the clergy and the instruments used by them. Then the service is printed in an English translation, with additional footnotes, and the parts said by the deacon *during* the recitation of the priest's prayers are clearly marked, so that an English worshipper is less likely to lose his place than usual.

The illustrations are of special interest, as they are, for the most part, entirely new and are taken from sources which usually are not accessible. There is a frontispiece of his Holiness Germanos V., Bishop of Constantinople and New Rome and Œcumenical Patriarch. Other illustrations show the Holy Table with its ornaments and the Prothesis Table with its instruments. Another picture shows a priest and server vested for the liturgy. Altogether this edition is noteworthy in several respects, and it will be valued by all those who are interested in the Churches of the East.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Holy Qurʾan, with English Translation and Explanatory Notes, etc. Part I. Published under the auspices of Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, the "Second Successor of the Promised Messiah." By Aujusan-i-Taraggi-i-Islam, Qadian, Punjab, India.

Through the Serbian Campaign. By Gordon Gordon-Smith. With a preface by the Serbian Minister in London. (Hutchinson and Co. 12s. 6d. net.)

The Liturgy of the Eastern Orthodox Church. With an Introduction and Explanatory Notes by H. Hamilton Maughan. (The Faith Press, 2s. 6d. net.)

Given in Marriage. By B. M. Croker. (Hutchinson and Co. 6s. net.)

A BRITISH RED CROSS STAMP.

All the Allies, with the exception of Serbia and Montenegro, have issued special stamps, which sell at a premium, in aid of their war charities. By this means enormous sums have been collected in farthings and halfpennies in Russia, France, Italy, and Belgium for the wounded or for the soldiers' widows and orphans.

British stamp-collectors have designed a very beautiful war stamp, which has been engraved and printed gratuitously by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co., the printers of the first postage stamp ever issued, the historic "Penny Black" English stamp of 1840. These war stamps are being sold at a penny each, or 6d. the set of six different colours, by the National Philatelic War Fund, 151, Strand, W.C. The proceeds go to the British Red Cross and St. John of Jerusalem. The design is emblematic of Britain taking up the sword of justice, and the Philatelic Secretary to H.M. the King, in accepting the gift of a special die proof of the stamp for the King's collection, writes: "His Majesty is very pleased with the design, and thinks it most appropriate."

* "The Liturgy of the Eastern Orthodox Church." With an Introduction and Explanatory Notes by H. Hamilton Maughan. (London: The Faith Press. 2s. 6d. net.)

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE DARDANELLES

By SIDNEY A. MOSELEY

(*Official Correspondent with the Mediterranean Forces*).

"Largely because it is so controversial, Mr. Moseley's book makes excellent reading."—*The Times*.

"Holds that the Evacuation was a profound mistake, because, just when we had broken the moral of a brave enemy, we caved in first."—*Daily Graphic*.

"This is an extraordinarily interesting book. Mr. Moseley has given us plenty of stories of the fighting, finely told and often extremely dramatic."—*The Globe*.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916.	1916.		1334.	5676.
Sept.	Sept.		Julkada	Ellul
22	9	Friday	24	24
23	10	Saturday.....	25	25
24	11	Sunday	26	2›
25	12	Monday	27	27
26	13	Tuesday	28	28
27	14	Wednesday	29	29
28	15	Thursday	30	30

Next Tuesday is the birthday of the King of Denmark, who was born at Charlottenlund on September 26, 1870.

Next Thursday is the birthday of the Queen-mother of Portugal, Queen Amelia.

Count de Salis, his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, was received in audience by the King at Windsor Castle on Monday, and kissed hands upon his appointment as Chief of the Special Mission to his Holiness the Pope.

M. Yovan M. Yovanovitch, the newly-appointed Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James, and Mme. Yovanvitch arrived in London on Sunday night from Paris. They were met at the station by M. Voislav Antonievitch, the acting Chargé d'Affaires, M. George Todorovitch, M. Pavle Karovitch, Colonel Milivoj J. Nicolaievitch, C.B., Military Attaché, M. Yovanovitch, Assistant Military Attaché, and some of the leading members of the Serbian Colony in London. The newly appointed Minister will present his Letter of Credence to the King in due course.

M. Yovanovitch was visited on Monday by several members of the Serbian colony.

Prince Cantacuzene of Roumania has arrived in London from Paris.

Prince and Princess Callimachi of Roumania have left London for Paris.

Captain Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, of the Roumanian Legation, left London on Saturday for Bucharest. Several members of the Legation were at the station.

Madame Lahovary, wife of the Roumanian Minister in Paris, has returned to the Legation there.

M. Alexandre V. Georgévitch, First Secretary to the Serbian Legation, has left for the Continent.

It is announced from Cairo that the Sultan Hussein will preside at the forthcoming ceremony of the departure of the Holy Carpet for Mecca.

It is stated that his Highness will return to Cairo from Alexandria for the winter months about the end of October.

The Sultan has conferred the Grand Order of the Nile on M. Defrance, French Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General in Cairo.

According to a Vienna telegram, the King and Crown Prince of Bulgaria arrived at the headquarters of the Archduke Karl on September 15. The guests visited the front of General von Kövess and watched the operations.

President Poincaré has addressed his congratulations to the Prince Regent of Serbia on the recent success of the Serbian Army.

It is reported from Berlin that the Roumanian officials in Constantinople, Sofia, and Vienna have arrived at Sassnitz, and will continue their journey with members of the Roumanian Embassy in Berlin to Sweden. Dr. Beldiman, the Roumanian Minister in Berlin, intends to go to Denmark.

The King of Italy has conferred upon Vice-Admiral Sir A. H. Limpus, Admiral-Superintendent of Malta Dockyard, the Grand Cross of the Order of the Crown of Italy.

Lady Georgina Buchanan, wife of the British Ambassador in Petrograd, has received from the Empress Marie Feodorovna the Ladies' Order of St. Catherine for her services to Russia.

Sir Horace Rumbold, the new Minister of Great Britain, was received at Berne on Monday by M. Camille Decoppet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and M. Hoffmann, Member of the Federal Council and Chief of the Political Department, to whom he presented his credentials.

In Corfu, where the diplomatic representatives accredited to Serbia are provisionally stationed, Countess Sforza, wife of the Italian Minister, gave birth to a son.

Lady McMahon is returning to Egypt by the P. and O. steamer Malwa, sailing from London on the 29th inst.

Sir William and Lady Brunyate are among the passengers by the P. and O. steamer Mongolia, which left London for Port Said last Friday.

The Right Rev. the Bishop in Jerusalem and Mrs. and Miss MacInnes are returning to Egypt by the Bibby Line steamship Leicestershire, which sails from Liverpool on the 28th inst.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces the engagement between Lieutenant G. de Lacy Wooldridge, R.F.C., eldest son of Lieutenant-Commander L. J. Wooldridge, R.N.R., and Gwendolen Mary, daughter of the late Mr. James Meredith Austin and Mrs. Austin, of Cairo.

In our issue of the 8th inst. we announced that Captain J. B. Barron, Worcestershire Regiment, had been awarded the Military Cross. His friends will be delighted to hear that now, only a fortnight later, he has won his bar to it.

News has been received at Alexandria that Second Lieutenant C. E. Wilson, Irish Rifles, a brother of Mrs. Luard, of Alexandria, who had been reported killed in France, is only wounded, and is now progressing favourably.

Mr. O. Bentley, formerly Second Inspector of the Nuba Mountains Province, and stationed at Talodi, has been promoted Senior Inspector of the same province, under the governorship of Major R. S. Wilson. Mr. Bentley's services date from the month of September, 1905, when he first joined the Sudan Administration. The Nuba Mountains Province was separated from that of Kordofan, and given a distinct administration, in January of 1913, Talodi being made the capital. The total area is 31,560 square miles, and the population is estimated at about 35,000. The other inspectorships are at Kadugli and Dilling.

Captain J. J. Garstin, who has recently been transferred to the Sudan Government, and has just returned to that country from leave, has been appointed Second Inspector of the Upper Nile Province. This is one of the most troublesome if, at the same time, one of the most interesting, of the fourteen political districts. It has an area of something like 42,500 square miles, and a population exceeding 304,000. The other four inspectorships are located at Malakal, Kodok, Renk, and Nasser. Formerly there were stations at Zeraf and Abwong. The other officials of the Upper Nile Province are El Miralai J. R. Bassett, El Kaimakam C. H. Stigand, El Bimbashi E. D. Bally, El Bimbashi J. J. Bramble, and Mr. A. G. Pawson.

Lieut.-Colonel J. K. Watson, Military Attaché at the Residency in Egypt, makes an appeal in the local Press for donations from friends of the deceased officer towards a memorial of the late Colonel Oswald Fitzgerald, personal military secretary to Lord Kitchener. It is proposed to raise privately a fund which it is hoped will suffice to endow a scholarship for the son of an officer who has died or been disabled in the war, and whose means or estate are otherwise insufficient to permit the boy to follow his father's footsteps in the Army. Preference would be given to the son of an officer of (1) Colonel Fitzgerald's regiment, 18th King George's Own Lancers; (2) the Indian Army; (3) the British Army.

Sir Armand Ruffer, President of the Egyptian Quarantine Board, has returned to Alexandria from the Red Sea coast, after an absence of about four weeks.

Sir William Garstin has left town for Banff.

News has just been received of a gallant attempt by Corporal William Castle, of the Yeomanry, to save the life of Lord Quenington, in Egypt, for which he has been awarded the Military Medal. Early on Easter Sunday 2,500 Turks attacked Katia. In the course of the fighting, in which the troops behaved with great gallantry, Lord Quenington fell. Corporal Castle went under a heavy fire to the officer's assistance, and, placing him across his own horse, rode with him for six miles to a place of safety. Unhappily, however, Lord Quenington died the same day.

Sayed Abdelrahim el Demerdach, member of the Legislative Assembly for Cairo, has presented to the British wounded in the recent battles on the Eastern front, 1,600 boxes of cigarettes and 1,600 boxes of sweets. Sayed Abdelrahim has on more than one occasion expressed his appreciation of the work of Great Britain in Egypt and the great reforms carried out in the country since its occupation. He is a religious chief, being the head of the Demerdachi Tariha rite.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—Mr. Nicolls, Director of Public Works, has recently taken charge of commissariat work at the Troödos Camp, in addition to his own duties, and has been appointed a captain, A.S.C. He has been suffering from typhoid fever, of which there have been, unfortunately, five cases in Miss Young's camp at Troödos. In consequence of this outbreak this popular and picturesque camp has had to be closed.

The admiral of the French squadron cruising in Syrian waters has paid a visit to the High Commissioner, Sir John Clauson, at Troödos.

M. Thucydides Perdikkes, chief clerk in the office of the Chief Commandant of Police, has been retired on a pension.

The late Sir Edwin Henry Egerton, K.C.B., G.C.M.G., formerly Secretary of the Embassy in Constantinople and in Paris, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of the Hellenes, and afterwards Ambassador at Madrid and at Rome, who retired in 1898, left estate to the value of £25,117.

A telegram from Sofia, received in Amsterdam, states that the Minister of the Interior, M. Popoff, has resigned in order to rejoin the army, in which he held the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and that King Ferdinand has conferred on him the Grand Cross of the Order of Civil Merits. M. Radoslavoff, the Premier, will for the present take the portfolio of the Interior.

The Anglo-Egyptian Bank has contributed one hundred guineas to the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund.

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OBITUARY.

MR. CHARLES T. BARBER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles Turner Barber, of Shakespeare House, Mazloum Pasha, Ramleh, head of the well-known shipping firm of E. Barber and Son, Alexandria. Mr. Barber, who was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Barber, was born in London, but was taken to Alexandria when only two years old and spent his youth and manhood in that city. His father, in 1863, started a business as provision merchant in what was then called "Leadenhall Street," now Rue de la Poste. Later on, he moved to the Marina and developed the business of ship chandler and shipping agent. On his father's death "Charlie," as he was always affectionately called, took over control, and has made the business one of the most important ones of its kind in the Near East. Mr. Barber never took a great part in public life, but was keenly interested in the welfare of the blind. Eloquent testimony to his sympathetic help in this respect was borne by the presence of several blind boys at his funeral. He leaves a son and two daughters, his wife having predeceased him by about seven years.

Lieut.-Colonel William Beresford Gibbs, Worcestershire Regiment, killed on September 3, was educated at Newton Abbot, where he got his cricket and football colours, and at Wellington and Sandhurst, both of which he represented as a full back at Rugby football, and occasionally at cricket. After serving in the South African war he went with his regiment to India and Ceylon. He was promoted captain in 1904, and in 1906 he won in Ceylon the Hampden Whip, a trophy presented by the planters of that island. During 1908 he obtained an appointment in the Egyptian Army, where he served with distinction, being at various times with the 13th Sudanese, second in command of the Camel Corps, Staff officer in an expedition against the Annaks, and finally attained to the rank of Bey, Commanding the 15th Sudanese and being awarded the Order of the Nile. He was a well-known member of the Khartoum Race and Polo Clubs. He went to the front in May, 1916, and rejoined his regiment, and on July 13 was given the command of a battalion. One of his officers writes:—"The whole battalion mourns his loss; he was a splendid commanding officer."

Lieut.-Colonel Fitzroy Edmund Penn Curzon, Royal Irish Regiment, was killed on September 9, aged 57 years. He was the third son of Colonel the Hon. Ernest Curzon, 52nd Foot, and Mrs. Curzon, and a kinsman of Earl Howe. He entered the Army in 1879, obtaining his first appointment in the Royal Irish Rifles, and became lieutenant-colonel in 1907, in which year he was placed on retired pay. He served in the Egyptian campaign, 1898, and was present at the battle of Khartoum, being mentioned in dispatches and receiving two medals with clasps. In 1898-9 he took part in the operations in Sierra Leone (medal with clasp). As a Staff Officer he also served in the South African War, and was awarded the Queen's Medal with four clasps and the King's Medal with two clasps.

Lieut.-Colonel George Henry Bell, Indian Infantry, died on September 3, at Srinagar, Kashmir, after being invalided from the front. He saw active service in the Sudan in 1888, being present at the action of Gamaizah (medal with clasp, and bronze star). He also took part in the operations on the Nile in 1889 and in Waziristan in 1901-2 (medal with clasp). In 1903-4 he served in the operations in Somaliland, being Field Intelligence Officer, and was present at the action at Jidballi (medal with two clasps).

Captain H. Leslie Henley, Australian Infantry, reported killed on August 15, was the son of Alderman Thomas Henley, M.P., New South Wales Parliament, and Mrs. Henley, of Drummoyne, Sydney. Captain Henley left Sydney University and St. Andrew's College at the outbreak of the war, and joined as a private. He was exceptionally popular with officers and men, and it is reported by a junior officer that he was killed while assisting the wounded. For the past year Mr. T. Henley, his father, has been in Egypt and France working as hon. assistant commissioner for the Australian comforts funds. Mr. Henley, with Mrs. Henley and their two daughters, arrived in London only two days before they received the unofficial news that his son and brother had been killed in action.

Second Lieutenant Charles Justus Buch, Bedfordshire Regiment, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Buch, of 77, Thurlestone Road, West Norwood, S.E., was killed at the front on September 13, in his 37th year. He was educated at Rossall School and Balliol, Oxford, and in 1907 was appointed history lecturer, Ministry of Education, Cairo. He returned home to take a commission.

Our Bucharest Correspondent announces the sudden death of Jules Bynn, the eminent French journalist and littérateur, who had spent nearly thirty years in Roumania. Formerly correspondent of the *Journal des Débats*, he took over the chief editorship of *La Roumanie* when this excellent journal of M. Take Jonescu's came into being. Jules Bynn deserves to be remembered in Roumanian literary circles for, apart from his contributions to local journalism, which were of a very high order, he studied the Roumanian legends and popular literature, rendering many choice samples into French.

The death took place at Hove, on the 17th inst., of Mr. Alexander A. Ralli, who was in his seventy-seventh year.

The death is announced at the front in France of Mr. Walter E. Keill, of Alexandria.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND.

The following is a list of subscriptions to the above fund received between the 6th and 15th September. Further subscriptions will be gladly received by the Hon. Treasurers (Mr. A. Baker and Mr. W. G. Middleton Edwards) at 5, Giltspur Street, London, E.C.

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Gossage	25	0	0
Mrs. West Jones	5	0	0
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A. G. Jeans, Esq.	5	0	0
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Lady Holden	5	0	0
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Mrs. Dudley Hervey	1	1	0
Mrs. G. P. Holden	5	5	0
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"Rat"	0	10	6
Colonel F. J. Home	0	5	0
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1916.

KING CONSTANTINE AND HIS PEOPLE.

For the divinity that should hedge a king the ruler of Greece is substituting an obstinacy which may yet become historic, for he seems bent upon securing a manifestation of that other kind of divinity which shapes the ends of all, rough-hew them how they will. How long that manifestation will be deferred we have no means of knowing. It may take the form of action by the Allied Governments, or it may find expression in the will of the Greek people. The one thing inconceivable is that in a country so democratic the King should be able to flout indefinitely both the Constitution and public opinion, while exposing himself and his subjects to fresh humiliation from without. So long as the issue was in the nature of a personal quarrel between King Constantine and the Allies, the popularity of the former enabled the Greek people to assume the attitude of dispassionate spectators. They sympathised with the Entente, but they had no desire to take part in the war, and loyalty to the Throne made them content to leave the whole matter in the hands of the protagonists. With the occupation of Greek territory by Bulgarians, however, the controversy entered upon a new phase. Here was a point on which the Greek nation held very pronounced views, and it would require more than King Constantine's popularity to convince the majority that Greece could ever do right in admitting Bulgarian troops within her borders and surrendering to them forts and war material which had been paid for with Greek money. On the top of these misgivings comes the news that a Greek Army Corps has been removed to Germany, and is there being held as a hostage for Greece's good behaviour. It is certain that we do not yet know the real truth regarding this amazing incident. For Greece, however, the mere fact is enough. It matters not whether the German version implying collusion on the part of the Greek commanders is literally true or whether the Bulgarians, finding the Greek troops in their power and realising that one day Greece might join their enemies, determined to take them prisoners and to remove them to Germany for internment. What is established is that the Greek Government by its policy of connivance with the traditional enemies of the country exposed the troops to the fate that overtook them and Greece to a humiliation without precedent in modern times.

There can be no finality in the situation of the moment. On June 21 the Allies called upon Greece to replace the existing Ministry by a business Cabinet devoid of political prejudice. In consequence of this demand M. Skouloudis made way for M. Zaimis, whose presence at the head of the Government offered the necessary guarantees for the observance by Greece of a benevolent neutrality. M. Zaimis worked to establish Greek affairs on a satisfactory footing; but, finding himself thwarted by the King's party in the political world and by the King's following in the Army, he resigned his Premiership. King Constantine has appointed in his stead M. Kalogeropoulos, a politician personally hostile to M. Venizelos, who has formed his Cabinet from other members of the Chamber of equally pronounced political leanings. The new Ministry constitutes an overt rejection of the Allies' stipulation. Whether the latter will ignore the affront in view of the puny source from which it comes or will render the position of the new Premier untenable by persisting in their refusal to recognise him is not yet known. Their course of action ought to be dictated by their military requirements rather than by political considerations. If General Sarrail is of opinion that his plan of campaign will be materially simplified by the existence of a neutral strip of territory east of the Struma, then the Allied Governments should lose no time in encouraging Greece to return to a frame of mind which would prompt her to resume possession of that part of Macedonia and to regard any attempt at invasion by Bulgarians or Turks as a *casus belli*. On the other hand, if the operations now in progress against the enemy can be prosecuted to a successful finish independently of the presence of Bulgarians at Seres and Kavalla, there is much to be said for allowing the Greeks to settle in their own way their differences with King Constantine. The National Defence movement in the north appears to be standing its ground. There is little likelihood of its being called upon for a trial of strength with the Central Government so long as the war lasts, for the Allied troops at Salonika are a guarantee for its security from attack. Meanwhile dissatisfaction with the conduct of affairs in Athens is spreading to the islands and to other parts of the mainland. Sooner or later the progress of the war and the realization that Greece is in danger of ceasing to be a factor in Near Eastern politics will compel the Greek people to take their rulers to task.

There is always another side to a question, and we have no doubt that King Constantine has persuaded himself that he and the German Emperor are right, and that the rest of the world is wrong. Unfortunately for him this view does not commend itself to the Greek nation as a whole. Moreover, his attitude rests on the false premise that he can go back on his undertakings to Serbia and the Entente Powers. Much of the trouble and annoyance to which the Allies have been subjected by Greece has resulted from the failure to bring this point home to King Constantine, and from allowing him too much play with the word neutrality, which ceased to have any application as far as Greece was concerned from the moment when Serbia was invaded and appealed to the Greeks to honour their treaty of alliance. For this reason King Constantine's side of the controversy invariably rings hollow. Thus in the course of an audience recently given to an American press correspondent, he is reported to have declared that down to the date of the Bulgarian invasion and of the entry of Roumania into the war the situation had not revealed a sufficient certainty of such advantage to be gained by Greece as would compensate her for the risks and the unquestionable cost in lives and property which must be entailed by her participation in the war. King Constantine referred also to the fate that must almost certainly overtake a million Greeks in Asia Minor and Thrace in the event of Greece finding herself engaged in hostilities with Turkey. But these and all similar considerations ought to have been taken into account before the treaty with Serbia was concluded and not to be urged now as justification for a breach of faith. Anxiety for the Greeks in Asia Minor and Thrace did not deter King Constantine from declaring war on Turkey in 1912. There were more Greeks under Turkish rule in those days than there are now, and, if report be true, the fate of many Greeks in Turkey could not be much worse than it is at present, even if the two countries were at war. Still more hollow must have sounded to King Constantine's interlocutor his rhetorical declaration that "the hour has come when we want the voice of the soul of Hellas to dictate the future of our race." This has been the burden of every appeal made to the King by the Entente Powers and by the nation as a whole; but for eighteen months he has refused the request, until he is in danger of finding that the future of the Hellenic race will not only be decided without reference to him, but will also be one in which he will have neither lot nor part.

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PROBLEMS OF THE SUDAN.

III.—LABOUR.*

(By Our Khartoum Correspondent.)

An agricultural country in the situation of the Sudan is not a convenient one for the economist. Prima facie, where all the population is employed some of the time, and some of the population all the time, there should be a surplus for any demand; and these are the circumstances of the Sudan. In the practically rainless areas of the North the population is employed throughout the year in cultivating the riverain land from the Nile; the remainder is the nomad population, sparse and extremely busy looking after the herds of camels and sheep that require to be watered and herded. Further south, when the rain comes, the cultivation is practically confined between May and December. In May the land is cleaned ready for the rains in June. The crops are ripe in October or November, and cut, cleared, and threshed in December, though in a late year this may be deferred to the new year.

If the rains are good, everyone is out, anxious to make the most of a bumper crop, which may not recur. If the rains are bad, everyone must strive his hardest to win a living out of the land till another year brings new hopes. So the available labour is limited to but half the year or less.

Once the harvest is in, the rich landed proprietor watches the market for a good time to plant his harvest. The small proprietor watches even more carefully, and almost everyone is a proprietor, big or little. Where the land has been settled by the Land Commission, every family has its holding; where the land is not settled, and, for one reason or another, not likely to be, the cultivator still has a good claim to the land he has worked on as compared with any other person; and thus every household, practically speaking, has its land, which provides the necessary grain for a livelihood.

In a good year there is a big surplus; grain is cheap, and life is easy. In places remote from the railway grain becomes so cheap it is hardly worth the trouble of threshing. But grain, the dura of the country, makes beer ("marisa"), and if it cannot be sold it can be drunk; and a life of alcoholic ease extends from the harvest to the next sowing. Thus it is in bad years, when grain is dear and hard to come by, that labour is most easily obtained, and the more communications are extended and life made easier for the native and grain easily attainable the more difficult it is to maintain a constant supply of labour.

The population of the Sudan is still sparse, and there is not yet a surplus which is dependent on other sources than the land for a living, except in the one or two populous towns, such as Omdurman, and even that surplus is immensely varying.

The demand for labour, moreover, is for the most part of an agricultural kind, and the native is extremely loth to leave the cultivation of his own crop for another job, however remunerative. There is, however, one source of supply which has no status in the country and provides a very useful form of labour, and that is the Fellata. They are people from the West—anywhere from Wadai to Lagos, but for the most part from Kano and Sokoto. Some came generations ago and have acquired land and villages; some—and the larger number—are drifting through on their way to Mecca, and stay often many years before they move on; and they stay, also, as long on the return journey. The Fellata, for instance, form the majority of those who pick the cotton at Tokar. All over the country they are hewers of wood and drawers of water.

Much is often said of the cheapness of native labour, but it suffers from other attributes of cheapness. In irrigation works in Egypt the clearing or cutting of canals is largely done by contract with Egyptians from Upper Egypt. They will earn P.T.10 (2s. 6d.) a day and their food, as compared to the 10d. or less of the Sudanese, but they will shift three or four times as much earth as the Sudanese, as they have the physique and the knack and the will.

There are three important points. Although no doubt some of the negro types are fairly powerful and fine specimens, the average Sudanese is poor in physique; and though extraordinarily tough in certain ways, he has no weight or muscle compared with a European. A 34-inch chest is quite a rarity, and their weight is correspondingly small. For this reason the Sudanese are not well adapted for manual labour. Moreover, they have singularly little adaptability to the use of tools in the right way. A good axe or saw they will ruin in an incredibly short space of time, though they can make astonishingly effective work with their own tools, given time. The Arab, at any rate the Arab of the Sudan, seems to have no art or craft. What he has, he borrowed; and he despises manual labour as such, as servile; and so it is the fashion to look down on labour. (Cultivation is not labour; it is a necessity of life like herding cattle. When it ceases to be a necessity of life, it is slave's business, and to be avoided.)

It must not be forgotten that the country rests and has rested for generations on a kind of feudal squirearchy, in which the relation of master and man has been practically a matter of faith. The masters, mostly Arabs, but not invariably so, owned or purported to own the land, directed its use, and managed the disposal of the harvest. The men, in return for protection from the tyranny of any other master for their home, their clothing, family, and many small luxuries, gave a certain amount of labour and their loyalty. Whether the community were agricultural or nomad, these conditions applied, and so long as everybody's wants were supplied, there was no room for progress and no supply for an external demand for labour. These normal conditions have been altered by the import of additional luxuries and the introduction of greater opportunities for those whose lives were upon very hard and primitive lines. At the same time the system remains to the Sudanese mind the ideal one; and it takes a generation or so to alter such an ideal. In those parts where the growing of grain has become a thoroughly commercial business the natives are already fully accustomed to paying monetary wages for labour; but these are the land adjacent to the railway, and in many places the wage is paid by share in the proceeds. Moreover, there are still many who recall the good old days when slaves were obtainable for a few pounds and there was a never-ending supply.

The real crux of the labour problem is population. The starvation, disease, and slaughter of Dervish days reduced the population to about one-fifth of what it was before. Much of what remained was old and useless for the development of population. There is now an astonishing number of young men and children born since the Battle of Omdurman, but the four-fifths that was lost cannot be replaced in one generation, and it is not yet eighteen years since the Battle of Omdurman. Whilst the new population is born, new ideas are spreading, and it is as well that the new ideas should not spread faster than the situation allows.

The country can now feed itself, and can, if the rains are good, have a useful surplus for export. As time goes on there is growing up a further increase of population ready to learn the new methods of cultivation, the art of growing cotton, or providing fibre or the like. Better food, better housing and sanitation, will at the same time develop a stronger type, more fit for manual labour than their forebears. The development is a gradual one, and not to be hurried. Some who have seen the astonishing change in the Sudan, from penury and bankruptcy to something approaching solvency, coupled with considerable personal wealth, are inclined to ask too much in the parallel advancement of the character and physique of the native. But the more interesting phase of the Sudan is that just beginning, when material prosperity is not the first demand, but a steady growth of mental and moral stability, dependent not merely on wise administration of things, but a strong influence on the minds of the people. Kingsley, in "The Water Babies," remarks: "Anyone can make things if he goes on trying long enough; but can you make things make themselves?" It is the stage of making the natives of the Sudan make men of themselves that is now beginning.

* Previous articles in this series appeared in The Near East of August 11 and 25.

SHEREEF OF MECCA'S NEW STAMP.

We are enabled to publish below a reproduction of the first specimen to reach England of a new issue of postage stamps made by the Shereef of Mecca. Apart from its interest to philatelists the issue is one of the many signs of progress which have manifested themselves in the Holy Places of Islam since the Shereef's secession from the Turkish Government, and affords to the world at large a concrete proof of the existence of an independent Arab State. The issue consists of three values, i.e., one piastre (very dark blue), half-piastre (red), and quarter-piastre (green). The reproduction above is of the piastre stamp. The inscription at the top is "Bareed Hegazi" (Hedjaz Post); that at the bottom is "Qirsh Sagh" (one piastre); that in the middle is "Mecca El Mokarrama" (Mecca, the Ennobled); and the figures at the sides indicate the year of the Hegira. All the stamps will be perforated, the perforation being 12 to the 2 centimetres on each side. The half and quarter piastre stamps are of different design, but are not yet available.

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THE FUTURE OF THE BALKAN STATES.

In connection with a scheme for giving educational lectures on the war to the members and friends of the junior branch of the Primrose League, Mr. H. Lancaster, provincial agent of the League for South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Herefordshire, gave an interesting lecture, entitled "'Midst the Children of Wrath: a Tour Through the Balkans," at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Saturday afternoon. The coloured photographic illustrations included many of the places made familiar to the general public through the war. Pictures of the sacred centres of the Mohammedan faith recently captured from the Turks by the Grand Shereef of Arabia were also shown.

Sir Ernest Flower, Vice-Chairman of the Grand Council, said financial help was urgently needed for the purchase of material. During the past fortnight the committee had sent parcels of clothing to the British prisoners in Turkey, and they had been asked by the War Office to supply two thousand pairs of mittens to the soldiers in Mesopotamia. Referring to our position in the Balkans, Sir Ernest Flower said he had read with a tinge of amusement how one valiant Greek Army Corps had become so nervous lest it should be called upon to defend the sacred soil of its country that it had invited itself to be interned in Germany for the duration of the war. But, whatever might be the attitude of Greece, he felt confident that the future of the Balkan States rested with the Allies.

ROUMANIAN RELIEF FUND.

In connection with the formation of a National Roumanian Relief Fund, of which Queen Marie of Roumania and M. Jonescu are patrons, the following telegram has been received by Mr. A. H. Hurst, of Leith, the chairman of the committee, from M. Jonescu :—

"I thank you with all my heart for the honour which you have done me. Our wounded are already returning in great numbers from the front. Your help will be welcome, the need being great.

"The Roumanian people, proud to fight for the cause of liberty and civilisation at the side of the nation which first proclaimed the doctrine of international sovereignty, will see in this noble movement (National Roumanian Relief Fund) a further proof of the unalterable friendship between the great British nation and the Latins of the East. Roumania knows that the British spirit will carry the work to success."

Lord Rosebery is president and the Lord Mayor of London and the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh and Glasgow are among the honorary vice-presidents.

WOUNDED ALLIES' RELIEF COMMITTEE.

Letters from nurses attached to the hospital unit sent out to Corfu by the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee, Sardinia House, Kingsway, W.C., to nurse sick and wounded Serbian soldiers, contain some interesting little items of information :—

"The poor Serbs still look terribly thin and wretched, and so many are miserable and depressed at not knowing what has become of their wives and children. Far more than half their number have no idea where anyone belonging to them is. The only thing these poor creatures enjoy is a cigarette. We have enough cigarettes to go on with, but the supply in our hospital only runs to giving each Serb a packet of ten per week. Quite a number of Greeks toddle up here as out-patients; they come for all sorts of ailments, also to have teeth out, and as they bring little offerings in payment it helps. For example, for one tooth being extracted a patient will bring fifteen lemons, and as a higher payment eggs are brought. We have to buy all the eggs for the hospital use, and cannot get them under 1½d. each. This means a big sum when the hospital consumes nearly seventy eggs per day. We have also to buy milk, and can get fresh cow and goat milk; this costs us 34 drachma (francs) per day, as so many are weakly men who can only take milk. The issue of meat is, I think, extremely good; it is always beef, but quite good and plenty of it, but we do not get any butter. Mr. —— came out here and inspected the hospital. He came in one of the magnificent motors that were found at the Achilleon, the palace that belonged to the late Empress of Austria, and until lately was in the possession of the Kaiser. It looks a glorious place from the outside, and the views from the windows must be beautiful. It is about four miles from the hospital and twenty-eight from the town of Corfu, and is managed as a hospital by the French.

"The motors were all made in Germany and upholstered in crimson plush."

Reports from Constantinople state that Dr. Sven Hedin has just returned from a six months' trip to Syria, Mesopotamia, Arabia, and Sinai, where he was well impressed by what he saw, "especially in Syria, where a number of recently-founded factories have an abundance of corn and other victuals which is simply astonishing." He is to publish a book on Turkey.

The front page of the first number of an interesting newssheet called "The Liberal," published at Salonika, and dated July 4, contains a "Notice" of which the following is an exact reproduction so far as spelling is concerned :—"We beg pardon from our readers for the very bad English of our paper. We have discovered our unrepereable mistake the very lost moment. We have been deceived imconsiously; our neset paper-number will prove real English."

A MESOPOTAMIAN MARSH.

The following is an extract from the letter of a cavalry officer now serving in Mesopotamia :—

"Yesterday I went to ————, a small desert town some ten miles from here as the crow flies. There is a dense marsh between here and there, and the marsh route takes about 3½ hours. I went in an Arab canoe, or *mashoof*, as they call them, a sort of Canadian canoe. They are pulled through the marshes by a man standing in the bows and one at the stern. The boats are light as a feather, and go through the various passages cut through the reeds without a sound. It is the weirdest feeling in the world going through miles and miles of marsh, with reeds 10 ft. high on either side of you almost shutting out the sky. The croak of frogs and cry of water fowl is all you hear. It is an absolute wilderness of silence, and the small waterways cut by marshmen form a regular maze everywhere you turn. You could get lost for ever, and easily, so I should say, for you cannot look over the top of the reeds to get your bearings. Marshmen know the place with their eyes shut, and, of course, it affords a great refuge for them when either fleeing from their enemies or from justice. They find it pretty handy when wanting to shoot anyone whom they don't love particularly. The marsh is about ten miles broad and twenty miles long."

DISTRESS AMONG URUMIA MERCHANTS

Miss M. Barclay, hon. secretary of the Nestorian Mission, writes as follows :—As there are no banks in Urumia, the merchants are in the habit of keeping the savings of the people, allowing them interest. Now the merchants have all been robbed and plundered; some gave bribes that their houses and shops should not be destroyed, after which everything in them was plundered. Many of those who owed money to the merchants have died in the massacres, or are so reduced to poverty they are unable to pay. Now the merchants are pressed to repay the savings deposited with them. They have no means of doing so, and are in great distress, for the starving people need their money. Winter will soon occasion widespread distress. The refugee funds are not eligible to pay debts. If the merchants were helped a large number would be relieved, and the merchants would be able to begin business again, instead of, as now, being on relief funds themselves. Help given *now* would bring blessing all round. The money could be given through Mr. Shipley, the excellent British Consul, who would see that just claims were met.

The *Southern Slav Bulletin* learns "from a reliable source" that Lord Cromer's article, "The Southern Slavs," which appeared in the *Spectator*, is to be translated into Serbian and printed as a leaflet for distribution among the Serbian soldiers on the Salonika front. This idea is said to be the suggestion of a British authority.

Two Turkish colonels and 200 officers taken prisoners in the Bukovina and Galicia have been brought to Kieff. Numbers of them were before the war bakers and shopkeepers at Odessa and Kieff, and had never had any military training.

TO OUR READERS.

THE NEAR EAST is published on Friday, and copies are obtainable at any London bookstall early in the morning, and in the Provinces in the afternoon, of that day. To prevent disappointment, readers would assist us very much if they would place a standing order with their newsagent or railway bookstall for the supply of the paper every week. Any newsagent or railway bookstall clerk can, however, obtain copies at a few hours' notice if they have temporarily run out of stock; or we will post THE NEAR EAST for delivery on Friday morning, to any address, on the following terms, post free :—

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ALEXANDRIA. Librairie Schuler, Rue Cherif Pasha; Nacamulli and Company, 12, Rue Sesostris; Librairie Calebotte, Rue Cherif Pasha; Librairie Cauro, Rue Cherif Pasha; J. Eugenides and Co., 12, Rue Cherif Pasha; Main Station Bookstall.

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KHARTOUM. Sudan Stationery and Bookstore.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Roumania and Austria.

M. Stephen Pichon, formerly French Foreign Minister, discusses in the *Daily Chronicle* the treaty which King Carol concluded with the Emperor Francis Joseph in 1883.

The treaty is an absolute Monument of Reaction, and, in view of that fact, one can quite easily conceive why none of the heads of Government who, after its signature, succeeded one another in Bucharest, ever dared take the responsibility of revealing it, or even of regarding it as applicable in the literal sense. To my knowledge there has not been since Metternich and the Holy Alliance a diplomatic deal inspired to such a pitch with that spirit of resistance to modern ideas, which is the root policy of the Austrian Court. By Article III. (there are eight articles in all) Roumania pledges herself to "do her utmost to annihilate, at the request of Austria-Hungary and its dynasty, Freethought, Socialism, Anarchism, and Irredentism in the event of their spreading in the kingdom and doing harm to the Rights of Sovereigns." By a paragraph of Article VII. she pledges herself "to maintain and support within the realm Catholicism and Germanism." Here we have a foreign State intruding formally and deliberately into the domestic policy of an independent Power and imposing an obligation upon the latter to repress by force the aspirations that its inhabitants were likely to manifest as their conscience and their freedom of spirit entitled them. In just this fashion was the celebrated pact of 1815 drawn up by its authors—the pact which was intended to put under the heel of four Powers the small States and Liberal nations whose ideas did not coincide with those of despotism and autocracy menaced at the time by the great currents of popular opinion. Besides inflicting this humiliation upon Roumania, the treaty of 1883 condemned her to be the mere handmaiden of Austro-Hungarian pretensions in Europe, and particularly in the Balkans.

"The Tigers of Budapest."

Under this heading the Transylvanian poet and Nationalist, Octavian Goga, publishes an article in the *Universul* (Bucharest) on the subject of the anti-Roumanian demonstration which took place lately in the Parliament of Budapest.

Goga begins by telling us that the animals in the zoological garden of Budapest all died some years ago in consequence of an epidemic. In spite of the empty pits and cages, the establishment was kept open, and those who were persuaded by an unscrupulous advertisement to pay an entrance fee, left the place indignant at the hoax that had been sprung upon them. Finally a periodical suggested that, in order to safeguard at least the illusion of a zoological garden, the dead beasts should be stuffed and exposed in suitable attitudes behind the bars. Whereupon a humorous journal published the following pleasantry:—"Once on a summer's day awe-inspiring roars were heard coming from the tiger's den. The garden was empty, the public had gone, the roars were emitted uninterruptedly. Finally the gardener, disturbed by the noise, rose from his seat and proceeded to the tiger's den, and opening the gate addressed himself as follows to its occupant: 'Enough, Mr. Schwartz, it's no use kicking up that row, for there isn't a soul left in the place. Go home yourself, for you must be hungry.' Whereupon the tiger rose on its hind paws, opened its hide down the middle, and gave exit to the grateful Schwartz." I cannot help recalling this grotesque tale to-day (proceeds M. Goga), as I read the declarations made by the political chiefs of Budapest, so full of flowery menaces addressed to Roumania. . . . Count Karoly, with whom the whole Magyar Parliament has identified itself, shrieks the following warning at us:—"If Roumania throws her army against the Carpathians she will encounter on her path not men, but tigers." In spite of the millennial hatred accumulated in our souls by unspeakable suffering, the grandiloquence of these words forces a smile of pity to our lips. Tigers of the Danube, indeed! How disparaging a comparison for the noble beasts of the Nubian desert! The old man of Schoenbrunn's pitiful army, vast nursery for Siberian tenants, sham soldiers reminiscent of Lehar's operettes, rhetorical magnates and bourgeois Jewdom from the suburbs of Pest. . . . These a band of tigers maddened by the smell of blood? For the name of heaven, Count, recollect that you are an old man; in your place and at your time of life unseemly jokes of this kind are out of place. . . . Mr. Schwartz's tiger? Precisely! He it is whom we shall meet in the Carpathian passes, multiplied into thousands of specimens, roaring at his best until—well, until the forest of Roumanian bayonets begins to advance. And then there will be no one more pleased than himself, when he discovers that he can choose, in place of the inclement Siberian weather, the milder climate of a concentration camp somewhere near the mouths of the Danube. Until then we can only answer the Budapest orator with the words:—'That will do, Mr. Schwartz; don't roar any more for the present!'"

Austrian Journal on Roumanian Heroism.

The *Neues Wiener Journal* publishes an enthusiastic telegram from a war correspondent regarding the magnificent valour displayed by the 31st Broskov (Kronstadt) Regiment, composed of Roumanians. The Vienna journal states that this regiment fought before Belgrade, in Albania, Montenegro, and on the Italian front, before finding its way to the Eastern theatre of war. "This is a proof," says the writer, "of Roumanian heroism." Yes, adds the *Journal des Balkans*, and it is a proof of something else, too, of the exhaustion of the Austro-Hungarian armies who so badly need the Roumanian elements that they send them to be killed on every battlefield.

And these are the men—the pick of a nation—who have been the object of unspeakable persecution on the part of the Hungarians, because they would not renounce their nationality, would not submit to the *Magyarisation* of their children. And now they form the backbone of the Hungarian armies! But how tragic the destiny which opposes them ever and again to troops of their own blood, Roumanians of Bessarabia to-day, Roumanians of the kingdom to-morrow.

The Balkan Time-Table.

The *Daily Telegraph* emphasises the fact that though the movement of the Allies in the Balkans appears to have been belated, it has begun "considerably in advance of the time chosen for two of the most important of recent campaigns in this blood-stained theatre of war."

That which ended in the crushing of Serbia last year was not initiated by Mackensen until a month later than this. The move against Turkey by the Balkan League in 1912 began later still. Those were short and sharp campaigns; they came to their very dissimilar conclusions within six or eight weeks of their opening. Whether events will move so rapidly again this autumn we shall see. The Allies have to secure, if possible, a decision before the beginning of the long Balkan winter. There is one certainty to be reckoned with that lessens the likelihood of an end as swift as was seen in those cases. Germany will do all she can; and when Germany has disclosed in the course of these operations the full amount of the assistance which she is able, by hook or by crook, to lend to her Balkan confederate, the Allies will be in possession of the clearest evidence they have yet had as to the condition of our chief enemy in regard to reserves of fighting force. For it is for the enemy Powers an absolutely vital interest that Bulgaria should be saved and communication with the Near East kept open. Once the Allies are across the great Balkan railway, Bulgaria is crushed and Turkey is dead, German prestige vanishes completely, and the Central Empires "see their finish." If men and guns are anyhow to be spared to avert or delay that disaster, they will have been sent to the Balkans for the campaign now opening. Austria-Hungary can do nothing: she is, in fact, herself making a fatal drain upon Germany's strength—fatal, and daily increasing. Nothing but a further dissipation of that strength can meet the new situation in Bulgaria and Macedonia; and every man detached thither goes at his country's deadly peril. That is the logic of the Allies' combined offensive on all fronts; and this new and vigorous attack is to be considered in intimate connection with the incessant hammering and grinding away of the enemy's power now proceeding upon every hand.

Macedonia in War Time.

An officer in the R.A.M.C., now in Macedonia, contributes his impressions of the country in war time to the *Hospital*:—

There are no hedges. The fields are demarked only by the line of furrow, except they be growing vines, then usually a low bank or a low bank with a slight ditch bounds them. Fig-trees grow in the vineyards amongst the grapes. The potential fertility of the country is great, but years of war and uncertainty do not conduce to careful farming. The cultivation is slovenly; the lands dirty; very little manure is used; the crops are very thin. Between the rough patches of crops is much waste land; some that shows no sign of former cultivation, other that bears marks of the plough.

Since 1912 there has been much shifting of population. The Turks largely left the land when it came under Greek government. The Turks also expelled from Thrace many Greek peasants who had their homes there. Great hardship resulted. The dispossessed Greeks lost their all, and came paupers into the land. They have been allowed to settle on the land left vacant by the Turks, but as they have neither capital, cattle, nor implements, they live squalidly in ruinous Turkish houses and eke a scant living from stony hill-sides. An oldish man, fine of face and figure, and wearing a dress that, though shabby, showed evidence of better quality than his fellows, attracted my attention in a certain village through which I was riding with an interpreter. Because he was the first fine-looking Greek I had seen, I bade the interpreter question him. He told me that he came from Thrace, where he had been a rich man with wide fields and 8,000 sheep, but the Turks had taken all and turned him out of their land. "And how am I to work to get food now when I am an old man?" he ended his tale.

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King Constantine—

Mr. Crauford Price "likes King Constantine," so he writes in the *Daily Mirror*:—

There is much that is attractive about this big, handsome monarch, with his blunt, soldierly way of dealing with men and things. The moment he greets you he puts all Court ceremony aside, sets you at your ease, and permits you to talk not as commoner to king, but as man to man. He is pre-eminently courageous, whether he be facing foes on the battlefield or diplomats in his library, and he never tries to shirk responsibility for his actions. Indeed, no living royalty cuts a more imposing figure on State occasions or is more perfectly charming in the intimacy of the Court circle. And he has a gift of humour—often satirical, but never really unkind. I have met King Constantine many times and under divers circumstances: at war, en voyage, in society, and in his home. It is difficult to decide where one has met him at his best—perhaps at war, where he is free from diplomats and politicians (diplomats are his pet aversion) and can give free rein to that autocratic instinct which he has inherited from a Russian mother or imbibed from German associations.

—And the Greek People.

In the normal life of the Greeks (Mr. Price continues) there is no room for the application of absolutist principles.

For Greece is a "Republican monarchy," and the people are essentially democratic in character. From the very commencement of the war King Constantine was personally animated by a desire to keep Greece out of the conflict. In the early days it was the Kaiser who sought an ally, and the Greek ruler told me the story as I halted at Athens on my way to join the Serbian army. To repeat the whole narrative would be a breach of confidence, but he then very roughly drew the attention of the "All Highest" to the fact that Greece could be reduced to cinders by the Anglo-French fleets in twenty-four hours. The more the Kaiser badgered his brother-in-law, the more he angered him, until he finally gave up the quest. "Greece is a Balkan State," the King told me on another occasion, "and this is a European war. I am not going to be drawn into it if I can help it. I am not afraid of the Bulgars, and I am ready to go for them again. But it must be a Balkan war. I would rather fight Germany than England, but I don't want to fight either of them."

I do not credit the story that he was bound to the Kaiser, nor do I think that the influence of the Queen went far beyond making it insufferably uncomfortable at the Court for anyone of pro-Entente sympathies; but he had held an exaggerated opinion of the might of the Prussian military machine.

In both respects he was encouraged by the political and military profiteers, by whom he had unwisely surrounded himself. They elaborated plans conclusively demonstrating the inevitable triumph of the Teutonic alliance, exploited the mistakes of Entente diplomacy (particularly our ill-advised offer of Kavalla to Bulgaria) to the detriment of the Cretan statesmen, and sought by the introduction of an absolute régime to conjure the ruin of their hated rival. Hence the plague of spies, agents-provocateurs and gendarmes with which Athens was recently afflicted.

Greece's Lost Chance.

Mr. G. Ward Price, the British Press correspondent at Salonika, declares that the sequence of circumstances that has led the Greek Government and its supporters so far from the path of the interests of their country is easy to trace.

It begins with a King who was trained as a soldier in Germany and very naturally admires the German military genius, thoroughly believing, as he said to a friend of mine last year, that "the Germans could not be beaten in a hundred years." Behind him is . . . . a General Staff nearly all educated in Germany and thinking exactly as the King. And, obscure but persistent in the background, is Baron Schenk . . . . Then, early in 1915, the Allies suggested that Greece should co-operate in attacking the Dardanelles. King and General Staff reply, "If you attack the Dardanelles you will fail. We know all about the Dardanelles; we investigated them thoroughly in the first Balkan war." We answered to this, "Very well, stay outside. We will force the Dardanelles without you." Unfortunately we failed to do so, not only at the first attempt, but at all later ones. The Dardanelles are now recognized as practically impregnable. The Greek General Staff had been right. It was only natural that their confidence in themselves and their own foresight should grow exceedingly. So when a second chance for them to come in under their treaty of alliance with Serbia occurred six months later, and they saw that nowhere meanwhile had the war situation changed conspicuously in favour of the Allies, the Greek King and his generals were even stronger in their own negative opinion than before. And this time they were wrong. But since then the pendulum has been slowly swinging our way, until now the sudden bob that Roumania has given it has roused them to the realization that they have all the while been wrong, and that the hour has perhaps gone by when they could still put themselves right again.

The Kidnapped Army Corps.

"A Grecian tragi-comedy" is the description applied by the *Daily Chronicle* to the kidnapping of the 4th Army Corps.

"Take me and my army away, so that I may not be exposed to the danger of fighting in defence of my native land against the aggressor"—such, according to Berlin, was the plea of the commander of the 4th Greek Army Corps. Strong as is Teutonic influence among the higher ranks of the Greek army, we are reluctant to believe that any Greek general would behave with such pusillanimity unless indeed it be that the inexplicable vagaries of the Greek Government had confused and bewildered him and his troops. It was clever of the Germans to lure from the Kavalla region its appointed defenders, for the presence of Greek troops there might at any moment bring them into conflict with the Bulgarian invaders. But from the point of view of Greece it is a sorry incident, and one whose recollection must bring a flush of shame to the cheek of every patriotic Greek.

Challenge to Bethmann-Hollweg.

In the *Westminster Gazette*, in the second article of the series, "The German Chancellor and the Outbreak of War," Mr. J. A. Headlam throws down a challenge to Bethmann-Hollweg.

I wish to put the problem as clearly and concisely as possible. The whole question now really turned on mobilisation. The Chancellor prevented German mobilisation on Wednesday night and Thursday morning on the ground that Russia had only mobilised against Austria. He knew, however, that if Russia mobilised against Germany also his hand would be forced and he would no longer be able to keep back the soldiers. If, therefore, he wanted to preserve peace, he must do all in his power to prevent Russia mobilising further. For this purpose it was necessary to do all in his power to reassure her, to prevent apprehension, to help the Czar in his desire to keep peace. How did he use the opportunities which offered for doing this? Obviously the first thing to do was to prevent Austria hurrying on with her military action. If Austria continued the attack on Belgrade, then Russia must at once act. The first question for the Chancellor therefore is: Did he bring any pressure upon Austria to stop military operations? Again, if Austria completed her mobilisation, Russia would certainly do the same. Now we know that Austria ordered the complete mobilisation of the whole army very early on Friday morning. This was at once answered, and unavoidably answered, by complete Russian mobilisation. The second question is: Did the Chancellor use any pressure on Austria not to complete her mobilisation?

Russia's Offer.

Mr. Headlam puts very clearly Russia's offer to stop her military preparations:—

Again, during Thursday a telegram came from St. Petersburg containing an offer from Russia to stop her military preparations on certain conditions. If the Chancellor really wished to avoid war, this was clearly the most admirable opportunity. Even supposing that the conditions were not entirely acceptable, they might be made the basis for negotiations; anyhow, it would be easy to use them so as to gain a little time, and every hour was of importance, and in any circumstances an answer should be sent which would reassure the Russian Government as to the friendly intentions of Germany. How was this offer from Russia dealt with? The story is an old one. It was met with an instantaneous and categorical refusal. Herr von Jagow did not even take the trouble to forward it to Vienna. To have done so would have done no harm, even had he known that Austria would reject it, but it would at least have saved several hours. The categorical refusal from Germany inevitably brought about the immediate completion of Russian mobilisation, and everyone must have known that it would do so. Our third question to the Chancellor therefore is—Why did he treat his Russian proposal in this manner?

Articles to Note.

"Longer and Shorter Roads to Victory," in the *Matin* (September 9).

"The Roumanians," in the *New Statesman* (September 2).

"Co-operation of the Entente Powers," by Dr. E. J. Dillon, in the *Daily Telegraph* (September 16).

The British Farmers' Red Cross Fund has now paid over to the British Red Cross Society £377,636, but, owing to ever-increasing calls upon it, the committee are now appealing for nothing less than £1,000,000. The fund has already twenty-five schemes fully working, including, among many others, stores for Serbia, presentation and upkeep of various convoys of motor ambulances in different war areas, help to hospital work in Russia, Egypt, Belgium, Caucasus, East Africa, France, Britain, and other countries, and, in addition, has provided for the permanent upkeep of about sixty bedrooms in the "Star and Garter" Home at Richmond. All donations and offers of assistance should be sent to the Secretary, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Shad Thames, Bermondsey, S.E.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Halil Bey, the Turkish Ambassador in Berlin, is busy at present, if one can believe the *Weser Zeitung*, in framing some sort of an economic bond between the German and Ottoman Empires. If the truth be told, we can afford to smile indulgently at these commercial negotiations; they are academic in spirit and thoroughly futile. Whatever their nature, they can only be of temporary duration, and will not affect the economic or financial position of the future Turkey. For the latter will not depend, when war is over, on the Deutsche Bank and its ramifications, but on London, Paris, and Petrograd. The Ottoman Exchequer finds itself already so heavily mortgaged to its creditors among the Allies that, whatever its liabilities contracted in Berlin since November, 1914, it will have to meet our legitimate demands after peace has been declared long before German bankers dare hand in their claims. To what extent we will recognise Turkey's indebtedness to Germany remains to be seen; but, unless we want the Ottoman Government to go bankrupt (thus depriving Allied creditors of their holdings) in order to help foot Germany's war bill, we must cancel most, if not all, of her Berlin liabilities. So let Halil Bey concoct financial and commercial schemes to his heart's content; the former will weaken and not strengthen the Boches, and the latter will be valueless as soon as the Allied forces have struck their great blow northwards from the Vardar and southwards from the Danube to where Nish and Pirot control the Pest-Sofia section of the Berlin-Constantinople line.

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However, if mention is made in these columns of Halil Bey's wonderful work in Berlin West, it is with a view rather to emphasise the preposterous pretensions of the Huns in the Balkans than to belittle his Excellency's excessive optimism. I have been perusing Naumann's *Mittel Europa* (to which I shall refer again at an early date), and also some recent German literature of a similar trend, and there is no gainsaying the fact that even to-day, when their Somme front is crumbling beneath their feet, the Boches are desperately endeavouring to create that Central European State (or "combine," because it is no State in the usual acceptance of the word) reaching along the Danube to the sea, and in which the Balkan States, or more particularly Bulgaria and Turkey, are to play such an important second rôle under Germano-Austrian hegemony, with the emphasis on "German." So strong has this movement grown in the Vaterland that the Ballin shipping and the great colonial circles have deemed it necessary to cement it with a special, insidious propaganda of their own. But, in view of the low level to which his shipping has sunk, combined with the now practically total loss of his colonies, the prosaic German is inclined rather to the idea of a mighty Mittel Europa to which he would stand in the relation of a sponsor.

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There are signs, moreover, that those in power are similarly influenced by the glamour of an Empire stretching from the Rhine to the Tigris, and hence we have Halil Bey's negotiations on the one hand, and the simultaneous visit to Germany of Turkish and Bulgarian military and financial envoys. Not that we need worry very much about these Potsdam confabulations, beyond realising that they do exist, and that they are presumably progressing favourably—that is to say, according to Pan-German wishes. They will, with the success of our arms, be destroyed—about that, if we are careful, there can be little doubt—but the spirit of the work begun will not be lost. It will live to combine against us, to thwart us, to Prussianise the Near East, even when Prussia has been humbled. That is the real danger against which I wish to warn our statesmen: they must frame peace terms in such a way as to prevent all further Boche interference in the destinies of the Balkan States, whether by means of royal connections, political bribery, commercial corruption, financial control, or military aggressiveness. This is essential. The means thereto will be at our disposal; let us utilise every one of them, remembering always that a Germany sucking strength out of the East will always be a menace in the West.

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I understand that the British authorities in London have received an enormous number of claims in respect of losses incurred by British subjects through acts of misconduct, which cannot be regarded as acts of war committed by our enemies. These claims have come in, and continue to come in, from most parts of the Empire, so widespread has the theatre of war become Prominent in the list is a considerable group of British subjects who when the war broke out were resident in various parts of the Ottoman Dominions. As is well known, in order to escape from the Turks our friends had to leave property of great value behind them, notably in Constantinople and Smyrna. It is said that among the claimants are Egyptians, Indians, and Armenians who had become British citizens, while foreign subjects have also endeavoured to obtain the support of the British Government when the time comes for them to submit their claims. It must not be imagined, of course, that claims will be settled now, or at any future time, without scrutiny, and those who have incurred losses and propose to ask for compensation will do well to see that their claims are in order and supported by whatever evidence is available.

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It must be understood that traders' claims will not be the only items which will be taken into consideration. The Royal Proclamation, under which claims are to be submitted, was very wide in its scope, and while the assessing authorities will properly refuse to lend themselves to fraud, no *bonâ-fide* case will be excluded from the operation of the machinery designed to secure a settlement. It will be seen that the bills to be presented to those who have wantonly violated every known principle of war and international law are not likely to be small. So far as one can see, there will be no "bad debts" in the winding up of these "enemy concerns," and it is to be trusted that British subjects who have been made victims of their shameless piracy will not refrain from sending in their bills because they happen to be small.

More than once in these columns I have emphasised the necessity for firms who propose to trade in Egypt to observe great care in the appointment of agents. Recently instances have been reported which support very fully my contention, and in the last number of the monthly *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt there is an article in which a specific instance in point is quoted. A summary of the article will be found elsewhere in this issue of THE NEAR EAST, and English business houses will do well to study it carefully. It will be observed that the *Journal* states that "the flying visit of a commercial traveller may often meet the case, but unless the sales he makes are to well-known firms, or for cash, they must be attended with a good deal of risk, and it is doubtful whether a traveller, who usually lacks the knowledge of local conditions, can effect sales on as good terms as the man who resides on the spot and is in constant touch with the market."

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The next and equally important thing is to see that the agent is honest and a person or firm of repute. References are generally available, and in most cases a bank will be prepared to report upon names submitted to it; and there is also the Chamber of Commerce. An agent should be honest enough and capable enough to be trusted with a certain amount of discretionary power. Recently it was pointed out that it was a common thing for "such firms to send their bills for collection to one of the local banks, giving the name of their agent, to whom reference is to be made in case of need. In such circumstances the bank should be clearly told whether the agent has power to stop protest, grant delays, compromise questions which may arise as to allowance, etc., and withdraw any bill without paying its countervalue. Although the necessity for such instructions may appear to a number of people to be too obvious to require special notice, the fact remains that in a large number of cases such directions are not given, with the result that time is lost and cabling expenses are incurred in ascertaining the wishes of the remitters."

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On the other hand, it is possible to be so over-cautious as to be foolish. A case was reported to the Chamber the other day in which an English firm, starting to do business with an agent, refused to send out samples of their goods without receiving a remittance to cover expenses. Another complaint, also against an English firm, was made by a Cairo buyer, who, having bought and paid for a large shipment of goods, and finding that they were not up to sample, sent a small parcel home for comparison, and were met by a refusal, on the part of the shippers, either to recognise the complaint or to submit the question to arbitration. The critic is certainly correct in his view that this is "not the way to capture enemy trade—no German firm would think of asking for expenses on sending out samples to the country where they, presumably, wished to open up a 'connection,' and to refuse even to discuss the complaint of a client who pays on delivery, is a very poor way of setting out to replace the enemy trade."

COMMENTATOR.

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Greece and the United States.

How Trade has been Increased by the Ill-wind of War.

Studying carefully a series of reports submitted by various Consular officers in Greece to their Government in Washington, it is possible to derive a certain amount of comfort, in that enemy commerce appears to have been eliminated. These reports, which bear a date in August, are not exhaustive in their detail, and are intended to show, primarily, the approximate position of United States interests in the country; but they contain a considerable record of general trade nevertheless, and, in view of their authorship, may be regarded as being somewhere near the mark.

Shipping statistics are the first to call for notice. In the year 1914—of which seven months belong to the war period—ninety-six German vessels entered the port of Piræus (for Athens), representing an aggregate tonnage of 200,990 tons. In 1915 only one German vessel entered the port, her tonnage being 1,730. Of Austrian vessels 226, of an aggregate tonnage of 474,618, entered in 1914, and one vessel of 4,775 tons was able to enter in the year 1915. Last year no enemy-owned vessel cleared from the port of Kalamata, no details are given of Mitylene, but of Patras the picture is pleasing. Here is a shipping table of that port for the two years :—

	1914.			1915.	
	Ships.	Tons.		Ships.	Tons.
Austrian	72	132,625	....	—	—
Bulgarian	4	11,274	....	—	—
German.....	37	70,466	....	—	—
Turkish.....	26	19,466	....	—	—

These figures speak for themselves, and are of infinitely more value than all the debates in the world could be.

No Enemy Trade.

In Entente circles Greece is, rightly or wrongly, suspect just now, and it would require bravery of quite an unusual kind to attempt to elucidate the situation out yonder; but whatever the political situation may be, it is pretty certain that German and enemy trade generally in Greece has for the time being been wiped out. We need not bother to discover whether the fact pleases the Greek people or not; for the moment the fact itself is sufficient, especially as more recent steps taken by the Entente Powers make it impossible for our enemies in the country to pursue their campaign—a campaign which, in the past, was so successful.

One of the results of the war has been that Greek shipowners have been able to amass considerable profits. Reference has been made to this fact previously in THE NEAR EAST; but the American Consul-General estimates that they have netted profits amounting to about £16,000,000. He says that some owners, tempted by the large prices offered for ships in various parts of the world, have disposed of a number of their vessels for large sums.

This has had an unfortunate sequel, for the crews have remained at home idle, partly because of idleness and partly because of the language difficulty, which prevents many of them from finding employment under foreign flags. In either case, the result has been the same; the men have remained in Greece to swell the great army of out-of-works and to increase an already severe economic problem. In passing it is worth mention that a great number of refugees have accumulated to add to the burden of the authorities. Some of these are able to maintain themselves, but the great majority are quite without means, and depend entirely upon the charity of the public, the State having to make up the deficiency.

Generally speaking, the war has had a very serious and adverse effect upon Greek commerce and trade. Raw material has been difficult to secure, agricultural interests have suffered through the mobilisation of horses and cattle for the army, while the unsettled political situation has played havoc with the country. With this aspect of the situation the Consul-General does not deal—for obvious reasons—but there are other observers who have not failed to draw a comparison between the past and the present, and they agree that not all the distress is to be attributed merely to war dislocation. There is a general lack of confidence on the part of the people in their own authorities which bodes little good for the immediate future.

The Marble Industry.

The report before us deals almost entirely with Greek trade with the United States, but here and there we are given a glimpse at the more general aspect of the question. For example, the Consul quotes the manager of a large firm of marble merchants, who describes the conditions of the industry and explains why many quarries have been closed. He says :—

"The amount of Pentelic white marble quarried in 1915 was about equal to that of 1914, yet the output from the coloured quarries has practically discontinued, with the exception of Tinos green marble, owing to conditions arising out of the European war. The American market consumed the bulk of the Tinos green produced, otherwise this property would also have had to shut down. The London market absorbed the best quality produced from the Pentelic white marble quarries, while the local market took the remainder, which, of course, was of second and third quality.

"Owing to shipments having entirely ceased to the Antwerp and Hamburg depôts, where in the past large quantities of coloured Skyros, Pentelic white, Tinos green, and Verde Antico marbles were used, the business has been seriously affected—in fact, during the past year only Pentelic and Tinos marbles have been quarried, the former during most of the year, and the latter for five months. Toward the end of the year there was a small amount of the Verde Antico marble quarried, but owing to a lack of orders all of our properties have now been shut down.

"Freight rates to London are now double what they were before the war, while to America they have increased about 30 per cent. This, together with war conditions, doubtless accounts for the decreased trade with Great Britain. It was hoped, however, that the American market would import large quantities of marble, owing to the more favourable conditions prevailing there. Up to the end of 1915 the increased freight rates to the United States had not yet gone into effect. High freight rates, therefore, do not account for the recent falling off in orders from that quarter.

"The local business has practically ceased, probably because of the high cost of other classes of building material, thereby preventing the construction of new buildings."

General Merchandise

Speaking of the Consular district of Athens alone, the Consul gives us an idea of the manner in which American trade expanded in 1915. The declared exports to the United States from the Athens district amounted in value to the sum of £382,350 sterling; not a great sum, perhaps, but certainly considerable when compared with export values in the preceding year—£273,820. Going back another year, we find that the gain over 1913 amounts, roughly, to £168,000, a very fair figure indeed when we remember the great dislocation caused by the war.

Entirely new lines of trade were opened up in furs, herbs, opium, emery, paints and colours, while expansion in trade is to be noted in respect of books, almonds and walnuts, butter, caviare, cheese, salted fish, citrons, gum mastic, marble, magnesite, skins, amylic alcohol, spirituous beverages, and liqueurs. There are several decreases to be noted—namely, in oils, the export of which fell off by about one-half; sulphur, which declined from about £27,000 to £2,000; chrome and tobacco, the decline in the latter of which was also considerable.

Emery and Magnesite.

A word of explanation is due regarding emery. Although this ore does not appear among declared exports from Greece to the United States previous to 1915, the absence is misleading, for in the preceding two years certain shipments were undoubtedly made, but were merged into the exports of Asia Minor, and included in the exports through the port of Smyrna. As is well known, emery is a monopoly of the Greek Government, and the price was advanced 30 per cent. in March this year. The output in 1915 was 15,000 metric tons (for delivery in 1916), while the demand up to March last was something like 70,000 tons.

American purchases of magnesite last year were more than doubled, owing, we are told, to the shutting down of the Styrian mines in Austria. The demand for Greek magnesite in the United States this year promises to equal that of last year. The Austrian product is much inferior to that of the Greek mines. Although it is quite good enough for firebrick making, the Grecian ore is specially valuable for the manufacture of flooring compositions.

Skins and Tobacco.

The recent history of the skin trade is interesting, and illustrates one of the effects which the entry of Italy into the war exercised. At the beginning of hostilities Germany and Austria bought up the entire available supply of skins on the Grecian market, importing their purchases through Italy. Prices were then doubled, and the field was practically exhausted. When Italy declared war against Austria in 1915 the shipments ceased, but the prices remained high and trade continued brisk, with an accelerated demand from the United States. That demand continues, for it is anticipated that shipments this year will surpass all previous records.

At the beginning of the war the Greek tobacco trade was hit badly, but it was able to make a fair recovery.

Because of the uncertain political conditions prevailing in Greece early in 1915, at least one important tobacco firm in the Athens district seriously considered closing its offices; when, however, it seemed probable that Greece would remain a neutral country, business again became active. The crop last year (the tobacco year is from September to August) was good, and on account of the blockading of Black Sea ports the prices for Greek tobacco were above the average. The 1915 crop was practically all sold in advance at a good price.

The lowest grades of tobacco found a ready market in Germany; shipped by way of the Netherlands, these grades which brought from $0.0547 to $0.0684 per pound in 1914 sold for from $0.13 to $0.164 per pound in 1915.

The sinking of two or more steamships carrying important shipments of tobacco to the United States from Greek ports obliged importers to refill orders at an advance in price of 50 per cent.

Imports through Piræus.

The countries of origin of the goods imported through the port of Piræus, with the quantities brought, were the following :—

	Tons.		Tons.
America	395,938	Italy.....	11,467
England.....	328,689	Norway	572
Egypt	11,769	Serbia	201
Austria	15,277	Russia.....	24
France.....	18,235	Belgium	26
Netherlands	10,744	All others	113,776
Turkey	6,090		
Bulgaria.....	6,497	Total	919,243

It will be noted that the United States was the largest exporter to Greece in 1915. This was due to the large quantities of wheat purchased in the United States, the Russian and Balkan markets being closed on account of the war.

The recent budget of the Piræus Port Commission, which has been approved by the Minister of Communications, contemplates the expenditure of £32,000 for the construction of new piers, £2,000 for new port works, submitted in 1914, an equal sum for deepening the central part of the harbour, and £6,000 for various improvements.

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ALEXANDRIA COTTON BOURSE.

The Facts and Figures of the Settlement.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 6.

The crisis on the Alexandria Cotton Bourse has now been settled, and to-morrow it will reopen for operations under entirely normal conditions. The settlement has been brought about, thanks, on the one hand, to the public spirit shown by the trade, that is, the exporters, and on the other hand to the assistance given by the Government in the solution of the financial side of the settlement.

What has been arranged is this. The trade has undertaken to buy abroad future contracts for a quantity of 87,250 cantars, and will place these at the disposal of the brokers. The latter will take them over at $23, and, to cover the risk that the trade runs, the purchase made by the latter is to be reckoned at $9 above the price at which New York opened on September 5. The difference between this last figure and the $23, at which the brokers will take the 87,250 cantars over, is to be advanced by the Government, which will recover the amount, plus 5 per cent. interest, by means of an additional tax of one millieme per cantar, to be paid voluntarily by the brokers until such time as the advance and interest have been entirely liquidated.

The 87,250 cantars is the total commitments of those of their clients whom the brokers estimate will not be able to meet their differences. It is thought that the difference to be advanced will not be more than $3 per cantar, and that the amount will be recovered within six months.

Whilst the Government and the trade are to be congratulated on the part which they have respectively played in bringing about this settlement, the details do not induce one to regard the brokers very highly. The latter have, admittedly, paid large differences on the 87,250 cantars already, but it looks very much as if they took their action, not so much to save themselves from bankruptcy as to restrict their losses. At any rate the episode, which has been purely brought about by speculation encouraged by the brokers, can but serve further to discredit the market in Europe. It now rests with the Government to take such steps as will effectually prevent a recurrence of such a scandalous situation, and from what I gather it is the firm intention of the powers that be not to allow the market in the future to be at the mercy of the brokers, as it is proved to have been in the past.

NOTICE.

Société Anonyme pour la Fabrication des Cigarettes Egyptiennes marque HADJES NESSIM en liquidation.

Offers for the purchase of the following items of Stock and House Property will be received in the name of EDWARD D. JOYCE, P.O.B. 206, Alexandria (Egypt), Receiver of the above Company, up till 8 a.m. on the 15th of NOVEMBER, 1916 :—

(*a*) The TRADE MARK belonging to the Company, together with all the Stock of Tin Boxes, Labels, Cigarette Paper, etc., on which the Trade Mark is printed.

(*b*) The BUILDING situated No. 12-14, Rue Abou El Dardar, Alexandria (Egypt), belonging to the Company.

Details of the above can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, 12-14, Rue Abou El Dardar, Alexandria, between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon, on any day except Sundays, from this date to the 13th of NOVEMBER, 1916.

Offers must be made in writing, under registered cover, to the above mentioned P.O. address, and must be accompanied by a deposit in Cash of 10 per cent. of the amount offered.

Offers may be made for items A and B separately.

The Receiver is not bound to accept the best or any offer made.

COTTON TRADE POSITION.

Wild Fluctuation in Egyptians.

Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, in his monthly circular reviewing the cotton trade position, says a further striking advance has occurred in raw cotton rates during the past month, fresh high records being established, and 9.90d. has been quoted, which is the highest figure for nearly fifty years. Some profit taking has occurred lately, with an increased feeling that the recent bullish movement has been overdone. The forward movement of the crop is encouraging, and at the end of last week the ginning report was much better than anticipated. It remains to be seen at what level prices will steady. Opinions relating to supplies and probable consumption during the next twelve months are very conflicting. Spinners' callings have been of fair extent, and little improvement has recently shown itself in the spot sales. It is too early for any definite estimate of the yield to be published, but the statistics so far available seem to point to an output of about 12,000,000 bales. Should this figure not be exceeded, and consumption keeps up, then we must expect depleted stocks at the end of the season High prices, however, must have some effect upon the requirements of users. Egyptian cotton has fluctuated rather wildly, and some irregularities have transpired in the Alexandria market.

The conditions in the cloth market during the past month have been most difficult, and, although the hardening tendency in prices has brought out a big inquiry, a large part of the demand has been at unworkable rates. A substantial business has been done, however, in stock lots, and where makers have been in a position, owing to either cheap raw cotton or yarn, to accept a little less than top prices. For India certain producers of light bleaching cloths and goods suitable for printing have added to their engagements, but the buying movement has not been general. Dhooties are more deeply sold than a month ago; on the other hand shirtings continue neglected and depressed. All along the line manufacturers of fancies and specialities have met with a more encouraging demand than producers of staple goods. The response on the part of China shippers to the higher prices has been very poor. Here and there quite a healthy business has been done for Egypt, certain goods being badly wanted on the other side.

THE WHEAT CROP.

Dealing with the preliminary estimate of the world's wheat crop, the *Grain, Seed, and Oil Reporter*, in its issue of September 16, states that this year's crop for the countries mentioned, as will be seen by the tabular statement printed below, is very considerably smaller than in the previous year. The following figures represent quarters of 480 lbs., with in each case 000 omitted :—

	1916.	1915.
Austria	8,000	8,000
Hungary	21,000	20,500
Greece	600	600
Italy	23,900	21,500
Roumania	10,800	11,300
Russia	105,000	113,000
Servia	500	1,500
Algeria and Tunis	4,500	5,700
Egypt	4,500	4,900

The indicated surplus in exporting countries (leaving Russia and Roumania out of the calculation) from this year's crops, according to present prospects, is much smaller than in most recent years, amounting to about 40 million quarters, against estimated import consumptive requirements of foreign wheat of 67 million quarters, this total including the wants of all European and non-European countries, excepting Germany and Austria-Hungary.

With regard to Russia and Roumania as exporters, these countries have very large surpluses of wheat, amounting in all probably to over 40 million quarters, Russia having shipped very little wheat from either the 1914, 1915, or 1916 crops, whilst Roumania has a good surplus this year.

The requirements of foreign wheat for account of Germany and Austria-Hungary would probably not exceed 12 or 13 million quarters, so that it will at once be seen what a difference it would make to consumers, so far as future supplies are concerned, were the Dardanelles Straits open, enabling Russia and Roumania to export freely.

TRADE NOTES.

Liquidation.

The firm of Joseph Eggert is liquidating its affairs, and Mr. F. H. Russell, Gresham House, Cairo, the liquidator, requires all claims to be submitted to him on or before September 30, 1916.

Failures.

The following is the list of failures in Egypt during the period June 28, 1916, to July 25, 1916 : Kelada Raphail, merchant. Mahamid (Keneh); Georges Farag el Assabgui, merchant, Cairo; Joseph Rahmin Salama, Austrian banker, Alexandria.

Openings—Pianos.

The British Chamber of Commerce (Cairo Committee) call the attention of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce to the fact that there is an opening for the sale of English pianos in Egypt, consequent upon the enforced liquidation of the business of the principal piano dealer in Cairo, who was of German nationality and dealt only in German goods. The average sales of these instruments has amounted hitherto to between 200 and 300 a year.

Licence to Trade.

Mr. Alessandro B. Pervanoglou, 6. Rue Young, Alexandria, has been granted a licence to trade in Egypt with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain.

SHIPPING NOTES.

Belated news has been received from Larnaca that the Greek steamer Spetzai, bound from Cyprus to the United Kingdom, has been sunk.

Our interned merchant seafarers in Turkey are in a very pitiable plight, according to official information received—mainly as regards supply of food—horse beans being largely their staple diet, says the *Journal of Commerce*. The Imperial Merchant Service Guild, which is looking after all the interned captains and officers in Germany and Turkey, also their dependents, have just received a postcard from Captain L. Allen, of the Ellerman liner Assiout, who is interned with his shipmates at the camp at Magnesie, Turkey. Captain Allen states that all the prisoners are in good health and spirits, but regrets to inform us of the death of two firemen.

The *Vossische Zeitung* hints in a recent issue at the possibility of a much closer understanding between the two great German navigation companies, the Hamburg-Amerika and the Norddeutscher Lloyd, on a basis that remains at present a secret. Both companies are now engaged in reorganising their boards of directors, many of the old directors retiring in favour of prominent German financiers and bankers. According to the above-named newspaper, it is evident that at the end of the war the two companies will require big financial credits. Representatives of the leading German mining and electrical industries will likewise be on both boards.

The King has been pleased, on the recommendation of the President of the Board of Trade, to award the Silver Medal for Gallantry in Saving Life at Sea to Mr. James Alexander Coverley, late master of the steamship Virginia, of Glasgow, in recognition of his services in attempting to rescue a wounded native seaman when his vessel was lost in the Mediterranean on July 16.

THE WHISKY FOR CONNOISSEURS.

TUCKEY'S

Years 10 Old

Pure Malt Whisky

per 57/- doz.

Case Free and Carriage Paid.

Soft, Mellow, Old Pot Still Scotch Whisky. Sample bottle, post free, 5/3.

The Lancet, March 25th, says: "It is well adapted for dietetic purposes owing to its purity and quality."

12 Years Old Liqueur Whisky

60/- per doz. Sample Bottle 5/6

CHAS. TUCKEY & CO., Ltd., 3, Mincing Lane, E.C.

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PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, September 21.

Currants.

There has been a considerable activity in the market during the week, with larger business done in new fruit to arrive, and for forward shipments, at further advanced prices. The s.s. Gulf of Suez, with about 2,300 tons of new season fruit, and the s.s. Pyrin, with about 800 tons, are expected to arrive here the end of this or the beginning of next week. In old fruit, only little business is done, the remaining stock not being in quite good condition.

Sultanas.

The demand continues, and Afghanistan fruit sells well at a further advance of 1s. to 2s. on the week, while some 200 to 300 tons of Australian that arrived were sold while afloat. Greek sultanas are quiet, with little doing, owing to the high prices asked.

Figs.

There is only a moderate demand, and prices are well maintained.

Dates.

Owing to the reports that shipments will be small this season on account of freight difficulties, prices have advanced, and a further advance is not improbable.

Seeds.

Linseed.—The market has been very firm during the week and is closing dearer: London-Calcutta, spot, is quoted at 77s. 6d., while afloat was sold to-day at that price; September-October, 78s.; October-November, 78s. 6d.; and Bombay ordinary, September-October, 79s. 6d., with small grain ditto, 78s. Rapeseed is firm, but quiet. Toria, September-October, is quoted at 69s. 6d., and bold Ferozepore, ditto, 58s. 9d. Cottonseed is also firm, but quiet. London-Egyptian, September-October, offered £13 15s., and October, £13 10s. per ton. Rangoon beans have further advanced, and £23 to £23 10s. per ton is now asked for spot lots, whilst quotations for arrivals are also higher. Canary seed remains quiet and practically unchanged for all descriptions.

Oils.

Linseed oil is dearer. Spot pipes, landed, £37 15s.; barrels, ditto, £38 15s. Rape oil is firm, ordinary brown, naked, spot, nominal; English refined, barrels, £48 to £50. Cotton oil is firmer. Crude, spot, pipes, quoted at £35; refined, pale, pipes, £40; barrels, £41; and sweet, barrels, £48 to £51 10s. as to make.

Oilcakes.

Cotton-cakes.—Only a small quantity of Egyptian cakes remain in warehouse, commanding full prices at £10 5s. to £10 7s. 6d., whilst business has been done during the week for September-October shipment from Alexandria at £10 2s. 6d., ex ship terms. English is unchanged at £10 5s. to £10 10s. per ton. Linseed-cakes.—Owing to the small production from the English mills values remain very firm, and manufacturers, as well as second-hand sellers, ask £14 5s. to £14 10s. Foreign descriptions, such as Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Greek, may be bought a little cheaper from £13 5s. to £13 15s. per ton.

RUSSIA'S BEST CUSTOMERS.

In a statement published in a Petrograd paper it is shown that Russia does her largest volume of foreign trade now with Great Britain. The statement quotes the returns of the Customs House for the first five months of 1916, showing that the exports of various goods to Great Britain over the European frontiers and seas amounted to 28,600,000 roubles value, against 16,100,000 roubles in 1915. The exports consisted almost entirely of raw material, namely, to the value of 28,000,000 roubles. Amongst the raw materials are included flax, to the value of 17,000,000 roubles; hemp, 3,500,000 roubles; skins, 1,200,000 roubles; bristles, 957,000 roubles.

Roumania follows France with 3,600,000 roubles, against 1,200,000 roubles. Roumania took foodstuffs to the value of 1,500,000 roubles, raw materials and half products 1,700,000 roubles, and manufactures 408,000 roubles.

Prominent Industries of India

The Announcements below are published to acquaint our readers with the opportunity India affords the keen purchaser.

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

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CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c. &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

War on Agricultural Pests.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, in its admirable technical and scientific service, has published an interesting note on a machine designed to kill gelechia larvæ by hot air. Mr. Du Lewis Gough, F.E.S., Director of the Entomological Section, the author of the note, writes:—

"In January, 1914, Mr. Storey and I published the results of a series of experiments made to discover a method of treating cotton seed in order to kill gelechia larvæ without injuring the seed. As a result of these experiments two machines were constructed and erected at the State Domains at Sakha. These machines were firstly a fumigating apparatus built to our design by Messrs. T. Cook and Son, Bulâq, and a machine acting by hot air, designed and constructed by Mr. Crovisier, of the State Domains. Both machines were demonstrated to ginners and other persons interested in June, 1914. Our fumigating machine fulfilled all that was expected of it, killing the larvæ without damaging the seed at a price that would not be exorbitant. It, however, did not meet the approval of the ginners, because the gas we were using—carbon bisulphide—is explosive when mixed with air, and the ginners were afraid that its employment might mean a rise in the cost of their insurances. The hot-air machine also proved a success, but was objected to on account of the huge space it required and its somewhat limited output. Both these machines were intended as models only, and were designed to demonstrate a principle. That they failed to raise much interest was because there was nothing to compel the ginners to undertake the destruction of worms in cotton seed, and in consequence they adopted a waiting attitude rather than introduce costly machinery which might soon be superseded by less expensive and more efficient methods.

Meeting Ginners' Objections.

"The results of the meeting showed that ginners would object more to any machine employing a poisonous or explosive gas than to a machine whose action was based on the application of heat. The Ministry of Agriculture consequently decided to devote special attention to the elaboration of a machine on the latter lines and to have a working model erected. The contract was given to Messrs. T. Cook and Sons, Bulâq, in January, 1915, and the machine was expected to be delivered by the end of February. Owing to the war delivery was not actually made until November, 1915. The machine is really a very simple one. In its main lines it consists of a furnace for the generation of the hot-air, a hot-air chamber through which the seed passes, and a motor. The hot-air chamber is a rectangular box of iron, isolated on the outside by asbestos to avoid loss of heat. Internally there are four endless bands made of iron chains, with trays on which the seed is carried. By a contrivance the seed, after having been carried nearly the whole journey of the upper surface of the upper part of a band, is discharged on to the upper surface of the lower part of the same band; from here, after travelling nearly the whole journey, it is again discharged on to the upper surface of the upper part of the next band, and so on, until finally it is discharged into an Archimedean screw conveyor which carries it into the sacking exit. The seed is fed in at the top of the machine by an automatic hopper, which drops in exactly the quantity of seed required to make a layer one seed deep on the endless bands. A fan situated near the feed-in causes a continuous draft of air to circulate through the machine. The air is exhausted from the hot-air generator, a brick chamber surrounding the furnace. The temperature is regulated by a damper which opens or closes by means of a screw. This damper is interposed between the hot-air generator and the hot-air chamber. A thermometer passing into the body of the hot-air chamber indicates the heat of the air at that part of the machine, and is used in regulating the temperatures. By opening the damper as soon as any indication of a fall is evident, and by closing it as soon as a rise commences, it is easily possible to keep the machine regulated to plus or minus half a degree of the desired temperature. This regulation could, of course, be made automatic if necessary. We have not fitted an automatic control on account of the extra expense, our funds not being very large.

Working the Machine.

"In working the machine the following factors have to be considered:—(1) The outside temperature: the temperature of the seed: (2) the time required to pass through the machine: (3) the temperature the machine is regulated to give: (4) the temperature of the seed at the exit. Of these four factors the last is the most important, and the other three factors must be regulated so as to keep the temperature of the seed at the exit between 48° C. and 55° C. The best temperature to regulate for being 50° C. When working the machine the time required for the seed to pass through is not interfered with; the outside temperature varies independently and cannot be regulated. The temperature required in practice is actually obtained by observation of thermometer 1 situated near the regulating damper, these readings being supplemented and corrected by observations of the temperature of the seed at the exit. Tables appended to the note show the limits between which the worms are killed and the seed does not suffer. These show that there is ample limit for regulation in such a way as to kill the worms without damaging the seed. With reference to these tables it must be remarked that they were obtained by treating small quantities of about ten kilogrammes, so that the figures given may not be quite the same as those which would be arrived at by continuous working. Further examination of the tables shows that the temperature regulated for is not as important as the final temperature of the seed. It may here be stated that the full damage to the seed can be estimated if germination tests be made directly after treatment. No further falling off of germination is observable after the lapse of three weeks. On the other hand, the mortality of the worms is not instantly complete, worms occasionally surviving treatment for a few days, especially when treated at a heat close to their temperature limit. Where only 1 or 2 per cent. of worms have been left living this is supposed to be due, not to superior power of resistance on the part of the worms which came through alive, but to the seeds containing them having fallen through the gaps between the flaps forming the endless bands, and thus not having been heated sufficiently.

Effect on Germination.

"In another table is shown the effect on the germination of treatment of nine sacks of seed. The same seed was treated twice; as the temperature at the time of the first treatment was not maintained at a sufficient height these nine sacks were treated a second time. The germination was not injured at all, the seed treated germinating quite as completely as the controls. When the machine is working the temperature inside is not everywhere the same. It is found that the temperature at the level of the lowest seed carrier is always the highest, being above that of the regulator thermometer. The second lowest carrier has the next highest temperature; after this the space above the top carrier is hottest, then follow the third carrier and the fourth carrier. The temperatures of the regulator thermometer and of the seed at exit fluctuate least. If the machine be allowed to run empty for a short time and a sack of seed be then fed in, an instant fall of the temperature in all parts of the machine is noted. This fall would, of course, not take place if the feed-in of the seed were constant and continuous. The temperature in certain parts of the machine may rise very high, up to 170° C., without danger to the seed. This is because the temperatures read are taken from the sides of the machine, and are not actually those of the carriers, and also because the seed is not exposed for sufficient time to the maximum temperatures. It is intended to fix an automatic regulator to the machine which would do away with the necessity for hand control entirely. The thermoregulator attachment ought to be fixed in such a way that the temperature of the seed passing out of the machine will give the necessary impulses."

TURKISH PRISONERS.

How they are Treated at Meadi Camp.

In a well-known Oriental art dealer's shop in Cairo may be read any day a somewhat inconspicuous legend, "Work of the Turkish Prisoners of War," and a visit to the interior of the emporium reveals many interesting specimens of handicraft, which find a ready sale among residents and visitors alike, says the *Egyptian Gazette*.

If any proof were needed at this stage of the humane treatment meted out to our prisoners of war by the authorities in Egypt, ample evidence is afforded by this new and somewhat remarkable industry. By direct authority of the military, the Turkish prisoners at Meadi are permitted to buy the materials—wools, cotton, wire, and beads—from the canteen, and from them they make up various quite saleable articles, which are offered for sale at moderate prices. Each prisoner values his own work, and the amount is attached to his production, together with his camp number, so that when the goods are sold he can claim and receive what is due to him.

At the present moment the Cairo dealer has about £E30 worth of stock of this description on hand, and this he is constantly increasing as a result of visits to the camp, where he not only settles his accounts, but advises and offers suggestions to the prisoners respecting the make and finish of the articles they produce.

Good Work.

Generally speaking, a very fair artistic level is reached by the craftsmen, who, as may be imagined, are of various nationalities. The word "Turkish," as applied to Meadi's new inhabitants, has a wide and significant meaning, since it includes Syrians, Armenians, and Greeks, who have all been compelled to take up arms under the Ottoman flag.

For the most part the articles for sale are the work of Syrian prisoners, whose hand-woven caps and handbags and olive bead rosaries are exceedingly well done. The prices are as follows:—Caps, from P.T.10 to P.T.15 each; handbags, from P.T.5 to P.T.20 each; and the rosaries, P.T.3 each. Many of the bags, or reticules, are of beadwork of good design. There are numerous serpents of beadwork, very cleverly counterfeited as regards the skin markings, and ranging in price from P.T.6 for a mere viper to P.T.50 for a much larger and equally convincing cobra.

Work in Stones.

A few beadwork belts are also on sale at P.T.8 each. These have Turkish inscriptions worked in colours. The most novel exhibits are without doubt the carved stone slabs. Thin paving slabs from the Mokattam Hills have been handled by one or two Greeks with great skill, and by means of low relief carving and coloured backgrounds, to say nothing of the accurate draughtsmanship, very excellent full-rigged ships have resulted. The marine subjects are by a Greek, who in happier days sailed the seas as a captain. As a variant from the ship type of design is the huge enlargement of an Australian florin, produced in a similar manner but with less success.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(An Anglo-Swiss Firm.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
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SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR SWITZERLAND
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system)
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O. B. 117. Telg.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 738.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY
P. O. B. 1095. Telg.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2066.

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The British Sanitary Engineers of Egypt and the Sudan,
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

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AUSTRIAN LOSSES.

Early Result of Roumanian Intervention.

Judging from the swift advance of the Roumanians in Transylvania there seems to be no doubt that their armies will soon overrun the greater part of the province, a correspondent writes in the *Morning Post*. With their advance they are not only hampering the military position of the Dual Monarchy, but are also inflicting considerable economic loss on Hungary. Not to mention the large amount of cereals left behind during the hasty evacuation of the towns and counties of the eastern portions and the whole of the Maros valley, the loss of the mines and great productive centres in the Transylvania constitutes a severe blow to the Monarchy, and indirectly to Germany also, and adds to the miserable state of affairs as regards economic conditions in the Central Empires.

Loss in Wheat.

It is stated in the Hungarian papers that practically all the wheat and other cereals along the invaded district have been lost, the Roumanians having attacked so quickly that nothing could be saved. It is estimated by the papers that in the eastern counties and the Brasso, Hermanstadt, and Orsova regions, the loss in wheat alone amounts to over 140,000 metercentners.

The Transylvanian gas fields, yielding combustible gas which pours forth from the earth, and which were discovered only a short time ago, were to have been financed by the Deutsche Bank, and it was stated that the gas springs there would be sufficient to supply the whole of the Monarchy with gas if properly exploited and administered. The Germans were about to set to work on this great scheme when Roumanian invasion put an end to operations. The value of the gas in these districts can be imagined when it is remembered that the German banks were ready to invest £2,000,000 and pay almost as much every three years to the Hungarian Government for the concession.

Mineral Wealth.

The most valuable treasures of Transylvania, however, are its mines. It is well known that the Transylvanian Alps are rich in gold, copper, and iron, as well as in coal.

The extensive forests of Transylvania naturally furnish timber in great quantities —in fact, the whole of the Austro-Hungarian timber trade is dependent on the Transylvanian forests. They produce great quantities of oak and beech, immense timber yards, all worked with electricity, are kept going day and night, and, according to the reports in Hungarian papers, all these were blown up before the forests were evacuated.

CONVICT LABOUR IN THE SUDAN.

Seventy-eight convicts who have served three-fourths of their terms of imprisonment and have proved to be of good conduct, have arrived at Cairo from the Sudan for release. It may be remembered that about a thousand Egyptian convicts were sent to the Sudan three years ago for work on the Gezireh Canalisation scheme, the Dongola Irrigation, and other works. They are still there and are performing valuable work for the Sudan Government.

Most of the Dongola irrigation schemes are now nearing completion. A canal has lately been dug out at a distance of eight kilometres east of Dongola which will soon put 80,000 feddans of land under cultivation between Dongola and Kerma. A "tarrad" has been made to flood the lands of Dongola El-Ordi and a connecting drain has been completed between this "tarrad" and Hod Ordi. Argo Canal has also been cleared and enlarged, and it is estimated that 10,000 feddans will thus be irrigated in this locality during the present season.

It is hoped that the work carried on in Dongola will soon come to an end and the prisoners will be removed to Berber Province, where certain irrigation schemes have been projected lately for the extension of the present cultivated area in that province.

AGENTS IN EGYPT.

Warning to Home Firms.

In its August number the monthly journal of the British Chamber of Commerce discusses the need of care by British firms in the appointment of agents.

"There may be some cases in which a resident intermediary is not an absolute need (says the writer), but usually it will be found more satisfactory to have a man on the spot versed in the ways of the markets, and acquainted with the languages and requirements of the country.

"The flying visit of a commercial traveller may often meet the case, but unless the sales he makes are to well-known firms or for cash, they must be attended with a good deal of risk, and it is doubtful whether a traveller who usually lacks the knowledge of local conditions can effect sales on as good terms as the man who resides on the spot and is in constant touch with the market.

An Example.

"Too much stress cannot be laid upon the necessity for care in selecting an agent. It is to be feared that a number of British firms owe their bad experience of the Egyptian market to their want of precaution in this respect rather than to any inherent defect in the country's commerce.

"A large firm of hardware merchants sent out one of its partners a few years ago to look into the state of its business, which had some time previously been placed in the hands of a local firm of commission agents. Remittances had become very irregular, many bills were in suspense, and correspondence making pointed enquiries had been treated with chilly silence. On looking into matters on the spot, the firm's representative found that injudicious sales had been made, and that in some inexplicable manner their money had got mixed up with the local agent's.

"As is not unusual in such cases, the mixing process had not been to the advantage of the home firm. The representative expressed great indignation, and had recourse to a lawyer, and finally announced his intention of withdrawing from the Egyptian market altogether, being firmly convinced that the country was an impossible one in which to do business.

No Reference.

"Just before leaving Egypt, it suddenly occurred to him to make enquiries about his ex-agents. On being informed that they had been well known for their unsatisfactory business character for many years, he admitted that he had engaged them without obtaining any local references. Had this firm been to the trouble of applying to the Chamber of Commerce or one of the banks, they would most certainly have been warned, and so saved their unpleasant experience, which, in addition to causing them financial loss, brought about their withdrawal from the Egyptian market, where under ordinary conditions they might have had quite a satisfactory and remunerative business."

GREEK CURRANT TRADE.

As we go to press we have received from Messrs. Burlumi their annual report on the currant trade (dated September 19, 1916), from which we take the following:—

We refer to our last report, dated September 14th, 1915, in which we estimated the crop of currants at 125,000 tons. The shipments during the year ended on the 22nd August reached 100,000 tons. To the Retention Stores of the Privileged Company there were delivered 30,000 tons; about 3,000 tons of fresh and dried currants were used for wine making and other industrial purposes in Greece, and the stock carried over to the new season is estimated at about 2,500 tons, making a total of 135,500 tons. Deducting 1,500 tons of old fruit brought over from the previous season of 1914-15, and 8,200 tons of retention currants sold to the exporters by the Privileged Company, we find that the crop of 1915 has yielded 125,800 tons against 145,000 in 1914 and 161,000 in 1913.

The 100,000 tons shipped to foreign countries were distributed as follows:—

	Tons	In 1914-15.
To the United Kingdom and New Zealand	70,000	against 71,300
To the United States and Canada	12,700	,, 13,600
To the Continent of Europe	17,300	,, 20,100
Total	100,000	,, 105,000

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The New Turkish autonomous tariff came into operation on September 19.

Persian and Afghanistan labourers have been recruited for the Russian cotton-growing industry.

The rainfall has been continuous in Kassala, and cultivators are looking forward for dry weather, as the ground is too wet to glean. The Gash flood is described as the greatest since the reoccupation of the Sudan.

The first cargo of American coal to be shipped to Greece from Philadelphia has been cleared. It consisted of 4,019 tons of coal, in addition to 418 tons of coke. The coal heretofore shipped to Greece has gone from Hampton Roads or Baltimore.

The Nile (says a Reuter message from Cairo) has reached a very high level, necessitating the enforcement of the decree of 1887 empowering the Government to call upon any able-bodied man to assist in the protection of threatened regions under pain of imprisonment or fine.

The Egyptian Council of Ministers has approved of the organisation of a special section in the forthcoming Imperial Exhibition in London for exhibiting samples of the Egyptian products, and the opening of a credit for £E731.250 m/m for carrying out this decision.

The Egyptian cotton crop this year is likely to amount to 6,750,000 cantars. If present prices are maintained and the crop is well financed it is hoped that it will bring in £E30,000,000, against £E16,000,000 last year and £E19,000,000 in 1914. As the flood is sure to be high this year the outlook is most favourable.

A Health Department has been established in Turkey. It has the following branches:—Public Health, Medical Jurisprudence, Pharmacy, and Statistics. Transferred under its direction are:—The Bacteriological and Chemical Institutes, the Freakhouse, the Institute for Medical Jurisprudence, and the School for Health Officers.

BRITISH TRADE WITH RUSSIA.

In view of the widespread desire to establish more intimate trading relations between the Russian and British Empires, it was decided, at a large meeting of British and Russian firms interested, convened by the Russian Consul-General in London (Baron A. de Heyking), and held in London recently, to form a Russo-British Chamber of Commerce in London. The Russian Consul-General stated that his Excellency the Russian Ambassador, Count Benckendorff, was prepared to become Honorary President of the Chamber, which would secure its official recognition.

At the request of the Russian Consul-General, Sir Algernon Firth (President of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom) occupied the chair, and an Executive Council was appointed, consisting of seven Russian and seven British gentlemen, for the purpose of drawing up the constitution of the Chamber, its articles and by-laws. This has been done, and the memorandum and articles are now awaiting registration, when the Chamber will be immediately formed.

The following gentlemen have agreed to act in the capacities named in connection with the Chamber when formed:—Hon. President, Count Benckendorff; Hon. Vice-Presidents, the Earl of Derby, K.G., Sir Algernon Firth, Baron A. de Heyking, and M. de Routkowsky, Imperial Russian Commercial Attaché (ex officio); Chairman of the Temporary Executive Council, Sir Algernon Firth.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

On September 15, at the Manchester Police Court, the Stipendiary (Mr. E. Brierley) continued the hearing of the evidence against Marcar Aznavorian, a naturalised British subject, a shipper, who was summoned, under the Trading with the Enemy Act, for aiding and abetting his brother Mihran in Smyrna to pay 37,414 marks to certain German and Austrian firms. It was stated at a previous hearing that the defendant's Manchester house before the war owed large sums of money to German and Austrian firms, and payments were made on these debts.

The defendant was committed for trial at the Assizes.

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RESTRICTED TRADING.

Further List of Firms Barred to Egypt Traders.

The following is the concluding portion of the list of the firms with whom trading by persons in Egypt has been prohibited by proclamation dated August 10, 1916:—

SPAIN.

Blas, Herrero, Malaga.

Chell, Jose Vilchez, Isaac Peral, 22, Cadiz; Canthal, L., and Co., Muralla de Mar, Cartagena; Coca, Joaquin Garcia, Calle Principe 1, Madrid.

Deutscher Nachrichtendienst fur Spanien, Calle Santa Teresa 8, Barcelona; Diego, Cesar De, Colegiata 13, Madrid; Diego, De, and Falkenstein, Colegiata 13 Madrid.

"El Tradicionalista," Grand Canary.

Goncalves, Francisco Las Palmas and Teneriffe; Gonzales, Julio, Alameda de Mazarredo, 1, Bilbao; Götz, Anton, Hotel Moderno, Tuy.

Heise, Georg, Calle Pòpulo 24, Pral Der., Seville.

Joannides, Temistocles, Calle Generale Menacho 9, Cadiz.

Leonhardt, E., and Co., Trafalgar 23, Barcelona; Leopold, Guillermo, Caputxas 4, and Plegamans 3, Barcelona.

Manau, Mariano, Barcelona.

Oliver, Ladislau, Barcelona; Ornstein, Leon, Calle Mariana Pineda 5, Madrid.

Pfeil, Emil, Calle Obispo Lago 37, Tuy; Postigo Manuel, Trinidad Grund 21, Malaga.

Ries and Co., Ries, Isidor, Colon 72, Valencia; Rodriguez, Adolpho Hielscher, Calle Zorrilla 31, Madrid; Rosenow, Hermann, Monte Esquinza 10, Madrid; Ruiz Garcia, Fernando, Santander.

Valdes Antonio A. P., Avenida de Pries 16, Malaga; Valls, Hijos de Magin, Barcelona.

Union de Destiladores de Esencias de Espana, Sociedad Anonima, Malaga.

Wittmack (Otto) and Co., Carmen 21, Malaga.

SWEDEN.

Andersson, Leopold, Fjallgatan 6, Gothenburg; Apoteket Kronan, Korsgaten 3, Gothenburg.

Bohm, A/B. J. M. Skeppsbron 40, Stockholm.

Deijenberg, Carl, Sodra Vagen 30, Gothenburg.

Engstam, P. L., A/B., Drottningg, 81, Stockholm.

Henriksson, Axel, Brunkebergstorg 15, Stockholm; Hanson, Wilhelm, and Co., Vasagatan, 6, Stockholm.

Lagerlöf's, Sam, Maskinbyra, Centralpalatset, Stockholm.

Meyerson, Joseph, Norrlandsgatan 16, Stockholm.

Sydsvenska Kredit Aktiebolaget, Malmo.

URUGUAY.

Canto, Roberto (c/o Staudt and Co.)

Vasquez, Pablo, Salsipuedes, 231, Montévideo.

Banco Aleman Transatlantico (Deutsche Ueberseeische Bank).

Metzen Vicenti y Cia, Misione 1526. Montevideo.

Additions to List.

By a proclamation, dated August 28, 1916, the following additions to and removals from the list were ordered to be made:—

ARGENTINA.

Bauer, P. and Co., Calle Piedras 132, Buenos Aires.

BOLIVIA.

Albrecht, C., and Co., La Paz; Arnold and Co., Santa Cruz de la Sierre and Reveralta.

Blau, Stephen, La Paz.

Enss and Webber, La Paz

Nolte, E., and Co., La Paz.

BRAZIL.

Andrade Pinto, Ernesto, Bahia; Aranjo and Boavista, Rue Buenos Aires 4, Rio de Janeiro.

Campos, Alexandre and Co., Rio de Janeiro; Sao Paulo and Santos; Companhia Sud-Americana de Electricidade, A.E.G., Rua do Hospicio 59, Rio de Janeiro.

Ferreira Bastos, Antonio, Bahia; Fischer, Julio Christiano, Porto Alegre.

Guimares, F., Bahia.

Krahe and Co., Rua dos Adradas 497, Porto Alegre.

Linhares, Antonio P., Para; Luckhaus and Co., Rua General Camara 67, Rio de Janeiro; Ludwig ó Irmaos, Rua dos Andradas, Porto Alegre.

Martin, Xiste and Co., Rio de Janeiro; Sao Paulo and Santos.

Pereira, Alfredo Martins, Manaos; Prejawa and Co., Rua da Alfandega 70, Rio de Janeiro.

Reiniger, Schmitt and Co., Rua 7 de Setembro 118, Porto Alegre.

Smith, Kessler and Panke (Casa Kosmos), Rua Direita 12, Sao Paulo and Santos; Stoltz, Hermann and Co., Avenida Central 66-74 (Rio Branco 66-74), Rio de Janeiro; Praça da Republica, Santos; Rua Alvares Penteado 12, Sao Paulo and Pernambuco.

CHILE.

Armstrong, Enrique, Talcahuano.

Chassin, Trubert, Julio, Concepcion.

Escobar, Jose Ignacio, Calle Santa Domingo 1372, Santiago.

Guttmann and Maurer, Correa Casilla 85 and Calle Moneda 1065, Santiago; and Valdivia.

Inojosa, Maximo, Concepcion.

Köster and Wyneken, Calle Lincoyan 427, Concepcion; and Coronel.

Neckelmann and Co., Valparaiso; Nissen, Fischer and Co., Santiago and Concepcion.

Sociedad Imprenta y Litografia Universo, Santiago.

Vargas, Leonidas, Antofagasta.

DENMARK.

Albeck A. and Co., AS., Strandboulevard 61, Copenhagen; Atlantisk Handelsselskab (Atlantic Trading Co.), Vestre Boulevard 9, Copenhagen.

Seelk, Alfred, Strandy 118, and Börsen, Copenhagen.

ECUADOR.

Orenstein and Koppel.

GREECE.

Callimasiotis Dimitrios, Piræus.

Damalas, Pavlos (Paul), Piræus.

Hamparzum, Aram (Aram Hampartchoumian), Athens.

Kloebe, Karl, and Co., Athens; Kloebe, Friedrich (of Karl Kloebe and Co.), Athens; Kloebe, Karl (of Karl Kloebe and Co.), Athens.

Moretti, Louis, Zante; Müller, Carl Ferdinand, Rue Apollo 37, Athens.

Palaiologos, George, Patras; Procopiou, Patras.

Schachtel and Jacobson, Salonika; Schenker and Co, Salonika.

JAPAN.

Fischer, R. E., Kobe.

Jantzen, F., Kobe.

Kalle and Co., Kobe.

LIBERIA.

Bremer Kolonial Handelsgesellschaft.

Deutsche Sudamerikanische Telegraphen Gesellschaft A. G.

Freeman and Co., T.; Freeman D. (or T.), Freeman, D. D.

Jantzen, C. F. W.

Monrovia Trading Co.

Robins, G. B.

Vietor and Huber.

West, J. W.; Wiechers and Helm; Woermann, A.

NETHERLANDS.

American Importing Co. (M. Kattenburg), Keizersgracht 197, Amsterdam.

Barmat, J., Keizersgracht 302-304, Amsterdam; Bergsma (Agentnuur and Commissiehandel), Amsterdam; Berger and Wirth, Spuistraat 46, Amsterdam; Buck, Geo., Junr., Rotterdam.

Cohn, Gustav (Holland and America Import and Export Co.), Het Witte Huis, Rotterdam.

Driel's (Van) Stoomboot en Transport Oudeen, Maaskade O. Z. 114, Rotterdam; Duffhaus, C. W., Stieltesstraat 20-22, Nijmegen.

Eerste Hollandsche Export Campagnie, Amsterdam.

Holland and America Import and Export Co. (Gustav Cohn), Het Witte Huis, Rotterdam.

Klunk, Seger G., Boompjes 16, Rotterdam.

Nagtegaal, E., Haringvliet 47, Rotterdam; Nederlandsche Import and Export Handelsvereeniging, Stationswek, 54*b*, Rotterdam.

Wolfowicz, Salomon, Scheveningen.

Zee, P. and S. van der, Vierambachstraat 26; Coolsinged 53, Rotterdam; Ziekenoppasser W., Amstel 196, Amsterdam.

(To be concluded.)

COMPANY MEETING.

European Oilfields Corporation.

Mr. Herbert Allen, presiding at the annual general meeting of this company, held on Thursday, said it was not an uncommon practice for chairmen of company meetings to look round for troubles that could be attributed to the war, but in their case there was very little beyond the extra cost of materials, the scarcity of labour, and the lower value of the rouble that they could complain of. Against this there were the absence of strikes and the high price of oil; the latter was largely due to the war, and atoned for many drawbacks. But the main point was that the year on the whole had not been a bad one. So far as the operations in Baku were concerned, it was the most prosperous year in the history of the company, the trading profit having been Rs.890,152, against a previous best of Rs.711,647 for 1913-14. It was only when they came to take the rouble at its exchange value, for the purposes of the London accounts, that the comparison became unfavourable and the sterling value of these 890,152 roubles was reduced from £93,700 to £62,992. Their gross income in London was £56,551, and, deducting general charges, debenture service, and income-tax, they were left with a net profit of £34,884, of which £25,000 was appropriated to the reserve. With this addition the reserve would stand at the substantial sum of £135,000, and the reduction of the debenture debt, being effected out of profits, was tantamount to a further provision for depreciation. Of the remaining £9,884 they applied one-fifth, or £1,997, to the redemption of profit-sharing notes, and the balance, amounting to £7,907, added to the sum brought in from previous account, now enabled them to carry forward a total of £50,334. As to the financial position of the company, the balance-sheet spoke for itself, and everything was taken on the most conservative basis, the investments in particular being written down well below both cost and market value. In London at the present time they had ample resources for all prospective requirements, and at Baku their cash resources were now about twice what were shown in the accounts before the meeting, even taking the rouble at its exchange value on London. With a continuance of the present production and present prices the current year's results should compare very well with those of its immediate predecessor, and the company was never in a sounder position than now.

Ottoman Railway (Smyrna to Aidin).

The report of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the half-year ended June 30 states that certificates for the debenture interest for the half-year to December 31 last, amounting to £74,175, have been posted to the Four per Cent. and Five per Cent. Debenture stockholders in accordance with the resolutions passed at the special meeting held on June 10, 1915. The debit balance at June 30 amounted to £184,067. In order to safeguard the company's rights, a statement of claim against the Ottoman Government in consequence of the seizure of the company's property in Smyrna on the outbreak of war with Turkey was lodged with the Foreign Claims Office of his Majesty's Government in April last.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NICOSIA, Aug. 28.

Locust beans of the region called Tillyria, part of the Nicosa district, have been bought by a Limassol merchant, G. Lukides, at 43 paras (40 paras equals 1 piastre), or £4 15s. 6d. a ton. This favourable price may indicate the average price that will probably be paid in other districts for beans of good quality, and may be regarded as very satisfactory for growers, and, it is hoped, for merchants, who in the past year, owing to freight and other difficulties, have had rather a trying time.

A German Creditors' Protection Association in Serbia, the scope of which includes Serbia, Montenegro, and Albania, has been established. The offices of this association are temporarily at Berlin C.2, Neue Friedrich Strasse 52 (at the offices of the Trade Chamber).

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COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, etc.

Eastern Telegraph.—The directors of the Eastern Telegraph Company announce the payment, on October 16 next, of the second quarterly interim dividend of 1½ per cent. on the ordinary stock, free of tax, in respect of profits for the year ending December 31.

Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock.—On 30th instant a dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum on the cumulative preference shares, less tax at the rate of 4s. in the £, for the six months to June 30, will be paid by Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., and at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Alexandria. The transfer books will be closed from 25th to 30th instant, inclusive.

Meetings.

Ottoman Railway (Smyrna to Aidin).—September 26, noon, Winchester House.

North Caucasian.—September 19.

Oil Outputs.

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Production of crude oil for week ended September 9, 19,652 poods (317 tons).

British Maikop.—Production week ended September 9, 2,312 poods (about thirty seven tons).

Maikop Combine.—Production of crude oil for week ended September 9, 5,169 poods (eighty three tons).

Maikop Pipeline and Transport.—Received for pumping week ended September 9, 29,875 poods (482 tons).

Anglo-Egyptian.—Geusah Last week tons, against 6 tons. Hurgada—645 tons, against 621 tons.

Baku Russian Petroleum (1909). Week ended September 16, 83,800 poods.

Ural Caspian.—Week ended September 14, 159,049 poods.

British Maikop.—Week ended September 16, 2,669 poods.

ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, E.C.

This has again been an exceedingly quiet week, with for the most part only fractional changes in prices.

National Banks, after transactions involving over five hundred shares in the neighbourhood of 13⅜, have been rather quieter, and are ⅛ lower at 13¼ on the cessation of the demand.

Some small business has been done in New Egyptians at 9s. 3d., at which price there are further sellers. Delta Lands were also dealt in in a small way at 9s. 4½d.

Khedivial Mail ordinaries, after the recent smart advance, have receded 6d. to 28s., but the preference shares have come into demand, and are firmer at 5⅞. Some Delta Light Railway Preference changed hands at 5⅛.

In Greek securities some special demand has firmed up prices of 1881 and 1824 to 58 and 57½ respectively, at about which prices several thousand pounds' worth of stock have changed hands. Otherwise there is nothing of interest to report.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

It will be recalled that some time ago reference was made in The Near East to the Bulgar piracy of Serbia's famous copper mines at Boy.

Unusual interest attaches to the announcement made recently that the French company which owns the mines is, nevertheless, paying coupon No. 10, due on September 1, on its debentures.

The shares of the concern have enjoyed considerable activity on the Paris and Geneva Bourses in anticipation, no doubt, of the speedy restitution of Serbia to its brave and indomitable people.

The coupon due on September 14 on Sofia 4½ per cent. loan of 1910 is announced for payment, subjects of the Entente Powers being excluded, of course.

AGRICULTURAL BANK of EGYPT £3½ per CENT. GUARANTEED BONDS.

The COUPONS falling due on the 1st October, 1916, on these BONDS should be PRESENTED for PAYMENT, between the hours of 10 and 2.30 (Saturdays 10 and 12), at the Dividend Pay Office, Bank of England, where lists may be obtained. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27, 1915.	Price Sept. 15.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4% 1909	99	78	78
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	62½	62½
Egypt. Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93½	71¾	71¾
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	81½	81½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	71½	71½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82⅜	67	67
Do. 4½% State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75
Greek 5%, 1881	57	57	58
Do. 5%, 1884	56	56	57½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	50½	50
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	44	44
Do. 5%, 1890	56	53	53
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50¾	50¾
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1902	77	67½	68
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	77	77
Montenegro 5% Loan	82⅜	55	55
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913. Sc., £50p.	92	77¼	77¼
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	xd	xd
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855	103	85	85
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	78	78
Do. 3¼% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70	70
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	52	52
Do. 4% Loan, 1903	65⅜	37½	37½
Do. 4%, 1909	69	38	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	4¼	4⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	6⅜	6⅞
Do. 3½% Bonds Red.	80	69	69
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	83	71	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12	11¾
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	2	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	6⅝	6⅝
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6⅞	6⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	3 xd	3 xd
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5⅛	5⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13½	13⅜	13¼
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	5	5
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5⅛	5⅛
Do. do 5% Debs., Red.	98	85	85½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½% Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	86½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	10	10
Do do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	11½	11½
Do do. 4% 1st Deb.	67	59½	59½
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	55	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10⅛	10⅛
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	74	74
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	55xd	55xd
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	15/6	15/-
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	91	91
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	¼	¼
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2¼	2¼
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	6¼	6¼
Do. Pref.	4⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	9/3	9 4½
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	87½	87
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	¼	¼
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	¼	¼
" " Founders	¼	¼	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5% Debs. Red.	—	96	96
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Do. 4½% 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	77	75
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	9/3	9/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	¼	¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	⅛	⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-/9	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	11⅜	11⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1¼	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½% 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	25/6	25/6
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99½	95	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	18/3	18/3
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	28/6	28/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3⅛	3⅛
Do. do. 4½% 1st Mt.	90	89	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179¼	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2¼	1½	1½

OIL.

	Price on Sept. 13.	Sept. 20
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	8/3	9/3
Anglo-Persian	21/9	21/9
European Oilfields	3/9	4/-
Roumanian	17/6	17/9

PARIS BOURSE.

	Sept. 13.	Sept. 20.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4600	4550
Credit Foncier Egyptien	650	664
Turkish Unified 4%	66	63.25
Egyptian Unified 4%	90.15	90.10
Serbian, 1895	66	64.50

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON SEPTEMBER 5.

Egyptian Gazette, September 6.

National Bank of Egypt	£ 12½	to	—
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs. 92	,,	—
Alexandria Water Co.	£ 12	,,	A
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E. 5⅜	,,	5½
,, priv.	L.E. 3⅜	,,	—
Lots Tures, oblig.	Frs. 131	,,	—
Bons de Panama	Frs. 92	,,	93
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs. 60½	,,	—
,, Privilégiée	Frs. 95	,,	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs. 75	,,	—
Urbaines et Rurales	£ 2⅛	,,	—
Comptoir Financier et Commercial	£ 8/-	,,	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£ ⅜	,,	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E. ⅜	,,	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E. 4	,,	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E. 4⅛	,,	—
Unifiée	L.E. 85½	,,	—
Privilégiée	73	,,	—
Land Bank of Egypt	£ 5	,,	—
,, Fondateur	£ 23	,,	—
Pressage et dépôts	£ 28½	,,	—
Nungovich Hotels	£ 2½	,,	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£ 4⅜	,,	A
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£ 3⅜	,,	A
,, Ord.	19/6	,,	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£ 3⅜	,,	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£ 5⅛	,,	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs. 104	,,	—
,, Jouissance	Frs. 155	,,	—
Egyptian Markets	23/9	,,	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs. 201	,,	—
,, Div.	Frs. 140	,,	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs. 125	,,	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	18/-	,,	—
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs. 587	,,	—
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs. 307	,,	—
,, 1903 ,,	Frs. 245½	,,	—
,, 1911 ,,	Frs. 253½	,,	—
Delta Lands	£	,,	—
Port Said Salt	33/6	,,	34/-
Cotton Ginners	£	,,	—
New Egyptian Co.	7/6	,,	8/-
United Lands	P.T.	,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.	26/6	,,	—
,, Deferred	£ 5	,,	—

THE SUEZ CANAL.

A further rise of 5d. per ton in Suez Canal dues will be imposed on October 5 next. This is the second advance which has been found necessary during the past two years, owing to reduction of revenue and a large increase in working costs, and it brings the rate for laden ships up to 6s. Many steamers have been withdrawn from service through the waterway by the British and French Governments, while others, owing to the activities of enemy submarines in the Mediterranean, have been diverted to the Cape of Good Hope route. Then, owing to the price of coal, the year's fuel bill of the Canal Company is said to be about £300,000.

The directors announce that "it is not within their power to exclude Austrian and German ships from the waterway," as the concession compels them to keep the route open without "any distinction, exception, or preference," for the use of the people of all nationalities. The question of exclusion is, however, not likely to be dropped. Shipping opinion on both sides of the Channel is hardening on the subject. It is, in fact, proposed in responsible quarters that enemy ships should be refused, for a time, permission to pass through the Suez Canal or the Dardanelles, or to arrive at or sail from any British port or possession.

Receipts.

The traffic receipts for the Suez Canal were as stated on the days mentioned below:—

	1915. Francs.	1916. Francs.
August 12	180,000	260,000
August 13	390,000	130,000
September 14, 15, 16	640,000	750,000
September 17 and 18	540,000	480,000

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc, Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 282.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Any anxiety that may have been felt in regard to the military situation in the Dobruja has been allayed during the past week. Not only has the enemy's offensive been successfully held, but our Allies are now in a position to attack, and have driven back von Mackensen's forces some miles. Not that the Roumanians have yet reconquered all the territory they previously lost, but the Bulgarian surprise attack has failed to win through to the railway line connecting Bucharest and Constantza, and our Allies should now be equal to any forces that the enemy can bring up against them. What fighting there is still takes place within the old Roumanian frontier. The German-Bulgarian troops are said to have withdrawn to a strong position, and if the operations on the comparatively short front settle down to trench warfare, it may be some time before the enemy can be driven back into Bulgaria, unless, indeed, the whole position can be turned by a Roumanian offensive from another direction. It is hardly to be expected that General Averesco, who is in command on the Danube front, will be content with a defensive campaign in the Dobruja.

No less satisfactory is it to find that the Roumanians have been able to hold the German thrust in the Carpathians in the neighbourhood of the Vulcan Pass. Last week an enemy concentration at this point drove back the Roumanian troops, causing them to abandon two towns and the surrounding heights. The German claim that our new Allies had retired from the Pass itself was without foundation, unless they deliberately withdrew at the centre of the sector with a view to surrounding any troops that might push on into the defile. By Monday last the enemy had evacuated both the Vulcan and the Szurduk Passes in the face of what is described in a Vienna official statement as a wide encircling movement by strong Roumanian forces. The immediate success of the Roumanian counter-attacks is the more gratifying, as the enemy had hurried down what reinforcements were available—some of them German—to this spot. If they had been able to follow up their initial advantage, a short distance would have brought them into Roumanian territory.

At other points in the Carpathians the Roumanians have retained the offensive. In the Kelemen Mountains, where they are in touch with the Russian forces, their advance continues, and small captures of prisoners are recorded. The appearance of snow on the Carpathian summits is an earnest of the rigours ahead for the belligerents in these regions; but there should still be time for considerable progress towards the Hungarian plains to be made before winter actually sets in. Meanwhile Roumania, and Bucharest more especially, is experiencing the tragic effects of German air-raids—that special form of frightfulness which seems equivalent to an admission of the failure of more effective methods of warfare against the particular country on which they are practised. In their troubles in this respect we can but hope that the Roumanians will be heartened by Great Britain's experiences. Safety lies in the perfecting of their anti-aircraft defences, and in bold tactics among airmen. It is not difficult to imagine the feelings of the people of Roumania on learning that the sole achievement of a raiding air squadron was to drop bombs on a sanatorium and an orphanage, killing sixty of the inmates and injuring many others. The Allies, we hope, will keep a dossier of these murders by Zeppelins, which have proved themselves utterly incapable of accurate aim, and are merely used for the promiscuous slaughter of civilians in crowded towns. If submarine outrages have to be atoned for by the Central Powers when the terms of peace come to be settled, these Zeppelin holocausts must also be entered up against the German authorities.

The fighting along the Greek frontier continues to increase in intensity, and there can be no doubt as to the strength of the German-Bulgarian defence for the time being. If little progress can be recorded, there are the heavy losses inflicted on the enemy, which sooner or later will tell on the general situation. Interest centres chiefly in the operations on the western wing. Russian troops hold the extreme left, and are pushing northwards at a point a few miles west of Florina. The Serbians still have to defend the positions won on the Kaymaktchalan range against furious counter-attacks; but it is to be hoped that an advance of the Russians and French on their left against Monastir will compel the Bulgarians to fall back, and so render the task of the Serbians less severe. They have fought superbly, and appear to be indifferent to any losses. Their numbers, however, are limited, and an army in being will be very essential to the new Serb State at the end of the war.

On the right of the Allied line where the British with a sprinkling of French troops hold the Struma front operations are confined mainly to "the usual artillery action." No doubt some purpose was served by the advance across the river, when the general offensive was launched; but the advantage gained has not been followed up, and our men seem to have fallen

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back to their original positions. After the long period which the Allied army at Salonika had to prepare for an offensive, it is somewhat of a disappointment to find that more rapid progress is not being made. It has to be remembered, however, that the enemy's main strength will be in his first line of defence. When that has been pierced, there are not likely to be the same obstacles ahead to be overcome. The days pass, and the prospects of a decisive issue before the winter sets in would not in ordinary circumstances become rosier. But the winter is not necessarily a close season for operations in the Near East; for the first Balkan War did not begin until October. It remains, therefore, to be seen whether the Allies will be able to produce any such surprises as have stood them in good stead on the western front, which may take them into Bulgaria more rapidly than the opening days of the campaign seemed to promise.

If the kidnapping of his Fourth Army Corps has shaken German influence over King Constantine, he has been at some pains to conceal the fact. Days of the utmost importance to Greece have been wilfully lost as a result of the appointment of the Kalogeropoulos Cabinet. The Entente Governments have shown no disposition to recognise the new Ministry, and the Greek administration has remained paralysed, incapable of action. Some communication has been sent to Germany on the subject of the Greek troops interned in that country; but no confidence is felt in Greece that it was couched in the terms that the circumstances required. While the Cabinet seems to hope that by backstairs negotiations it may yet receive the recognition of the Entente Powers, King Constantine is credited with casting furtive glances northwards in the expectation of seeing a strong German force marching into the Balkans to reverse the present military situation. In the meantime, the movement which began at Salonika with the object of protecting Greek soil against the Bulgarians is spreading throughout the kingdom, and the people grow daily more and more dissatisfied with a Government that does nothing.

Vague reports of unrest in Crete have quickly been followed by the announcement that the whole island has declared in favour of the National Defence movement, and that the Government officials have been deposed. This action seems to have determined M. Venizelos to take the course which he has so dramatically adopted. In the early morning of September 25 he left Athens, and, in company with Admiral Condouriotis, embarked on a steamer for Crete. The possibility of his taking such a step must have been well known. Four or five days previously he had been asked by an American correspondent whether there was any truth in the repeated reports that he was going to Salonika to put himself at the head of the National Defence movement. His reply was straightforward: "I cannot answer now. I must wait a little while yet and see what the Government proposes to do before deciding on the course best to adopt in the event of Greece's not entering the war." Not many hours elapsed before he had made up his mind on the subject, and to a situation bizarre enough is added the spectacle of probably the two most loyal sons of Greece setting out in the dead of night to put themselves at the head of a movement which only their presence and authority can hope in the circumstances to restrain from becoming an out-and-out revolution against the constituted authority in Greece.

For the present the movement is not revolutionary. In a striking message sent to *The Times* M. Venizelos makes this matter clear. The movement, he points out, is "in favour of action against the Bulgarian invader, who is overrunning Greek Macedonia, maltreating, taking prisoners, and in many cases murdering those of our countrymen who are left to his mercy, unprotected and undefended by the Greek army." The betrayal of Kavalla, M. Venizelos continues, after the loss of Fort Rupel, Seres, Drama, and of the greater part of Greek Macedonia, has brought matters to such a crisis in the very existence of the country that he can no longer resist the cry of his compatriots calling to him to help them and save them from extermination at the hands of Bulgaria. Having exhausted in vain every possible means of inducing those who govern Greece to take up arms in defence of the country, he has felt bound to go to the rescue of his oppressed brethren. "The movement now beginning is in no way directed against the King or his dynasty. It is one made by those of us who can no longer stand aside and let our countrymen and our country be ravaged by the Bulgarian enemy. It is the last effort we can make to induce the King to come forth as King of the Hellenes and to follow the path of duty in protection of his subjects. As soon as he takes this course we, all of us, shall be only too glad and ready at once to follow his standard as loyal citizens led by him against our country's foes."

King Constantine, it may be thought, is more fortunate in the loyalty of his subjects than he deserves to be. He must recognise at last, however, that he has been playing with fire, and that his choice of action is now limited to two alternatives—bowing to the national will or a final departure from Greece. Even if he should continue to acquiesce in all that the Germans and Bulgarians have done in Greek Macedonia, it is clear that a large section of the people has no intention of following his example. A message from Salonika speaks of a battalion organised by the National Defence Committee having already left "for the front," with the consent of General Sarrail, while the army at its disposal has been reinforced by two thousand Cretan volunteers. The greater part of the Navy is also reported to have placed itself at the disposal of the French Admiral. Now that M. Venizelos has taken charge of it, the movement is bound to spread still more rapidly, and the defections from the regular Greek army will become more numerous. If King Constantine has hitherto felt himself secure behind his soldiers, with always the expectation of the horizon bristling with German bayonets, he must prepare for disillusionment. The Germans are not coming, and the Army, including its Chief of Staff, who has resigned, is beginning to lose faith in a commander-in-chief who is too proud, too obstinate, or too frightened to fight.

As we go to press the expectation expressed in these columns last week that King Constantine would not be able to hold out much longer against public opinion after the kidnapping of the Kavalla Army Corps seems likely to be realised. When the news of M. Venizelos' departure from Athens became known, King Constantine emerged from his summer retreat at Tatoi and returned to the capital to consult his Ministers. No official statement has yet been issued, but it is believed that the King has now agreed in principle to military co-operation with the Allies. If this intelligence should prove to be true, it is to be hoped that there will be a very clear understanding between Greece and the Allied Governments before anything in the nature of official co-operation is sanctioned. The assistance that Greece can render in this war—all unprepared in the matter of munitions and equipment as she is—must be relatively small. It will be well that her expectations of the advantages to be derived from her intervention should not be disproportionately great. In reality she will be fighting to "save her face," or at least that of her King, whose indifference to the opinion of his contemporaries has been more flattering to his obstinacy than to his patriotism or common sense.

The report that the Turkish garrison at Taif has surrendered to the forces of the Grand Shereef of Mecca suggests that the earlier news of the progress of the Arab revolt was not accurate in every detail. Taif was then stated to have fallen; but it would seem that, although the Arabs took possession of the town, the Turkish troops in the barracks and fort held out. These have now surrendered, to the number of 1,850 officers and men. Anxious to avoid bloodshed among Moslems as much as possible, the Grand Shereef gave orders that the garrison was to be invested until it capitulated. It is probable also that the situation at Medina has under-

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gone a change since June. If the city was actually occupied by Arab forces, and the railway line running northwards torn up for a considerable distance, the Turks have evidently been able to rally, to repair the line, and to send reinforcements to the city. Constantinople reports add that the Emir appointed by the Porte to succeed the Grand Shereef of Mecca has arrived at Medina, and has rallied the inhabitants to his cause. As a considerable distance separates Mecca from Medina, it is possible that the general situation may remain indeterminate for some time. It is, however, all to the good that the Grand Shereef feels himself justified in allowing pilgrimages to Mecca to be resumed.

We welcome cordially the formation of the Serbian Society of Great Britain, under the presidency of the Earl of Cromer. The attitude of the British Government in the years and the days preceding the outbreak of this war was that Great Britain's interests in Serbia were nil. Our administrators know much more about the subject now, although they were still somewhat in the dark when the intervention of Italy was mooted. It is certain, however, that the nation as a whole, while enthusiastically appreciative of the military efforts of the Serbians, is not as well informed as it might be regarding their aspirations as a race, and the bearing of those aspirations on the future peace of Europe. The Serbian Society aims *inter alia* at making clear the importance of a united Southern Slav State as a permanent safeguard of European freedom, and at working for a Southern Slav Union (*a*) as an essential feature of the Allied policy of securing the rights and liberties of small peoples; (*b*) as a guarantee against future Germanic attempts to obtain political and economic mastery in Europe and the East; and (*c*) as the surest foundation of peace in the Adriatic and the Balkans. The Society starts with a strong Executive Committee—the names of the members are published elsewhere in this issue—and may be relied upon to make good.

Our enemies are under no illusion in regard to the importance of the struggle now beginning in the Balkans. How severe a blow Roumania's declaration of war was is shown by the unbridled abuse with which that country was simultaneously assailed by the whole Press of the Central European Block. The bandying of such terms as brigands, beasts, vile animals, dust-heaps, however, may merely be an ordinary exhibition of *Kultur* for the edification of an uncultured world. Far more significant are the lectures now being read to the Bulgarians and the claims of the latter to super-virtue for rejecting alleged attractive offers from the Entente Powers. The *Zeit* of Vienna reminds the Bulgarians that the antagonism between them and the Roumanians is fundamental, as it is based on their mutual relationship as neighbouring States and rival competitors for supremacy in the Balkans. "Like so many other European questions of supremacy, this one must also be definitely settled in this war. Bulgaria cannot retain what she has conquered at the side of her Allies and realise the great objects which she wishes to obtain from the war, unless Roumania is beaten." The Bulgarian retort to these unpleasant reminders seems to be the concoction of fictitious negotiations on the part of the Entente Powers for the ratification of a separate peace. Both the intrinsic importance of the campaign in the Balkans and the necessity of keeping watch upon the Bulgarians will have contributed to the decision of the Central Powers to parry the blow from Salonika and the Dobruja with all the strength at their disposal.

In the article on "The Future of Mesopotamia," the first portion of which we publish this week, the author, Sir William Willcocks, describes the potentialities of irrigation in a country which was at one time the granary of the world. It is possible that, when the apathy and misrule of Turkey are at an end, the old prosperity may be restored. But apart from Turkish misgovernment, as Sir William points out, it is very essential that the full control of the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates shall be in the hands of one Power. It is obvious that if, after the cultivation of the delta had become well established, the upper waters of the rivers were diverted with hostile or other intentions, the people of the lower tract might suffer untold calamities. Reservoirs for the storage of water in suitable places would no doubt help to regulate the supply in time of need; but they would not be inexhaustible, and would be liable to fail. In any country where the rainfall is deficient, and agriculture depends on artificial water-supply, water becomes as gold, and is a fruitful source of discord. In the old Roman days an artificial water-channel was a *rivus*, and the users of water from such a channel may be said to have been "rivals." At any rate it is quite certain that strife was frequent. And if *intra* communities, which would otherwise have lived in amicable accord, so much bitterness was aroused, it is clear—especially in times of scarcity and drought—no two Powers with conflicting interests could be trusted to apportion the available supplies of water on a friendly basis. The prosperity of ancient Mesopotamia unquestionably depended on one authority imposing its control over the waters of both the upper and lower valleys; and when there were wars it is a reasonable inference that they were largely due to discord in this direction. The security of a future Mesopotamia can rest on no other foundation.

A brief statement from Petrograd announces that "in the direction of Hamadan" Russian troops compelled the Turks to retire westwards. Prisoners, arms, and a camel transport were captured, and the enemy's telegraph line was destroyed over a considerable distance. Throughout this Middle Eastern theatre the Russians have been able to claim a number of small successes. The news, however, is meagre, and it may be surmised that the operations on both sides are being influenced by greater events in Europe. Turks, it has to be remembered, are now fighting in Galicia as well as against the Russo-Roumanian forces in the Dobruja. In view of what has happened in Armenia, the troops employed in Europe can hardly be regarded as belonging to Turkey's surplus armies. They have had to be despatched to a point where, in the scheme of things, their assistance is regarded as being as valuable to the common cause of Turkey and the Central Powers as if they were actually defending Turkish territory. It is probably the hope of those who direct the destinies of the Ottoman Empire to-day that the troops in Europe will be able to achieve more practical results than if they merely prevented some of the wide spaces of Asia Minor from being overrun by the Russians.

In the course of an interview with an American correspondent the Sultan of Egypt made some interesting remarks on the subject of the British Protectorate. He believed, he said, that under the protection of Great Britain, the greatest of all Liberal Powers, the future of Egypt was assured. Had it not been for his faith in the British Government and his belief that there would be a gradual increase in the rights granted the Egyptians in the matter of self-rule, he would never have accepted the Sultanate. There is the strongest possible foundation for Sultan Hussein's optimism, but in this connection it may be permissible to sound a warning note that any attempt to force the pace either on the part of the Sultan or of the British authorities must inevitably lead to disappointment. The British have every reason to be satisfied with the present occupant of the Sultanate. It must not, however, be overlooked that the basis of Egyptian administration must be laid for all time, and not merely for the smooth conditions associated with the rule of an able and enlightened Sultan. Thus, in regard to the three forces in the country quoted by Sultan Hussein, the Egyptian Government, the Khedive or, as now, the Sultan, and the British Residency, the last only can be regarded as impersonal, functioning on settled lines. It will be well, therefore, if there is not too much haste displayed in taking over some of the essentials of administration before the people have had time to become imbued with the traditions of good government. Such essentials might be in safe enough hands under the present régime, but if permanently divorced from British guidance might thwart the development of Egypt's progress in less fortunate times.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 12.

The "Holy Carpet" Ceremony.

The picturesque ceremony of the "Kiswa"—the exposition of the Holy Carpet on the square below the Citadel and its subsequent transfer to the Saidna El Hussein Mosque, where it will remain until the departure of the Holy Caravan for Mecca on the 23rd inst.—took place on Saturday last amid traditional pomp and circumstance. As H.H. the Sultan is in official residence at Alexandria, H.E. Hussein Pasha Rushdy, the Prime Minister, represented him, and presided over the ceremony of receiving the carpet and other articles destined for the Holy Shrine. It is interesting to note that the Sultan is sending part of his bodyguard as an additional escort, and that the Grand Shereef has issued orders that every facility is to be offered to the caravan and the pilgrims, and that the latter are to be relieved of the payment of all dues and fees from the time they land at Jedda to the time they re-embark. All this has made a very good impression; as has also the action of the British military authorities in giving three specially selected camels to the Emirel-Hajj for the conveyance of the carpet and other offerings. Although no obstacles are being put in their way, it appears that so far very few Egyptians have applied for permission to make the pilgrimage this year. No doubt the restricted nature of the accommodation available has impelled many of the followers of the Prophet to postpone performing this religious duty until a more propitious moment, when, also, they will be in a better position to judge of the Shereef's ability to carry into effect his guarantee.

The Exhibition of Egyptian Industries.

The Exhibition of Egyptian Industries, which has been held in Alexandria during the past month, closed its doors last week. Over 25,000 people, not including officials, visited it, one of the features being the days reserved to ladies; and orders were received to the value of several thousands of pounds. It has been a great success, and those responsible for its organisation—Mr. Sidney Wells and his assistants of the Department of Technical Education—deserve hearty congratulations on their achievement, which, it is understood, they intend to repeat, only on a larger scale, in Cairo during the coming winter. The exhibits afforded a very valuable and interesting insight into the industrial activities of Egypt, and revealed the many efforts that have been made to replace enemy productions and render the country less dependent on foreign markets.

While those responsible for these efforts deserve every commendation and encouragement, this exhibition appears to strengthen the conviction amongst those interested in the matter that Egypt will never be able to produce on any satisfactory scale the manufactured commodities which her population requires. She is and ever has been an agricultural country *par excellence*, and her people can never hope to become an industrial nation. The only direction in which their industrial activity could be extended with any reasonable and justifiable hope of success is in branches closely allied to agriculture; for in all other directions there are too many factors militating against their competing successfully, even in the less pretentious grades, with the ordinary run of foreign-made articles. It is to be hoped that the responsible authorities will bear this fact in mind in any future developments of their educational policy. They would do well thus early to recognise the country's difficult and peculiar position; and to concentrate their efforts on encouraging the Egyptian worker to continue and develop, by better methods if possible, the industrial branches in which he at present excels or shows such promise, in preference to assisting him to launch out into new spheres of activity, where successful production can only be attained after years of apprenticeship with the almost certain prospect that even then the locally-made article will not be able to keep out the foreign manufacturer.

"The Victory of Romani."

Yesterday afternoon a private show was given here of a cinematograph film, entitled "The Victory of Romani." This film, which has been taken by operators under the supervision of the military authorities, depicts events at the base during and after the recent fight against the Turks at Romani, and gives an excellent idea of the life in this part of the Canal zone. Amongst the many episodes reproduced is one demonstrating the fulfilment of the prophecy as to the only manner in which the Turks could possibly enter Egypt proper, *i.e.*, as prisoners, the pictures showing the men captured at Romani and Katia crossing the Canal by a pontoon bridge at Kantara. The film is full of interest from start to finish, and should prove a great attraction at home, where the War Office will shortly authorise its exhibition.

The Agricultural Situation.

The Egyptian Government has taken a most praiseworthy step in regard to the various problems which the agricultural pests of the country have of late years created. Although it has implicit confidence in the ability to find solutions for these problems of the scientists whom it has appointed permanently to watch over the destinies of the country's products, it has decided that it would be most satisfactory to all concerned if the local efforts were assisted by the best possible outside advice. The Government has therefore secured the services of a noted expert in such matters, Mr. H. A. Ballon, Entomologist to the Barbados, who has been specially seconded for this work from his post there. Mr. Ballon, who has just arrived in Cairo, has been engaged for the period of one year, during which he will thoroughly investigate the agricultural position of the country from the entomological point of view. At the conclusion of his mission he will present his report, which will embody his recommendations as to the steps that he considers should be taken to deal with the situation. It should be mentioned that there exist precedents for this seeking of outside technical advice, *e.g.*, the question of the Cairo water supply and the cattle plague epidemic, when the services of eminent European experts were secured for the purpose of advising the local authorities.

Important Forthcoming Appointments.

Next month should witness some important changes and promotions amongst the senior Anglo-Egyptian officials. In the first place, the Advisership to the Interior will fall vacant, as Sir Ronald Graham, who has held that post for nigh on ten years, has been appointed to a high position in the Foreign Office. It is as yet not known definitely who will succeed him. It is considered unlikely that his successor will be taken from the Diplomatic Service, and it is highly probable that this plum in the Egyptian Civil Service will, as it rightly should, fall to a senior Anglo-Egyptian official. It is understood that as things stand at present the new Adviser will not be selected from within the Ministry of the Interior, but will be taken from one of the other Ministries, thus entailing as a consequence a series of other promotions.

Another important appointment which will have to be made is that of the Vice-President of the Native Court of Appeal, left vacant by the recent retirement of Judge W. M. Bond. The post was offered to Judge H. W. Halton, the newly appointed English Counsellor to the Mixed Court of Appeal, whose past services and experience eminently fitted him for this high position. To everyone's regret, however, Judge Halton has refused the offer. It is believed that Judge Sheldon Amos, who has since the outbreak of war been engaged on special work for the British Government in England, will be appointed; but it is considered not at all improbable that the post will fall to one of the Counsellors who have borne the brunt of the work of the Appeal and Assize Courts during the past two years. A definite decision will, however, not be taken until the return at the end of this month of Sir William Brunyate, the newly appointed Judicial Adviser.

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SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, September 9.

The Nile Rise.

The Nile, after giving some indications of having reached its limit, began to drop, and then suddenly rose again; and some apprehension was aroused that the water would overflow the banks, more especially at the eastern end of the town. However, it did not actually overtop the embankment.

News from Dongola Province is less satisfactory. There the flood not only destroyed a number of irrigation banks, but at the "markaz" of Korti the river destroyed a protecting bank and flooded the whole village, and the water lapped against the walls of the police station and the school.

At Halfa, when the same predicament was contemplated, a number of soldiers in transit were detained for a few days to "sandbag" the buildings most liable to damage, and thus avert the danger.

Both in Dongola and Halfa the exceptional flood is due not so much to the Blue Nile, excellent as that flood has been, but to the Atbara, which has beaten all records.

Returning Officials.

A large number of officials have returned recently from leave. Judge and Mrs. Fleming were on the train from Halfa that was so seriously delayed by "washouts" that the train, which should have arrived on Friday, did not get to Khartoum till Tuesday morning. Messrs. Udal and Field, of the Education Department, have returned in view of the imminence of the new scholastic year, as has also Captain Patteson, of the Military School.

Major Fielden, Governor of the Bahr el-Ghazal, reached Khartoum on the 8th, and will proceed South after a few days. He will be accompanied by Major Northcote, the Inspector of the Western District of the Bahr el-Ghazal. Major Moir, D.S.O., the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, proceeded North on the 8th.

Captain Bally, who has recently returned from a month in Egypt, is transferred to the Intelligence Department. He was previously in the Bahr el-Ghazal and the Upper Nile Provinces. Before going North he had been for a time on the line of communications to Darfur.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, September 5.

The heat has abated, and far more bearable weather prevails in the plains. Families have begun to return from the crowded hotels of Troödos and Platres. It is not likely that the High Commissioner and Government officers will return to Nicosia before the beginning of October, or before the elections to the Legislative Council are over. The date for the election has not yet been fixed, but should be towards the close of September or beginning of October.

Archiepiscopal Elections.

Canvassing is being actively carried on in connection with the approaching election. The candidates are the Bishops of Kition, Papao, and Kyrenia, the Abbot of Kykkou, Kleopas; the Archimandrite of Nicosia, Makarios; and a nephew of the late Archbishop, Kyrillos. The Archimandrite Chrysostomos, of Athens, has expressed his unwillingness to be nominated. It is improbable that any one of the candidates will receive a majority of votes.

A Poor-House for Nicosia.

The Municipality of Nicosia has voted the imposition of a trade rate, which has been approved by the High Commissioner. Provision is made, at last, in the by-law for the establishment of a Poor-house, which should be in working order six months after its publication, on August 25, when begging will be entirely prohibited in the streets, churches, houses, and all public places.

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THE ARAB MOVEMENT.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 12.

The first number of the Grand Shereef's organ, *Al Kiblah*, published at Mecca, has arrived this week, and the local papers have hastened to reproduce extracts from it, especially those dealing with the military situation.

The following literal translation of the first item of military intelligence received by the paper in question is given as showing the use of the up-to-date means of communication by wireless between Mecca, Headquarters, and the other parts of the Hejaz, including points in the fighting zone:—

After our last issue went to press a wireless message reached Mecca from the camp of his Highness the Emir Faisal, dated the 22nd Shawwal, in the afternoon. From this we extract the following: We have achieved a great success in to-day's battle. The Turks lost a whole battalion, whose men were annihilated.

At Taif, in view of the persistent refusal of the Turks to surrender, the Arabs have been compelled to try to reduce their positions by force of arms, and the fort of Al Hafla is said to have been destroyed by shell fire. Subsequently, cases of desertion have been multiplying. The officers and men who have been coming over to give themselves up to Emir Abdullah declare that the condition of the men left behind is extremely bad, owing to the brutality and rough treatment of their officers. The Turks, taking advantage of the Shereef's aversion to cause any harm to the civil population through military operations, have been taking refuge in the houses of the inhabitants, a fact which is responsible for the undue prolongation of the siege of Taif. This state of things, however, is not likely to be allowed to continue much longer.

A long list is given of the representative heads of tribes who have been flocking to Mecca lately to swear their allegiance to the Grand Shereef and offer their material support in the Holy War which his Highness is waging against the Turks.

An important and very welcome item of news is that the famous Emir Abdul Aziz Ibn Saoud, of Nejd, has lately offered to take an active part in the movement of the Shereef. This, coupled with the fact that the leading tribes to the north of Medina have begun hostile operations against the Turks, renders the surrender of this town imminent. It would appear that one of the factors that determined this action on the part of these tribes is the treacherous conduct of the Turkish troops, who, after having received the traditional hospitality of these Arabs, turned on them and massacred their women and children; then retired to their position nearer to the town, so as to escape the vengeance of Emir Faisal and the risk of their line of retreat being cut off.

Arab officers, one of whom has already established his military reputation as a brilliant leader and strategist, are expected to arrive in the Hejaz at almost any time now, and they will impart further vigour to the conduct of the campaign. We may hope to hear of important developments shortly in the military situation in Arabia, and probably further North beyond the limits of the Peninsula.

DOMESTIC SERVANTS IN THE SUDAN.

A Sudan correspondent writes:—"As time and opportunity permit, the Sudan Government are tackling one by one important questions relating to domestic questions which have long demanded attention. The latest of these is the servant question. Numerous representations have been made to the Government that some legislation on the subject of domestic servants is advisable for the protection of both the employer and the employed. It has been represented that there has existed hitherto some uncertainty as to the rights arising out of an ordinary contract of domestic service; and it has also been pointed out that serious difficulty often exists in ascertaining the true characters of servants on engagement; and that, therefore, a system of compulsory registration of domestic servants, as in certain other countries, would be in the interests of masters and servants of good character. An Ordinance has now been prepared with the object of laying down the law on some points as to which masters and servants appear sometimes to be in doubt, and of establishing a compulsory register of domestic servants. The draft of the new Ordinance has been published, but the enactment is being deferred pending the expression of public opinion."

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, September 5.

The Rupture.

The order for mobilization came as a big surprise to the public here. True, the German and Austro-Hungarian Ministers had been uneasy for some time, but they had been so skilfully reassured at the frequent audiences which they had had of the King that they were left in doubt up to the last minute. No one could have acted with greater skill and courage than the King has done during the past few months; and now his sacrifice on behalf of the country of his adoption has won him the deepest respect and devotion of all his subjects. Indeed, it is safe to say that no European Sovereign has a stronger hold on his people's affection to-day than has King Ferdinand of Roumania.

Panic-stricken Propagandists.

The rush of Germans to the Legation to save themselves from internment was extraordinary. It is reported that some 500 persons crowded there; and when one remembers how many Germans were employed in "propaganda," in buying grain and other provisions, and on spy work, it is not difficult to accept the number as fairly correct. Be that as it may, they crowded the Legation badly, and as it was very nearly a week before they were able to get away, their experience can hardly have been a pleasant one. The first train, on which the German and Turkish Ministers travelled, consisted of eight first-class, six second-class, and twelve third-class carriages, besides dining cars and luggage vans; and this is some indication of the size of the excursion party. The story is going the rounds that the Austrian and the German Ministers tossed up as to who should travel with M. Radeff, the Bulgarian representative. Count Czernin lost, and one can imagine his chagrin; for M. Radeff is deservedly highly unpopular, while Sefa Bey is a gentleman and a pleasant companion.

Precautions!

The delay in departure was due to the fact that the departing Ministers—who had to be seen safely on to neutral ground—objected to travelling through Russia, and asked to be sent into Bulgaria—which country had then not declared war on Roumania. Unfortunately for them, before arrangements were completed to meet their wishes, Bulgarians attacked the Roumanian outposts; so, eventually, they had to go by way of Russia after all. The train flies the Roumanian tricolour, and is in charge of M. Guranescu, a Secretary of Legation, and M. Bogdan, representing the Roumanian police. The Austrian and Bulgarian Ministers leave to-morrow.

It is interesting to note that the same system of "compensations" is to be observed as in the case of goods passing between this country and Germany or Austria. That is to say, the Ministers will remain at Petrograd until the arrival there of the Roumanian representatives and staffs from the enemy countries. Such precautions are presumably necessary!

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A GERMAN BUREAU AT SOFIA.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 30.

When the Austro-Germans took virtual possession of Bulgaria they established in Sofia a Bureau of Import and Export, organized on much the same lines as the one at Bucharest; and as Sofia is the capital of an "allied" country, this bureau has not hesitated to "squeeze" the Bulgarians to the utmost extent, and in every way possible. To fill the hungry mouths of Austria and Germany, Bulgaria has been practically denuded of foodstuffs, and the Bulgarians are at their wits' end to obtain the most ordinary kind of nourishment. No better illustration of the state to which the country has been reduced could be forthcoming than the fact that onions and garlic have now been declared "articles de luxe." Anyone who has travelled in Bulgaria knows that, next to bread, the succulent onion is the chief food of the Bulgarian peasant. Eyes as well as nose inform the traveller of this fact; for at every railway station he is sure to see third-class passengers—and on occasion second-class passengers, too—hugging a loaf of bread under one arm and grasping a mighty bunch of onions with the other hand, as provender for the journey. Naturally, therefore, to have their precious onions taken from them for the benefit of their "friends" has touched the Bulgarians in a tender spot, and murmurs, not loud but deep, have been heard on all sides. Even the Press has taken the matter up, and various articles have been published voicing the public discontent.

Now, however, the iron fist has descended on editorial Sofia, and orders have been given to the Press to cease criticising the workings of the Austro-German Bureau of Export and Import. It would be hard to find a more striking illustration of the fact that Bulgaria is to all intents and purposes a conquered country. Small wonder that the Opposition leaders have been putting out feelers as to the liberation of their country from its oppressors. It is even reported that there are many persons, some of them in high positions, who only a few months ago were warm friends of the Austro-Germans, but are to-day longing to see the horde of robbers and oppressors chased from the country at the points of the Entente's bayonets. But Bulgaria has made her bed, and she must lie upon it.

MAGYAR POLICY IN SERBIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Our readers are already acquainted with the fact that on July 10 of this year General Baron Adolf Rhemen von Barensfeld arrived as Governor in Serbia to replace the superseded Governor, Count Salis Sewis.

Baron Rhemen is a German, a native of Rheine, in Westphalia. He entered the Austro-Hungarian army as an infantry officer, and has remained in its service ever since, being steadily promoted until, a few years ago, he reached General's rank. In the present war he commanded the 13th Army Corps, first in the Austrian Army under Pflanzer-Baltin, and subsequently in the German Southern Army. From this post he rose to the governorship of Serbia.

The new Governor has already discussed the policy he intends to pursue. The following statements were originally made by him to the correspondent of the *Ujvideki Hirlap*, but we quote them from the *Magyar Hirlap*, of August 22:—

"I propose to study the interests of the populations of *both* States of the Monarchy.

"Please assure Magyar public opinion that it is the will both of my King and myself to further Magyar interests to the necessary extent, and no *justifiable* complaint will be heard that injustice is being done to the detriment of the one or the other.

"His Majesty has laid upon me the duty, as his definite and fundamental wish, to take special care that *both* States of the Monarchy are equally represented in the Military Administration, after settled order and normal conditions are established in the occupied territories.

"I shall do my best to ensure that the Magyars shall take their proper part without any difficulty, and to the *same extent* as the other States of the Monarchy."

If we take into account that the former Governor of Serbia, Count Salis-Sewis, fell immediately after Count Tisza's visit to Belgrade; that Count Tisza was not satisfied with him because he favoured the Magyar officials less than the Austrian; that the Magyar Press (see *Szegedi Hirlap*, of July 20, *Szegedi Naplo*, of July 22, etc.) levelled the reproach at the superseded Governor that "Hungarian interests and the sovereign rights of the State of Hungary were not at all considered" during his administration in Serbia, it is easy for us to understand from the words of the new Governor that his policy in Serbia will be a Magyar, and no longer an Austrian one.

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THE DESTINY OF PERSIA.

By J. Clive Roome.

While bayonets bristle along the world's frontiers, the pens of diplomacy record unheeded the destiny of Persia. According to a Russian newspaper, the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907 is now a dead letter, and a new agreement, in which the claims of Persia as an independent country have been distinctly recognised, has taken its place.

It is significant that while in ordinary times a Convention relating to the policy of Russia and Britain in Persia would have aroused a storm of controversy, in these eventful days it has been passed over in almost complete silence. There is not a whisper of the old suspicions regarding Russian aims in Persia, and the shadow of Skobeleff no longer haunts the dreams of British statesmen. The new agreement is the direct outcome of the war, and as far as Persia itself is concerned it is likely to work more smoothly than the Convention of 1907. No official statement has, however, so far been made by the British Foreign Office as to its exact provisions.

As far as one can see, the agreement has changed the limits of the British and Russian spheres of influence in Persia. The neutral zone of the Convention of 1907 has disappeared; and Great Britain is to provide an efficient police force (numbering eleven thousand men) for the whole of southern Persia, and Russia will do the same for the north. There is thus no scope left in the country for either German or Turkish intrigues; which augurs well for the peace of Persia. Persia, moreover, has, in signing the agreement, publicly confessed its inability to set its financial house in order unaided. It has abandoned the illusory hope of husbanding its own resources single-handed, and has agreed to hand over the task to a mixed Commission of Russian, British, Belgian, and Persian representatives.

In doing this, Persia has not only made a candid confession of the hopelessness of its financial position: it has relegated a serious responsibility to Britain and Russia. The police force of twenty thousand odd which the two Powers propose to create in the country must eventually be maintained at the cost of Persia itself, and in view of the financial chaos prevailing in the country, both Russia and Britain will have no easy task in, first, restoring financial stability to the country, and then maintaining it unimpaired.

For this task Russia is better equipped than Britain. It has not only the strategic advantage of railways and roads to the north of Persia, which must play an important part in the revival of trade in the Russian sphere of influence, but it has also, for some years past, persistently endeavoured to improve its position commercially in two of the largest provinces, Khorasan and Azerbaijan, in Persia itself. Statistics relating to the trade of northern Persia show how successfully Russia has furthered the interests of its traders in that part of the country. They furnish a striking contrast with the condition of the British trade in the south. If the latter has not completely disappeared, that has not been due to the sustaining influence of the British Foreign Office; in a measure it has survived even the cold neglect of the Foreign Office. In the fresh conditions created by the new agreement, however, Great Britain will be compelled, by sheer force of circumstances, to improve the conditions of trade in southern Persia; for it is more on trade than on other sources of revenue that the regeneration of southern Persia will ultimately depend. While Russia could afford, if necessary, to ignore the possibilities of trade in its sphere of influence and could with advantage devote its entire attention to the development of other sources of revenue, such as agriculture and mining, the British sphere of influence is made up more or less of arid tracts, mostly very sparsely populated, but with an industrious population in places where Nature has been lavish with her gifts.

It may be argued that Russia and Britain will forbear from interference in the internal administration of the country, and will leave the problem of finance for Persia itself to solve; but if the new Commission dealing with the financial questions is to exert a beneficent influence in making Persia play the Phœnix in its ruins, both the Powers will, even against their will, have to act the mentor in earnest. Level-headed Persians themselves now realise that it is impossible for their country single-handed to escape the aftermath of bankruptcy, and they no longer cherish the illusory hope of political formulas performing miracles of rejuvenation in their country. Indeed, many of them have lost all faith in the democratic movement, which instead of proving a blessing has, apparently, made confusion worse confounded in their country. The Mejliss has proved itself only a mockery of a Parliament, and the dreams of *Jeune Persans* of a rich and prosperous Persia have suddenly changed into nightmares of utter bankruptcy, moral and material.

In the circumstances, Russia and Britain would be acting in the best interests of Persia if they stimulated the beneficent activity of the new Commission of Finance by following a vigorous policy in restoring the credit of Persia. As far as Britain is concerned, much can be done by encouraging trade between India and Persia not only by sea, but also by land. If it be not possible at this juncture to link up India with Persia by an extension of the Indian railway system through British Baluchistan and Mekran, the Nushki trade route offers a great scope for the development of trade between India and Persia. That this trade route is capable of enormous development as a highway of commerce between the two countries is evident from the statistics just to hand relating to the trade between India and Persia. In spite of the upheaval of the war, the trade showed an increase of 4 per cent. by the Nushki route. If the extension of railways into Persia be inadvisable, motor transport will answer the purpose, for the present at any rate. It will transform the whole of eastern Persia within a decade, and will stave off the evil day of bankruptcy for Persia, perhaps for ever. It will also throw open the rich province of Seistan to the world; and it is on the development of this province that the future of the country largely depends.

THE SERBIAN SOCIETY.

The following is the official list of the Council of the Serbian Society of Great Britain, which is referred to elsewhere:—Lord Aberconway, Wilfred Ashley, M.P., Major Astor, M.P., Right Hon. W. F. Bailey, C.B., Lady Frances Balfour, Right Hon. G. N. Barnes, M.P., Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, M.P., Admiral Lord Beresford, F. Handel Booth, M.P., Right Hon. Sir Edward Carson, K.C., M.P., Sir Frederick Cawley, Bart., M.P., Lord Eversley, Sir Algernon Firth, Bart., Victor Fisher, Sir James Frazer, D.C.L., LL.D., Right Hon. Ellis Griffith, K.C., M.P., Sir Robert A. Hadfield, F.R.S., John Hodge, M.P., Canon Scott Holland, D.D., Professor Henry Jackson, O.M., Colonel Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., P. H. Kerr, Hugh A. Law, M.P., Arthur Lynch, M.P., Sir Oliver Lodge (Principal of Birmingham University), Professor Richard Lodge, The Marchioness of Londonderry, Sir Philip Magnus, M.P., The Master of Balliol College, Oxford, The Master of University College, Oxford, Right Hon. Sir W. Mather, Viscount Milner, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G. Hay Morgan, K.C., M.P., Lord Moulton, T. P. O'Connor, M.P., James O'Grady, M.P., Professor C. W. Oman, The Lord Bishop of Oxford, Professor Bernard Pares, Professor W. Alison Phillips, Hon. W. Pember Reeves, Earl of Ronaldshay, M.P., Professor Michael E. Sadler, C.B. (Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University), J. A. Seddon, Rev. Sir George Adam Smith, D.D. (Principal of Aberdeen University), Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.V.O., M.P., Lord Strathclyde (Lord President of the Court of Session), Right Hon. Sir Charles Wakefield (Lord Mayor of London), Sir J. Beethom Whitehead, K.C.M.G., Hon. Lady Whitehead, Right Hon. C. B. Stuart Wortley, K.C., M.P., The Lord Bishop of Winchester, Sir Francis Younghusband, K.C.I.E.

The President of the Society is the Earl of Cromer, O.M., G.C.B.; Mr. J. Annan Bryce, M.P., is Hon. Treasurer; and Dr. A. W. Seton-Watson is the Hon Sec The Executive Committee is composed as follows:—James Berry, B.S., F.R.C.S., John Buchan, Ronald M. Burrows, D.Litt., Sir Arthur Evans, LL.D., F.R.S., The Rev. H. J. Fynes-Clinton, J. A. Grant, M.P., Lady Grogan, Maj.-Gen. Sir Ivor J. C. Herbert, Bart., M.P., Elsie Maud Inglis, M.B.C.M., H. J. Mackinder, M.P., Ronald McNeill, M.P., Admiral of the Fleet the Hon. Sir Hedworth Meux, G.C.B., M.P., H. Wickham Steed, J. St. Loe Strachey, Stephen Walsh, M.P., A. F. Whyte, M.P., Mrs. Carrington Wilde, E. Hilton Young, M.P.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I wonder whether any publisher will ever think it worth while to give to the world a collection of King Constantine's speeches. Probably not; for, though they afford some insight into his Majesty's character, there is not, in this country at least, a sufficiently large public interested in the subject to make the venture worth while. It is almost a pity, for some of these speeches are full of a quite unconscious humour which even the most successful efforts of the Kaiser can hardly outdo. It is always amusing to see any man taking himself quite so seriously as does this Royal rival of the one and only Wilhelm; and when a very small Tin God solemnly announces to the world at large that he is so great, so wonderful, and so omniscient that his Will must prevail against that of the overwhelming majority of his people, and that it is the duty of his soldiers to lay down their lives cheerfully in the attempt to force his head through any brick wall he chooses to butt against—well, one cannot help smiling, though one may at the same time feel very angry.

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It is a notorious fact that many of the "Young Turks"—who are Moslems only in name—openly set at defiance the obligation to refrain from drinking strong liquors. The Germans, I see, though not averse from looking upon the wine when it is red—or white, for that matter—themselves, have been rather puzzled to understand how it is that some of their numerous Turkish guests are so ready to copy their example in this respect. But a trifle like that is not allowed to worry the good German long. One of his papers is sure to come along with an explanation; and in the present instance it is the *Rhenisch Westfälische Zeitung* that has flung itself into the breach, so to say. According to this veracious journal, the drinking of champagne, far from being an offence against the law of the Prophet, is actually a virtue. For champagne, by a happy coincidence for those who like it, resembles a "sacred" beverage obtained, under miraculous conditions, from a palm tree, by a very pious Moslem.

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The story is given with a wealth of corroborative detail which does credit to the scribe. The pious Moslem's method of preparing his tipple is set out in detail; and the German reader is invited to believe that, though he was perishing of thirst, he was able to wait some fifteen hours or so while the juice he collected (apparently under Divine guidance) fermented and became a "pure sparkling wine of most delicious flavour." The account adds that the beverage must be drunk at once, as it turns sour very quickly if left standing. Perhaps this accounts for the alacrity which the Turkish visitors to Berlin appear to have shown in disposing of any champagne that was set before them.

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Some little time ago two distinguished English medical men, who were in Cairo in connection with Red Cross work, were received in an informal manner by Sultan Hussein at his palace. They were sitting side by side, facing his Highness, from whom they were separated by a small table covered in red cloth and provided with a fringe, which was very like the tables one is accustomed to see conjurers using on the stage. On this table stood the three small cups from which the Sultan and his visitors had been drinking coffee. Presently the Royal host, who is quick in his movements and given to gesticulating freely in moments of excitement or emotion, suddenly whipped off his *tarboosh* and clapped it down on the table, covering the three cups. The same idea struck both the visitors at once, and one of them, a famous surgeon, murmured gently: "He will produce a white rabbit in half a minute, I'm sure." His companion, who reported the incident afterwards, confessed that he had never had such difficulty to keep from laughing in his life. It sounds trivial, no doubt, but if you imagine the scene for yourself—especially if you happen to have met the actors in it—you will find it easy to appreciate its humour. If only the Sultan had had the joke explained to him, I am sure he would have enjoyed it. As it was, he was probably puzzled to know what made one of his callers so red in the face.

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Last week, when I tried to disabuse certain correspondents who seemed to think that I was not sufficiently unfriendly to the Turks, I wrote under the disadvantage of not having their letters by me. This was particularly unfortunate in the case of the letter published (page 489). With regard to this, by the way, a correspondent suggests that the *nom de plume* selected is a strange one, and reflects little credit on the writer's sense of the fitness of things or his sense of humour. In regard to this point, my knowledge of Turkish (?) does not enable me to judge. But there are one or two points in the letter which seem to call for comment. In the first place, I am slightly puzzled to know what is meant by the reference to my "list of Oriental beneficiaries of our charity." It is true that I have from time to time appealed on behalf of our troops in Mesopotamia and elsewhere; but, with the exception of our Indian troops, they can hardly be regarded as "Oriental"! Again, I have tried to do something for the Armenians and Nestorians; but that does not make much of a "list." And, as I have pointed out before, the credit for the "philanthropic suggestion" regarding the refugees in Asia Minor does not belong to me, but to Mr. Philips Price and M. Zolanievicz.

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Then, too, much as I should like to endorse the doubtless kindly-meant suggestions on behalf of the Kurds and the *Komitajis*, I am afraid I cannot bring myself to do so. The Kurd has his good points, no doubt, or he would not have won the liking of several well-known travellers who have studied him in his own habitat; but I have never been able to admire him greatly, and his recent achievements have not endeared him to me. If he really is "unoccupied," I suspect that a Certain Person, who, as we all know, is only too ready to find mischief for idle hands to do, will look after him very soon. At any rate, I, for one, must decline to act on the charitable hint, and shall subscribe neither in cash nor in Armenians for the relief of his distress. Finally, as to the *Komitajis*, I can only say that if I could believe that they were "likely to be deprived of their means of livelihood" so soon as the writer of the letter appears to think, I should be delighted. But even if all the present representatives of the species *should* in the near future be deprived not merely of their means of livelihood, but of their lives as well, I fear that as long as the Balkans are inhabited by such a mixed population, the *Komitaji* will continue to ply his calling. I hope, however, that neither my critics nor I will ever provide employment for him. For the only employment he takes to at all kindly is likely to prove an unhealthy one—for his victims.

***

If I had run across one of the distressed Macedo-Bulgar *Komitajis* last Friday, it is just possible that I might have provided him with temporary employment. I might have felt tempted to direct his attention to a certain person, and to whisper in his ear: "Yonder, noble hero, is one of the bitterest opponents of the glorious cause to which you have devoted yourself. Remove him, and you do good service to The Cause!" Of course, I should have hinted at a pecuniary reward as well. And the victim would have been the bold, bad printer who was responsible for the mistake that crept into my note about Ali Dinar's novel touring car. For what I wrote was "a gorgeous armchair of *state*," not of "slab"; and I am afraid the error may have puzzled some of my readers almost as much as it puzzled me.

CORSAIR.

A committee has been formed at The Hague, under the protection of the Netherlands Red Cross Society, to assist Roumanian prisoners of war.

Communications between Roumania and London are now much improved. Telegrams have been taking eighteen or even twenty days to arrive, but now take only three or four. Letters continue to take about nineteen days.

A Berlin telegram says that nobody in Germany complains of the arrival of the Greek "guests"—the troops from Kavalla—and adds:—"Whatever the strength of the Greek Army Corps may be, the hospitality accorded it cannot affect the German feeding problem."

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

SERBIA'S LONG AGONY.*

Mr. and Mrs. Askew belonged to the staff of the "First British Field Hospital," which reached Serbia in April, 1915. Unlike our other medical units, which looked to Sir Ralph Paget for orders, the First Field Hospital was definitely attached to the Serbian Army, and therefore its *personnel* saw more of the actual fighting than any of their colleagues. In the spring of last year everything wore a roseate aspect for Serbia. British ships were apparently forcing the Dardanelles; the Russian invasion of Transylvania pursued its triumphant course; Roumania and Greece seemed ready to join forces with the Entente; and few people believed that Bulgaria would prove ungrateful to her Russian liberators. It remained only to reorganise the Serbian Army, weakened by its heroic successes in 1914, and to stamp out the ravages of imported disease preparatory to a combined invasion of Austria-Hungary from the south. Our authors have nought but blighted hopes to record. They remind us that month after month rolled by without bringing any display of united action on a front which offers greater potentialities than any other; that our Dardanelles adventure failed to fructify; that Russia, lacking munitions, was forced to give ground to the Hunnish hordes; and that Bulgaria treacherously threw in her lot with the enemy. Left to struggle unaided against a coalition of overwhelming force, the luckless Serbians had no choice but to retreat southwards. Mr. and Mrs. Askew shared all the horrors attending a retrograde movement which was more disastrous than that of Napoleon's *Grande Armée* in 1812. Their story thrills with poignant interest, but is sorry reading for Serbia's friends.

The second invasion began with October, 1915, and our authors' unit was ordered to Pirot, where such forces as could be mustered stood ready to meet the Bulgarian thrust. Fierce fighting ensued, and the First Field Hospital resources were strained to breaking point by the influx of wounded. Its Ford cars plied busily to and from the dressing stations, bringing a multitude of human wrecks for treatment. Each received hot coffee on arrival, and a cigarette—unless he was in a state of collapse. Intense was their craving for tobacco. One poor wretch whose lower jaw had been shot away, motioned to his nurse that he would like a smoke, and, on being given one, he thrust it up his nostril and inhaled its soothing virtue with evident pleasure!

But Serbia's northern frontier was far too extensive to be held by her depleted forces. The Bulgarians advanced on the left, while 300,000 Austro-Germans occupied Belgrade, and then pushed southwards with Nish as their objective. This menace to both its wings left the Serbian Army no choice but a speedy retreat. To fly from foes whom they had soundly beaten in 1912 was, indeed, a bitter pill for the proud warriors. Some of them were actually shot by their own officers for refusing to budge. The British Mission did all in its power to clear the hospital of patients who were in a fit state for removal; and travelled by rail to Nish in a coal-truck, crammed to suffocation, amid drenching rain. Short was their stay at that railway centre; for the enemy had a sounder view of its importance than the Allies. They spread out westwards in order to join hands with the Bulgarians, who were working round the Serbian right. Should that movement succeed the path of retreat would be blocked. One exit alone remained; it lay south-westwards, through Albania and Montenegro. On November 19th the Serbian Calvary began.

Our authors' account of the hardships they endured for seven dreadful weeks almost passes belief. Their track lay through a region of tangled mountains, destitute of every civilised convenience and swept clear of food by the Serbian Army. In Northern Albania they were dogged by savage Arnauts; for Essad Pasha's "friendlies" constituted a minority of the population. Indeed, the only bright spot in a sombre narrative was the patient heroism of their Serbian fellow-sufferers, to whom King Peter and the Crown Prince set a noble example of fortitude under adversity. That a delicately-nurtured Englishwoman should have survived such mental and physical tortures proves the inborn "grit" of her race. At length the refugees reached San Giovanni di Medua, on the Adriatic littoral, and after several hair-breadth escapes from Austrian air and submarine attack, they found a haven of refuge in Brindisi. The note of pessimism which pervades this book arises from the evident fact that it was written ere time had softened the memory of indescribable horrors. Its authors did not foresee the change which a few months' rest has wrought in the Serbian armies, and are inclined to blame the Allied generals for inaction which was no fault of theirs. It would have been sheer madness to advance northwards from Salonika while a semi-hostile army lay in the rear, and Athens was a hot-bed of German intrigues. But his country's point of view was ably stated by a Greek doctor, whom Mr. Askew encountered at Nish.

> Greece, he said, in the early part of the war was all in favour of the Allies She would have joined us had we allowed her to do so. The attitude of Great Britain was essentially honourable—she did not want to drag the small States into the war without absolute necessity. But she was blunt about it, and gave offence. . . . The consequence was that you alienated a lot of Greek sympathy, and when, necessity arising, you acted in an arbitrary manner, seizing Greek ships and territory, you alienated a lot more. The Germans saw their advantage, and were not slow to seize it. They have succeeded, despite Belgium, in making my countrymen believe that the British claim to defend small States is not justified. We have our own experience, and we have seen your failure to support Serbia. We do not appreciate being made a cat's-paw of at such a vital moment—laying ourselves open, in all probability, to the same fate as Serbia's. That is how the matter is argued at Athens, where there is now a firm belief, fostered by German agents, that the Central Powers will win the war.

The "hand-to-mouth" diplomacy, so justly stigmatised in the editorial columns of the NEAR EAST, is to a very large extent responsible for Serbia's unmerited misfortunes.

F. H. S.

*"The Stricken Land: Serbia as We Saw It." By Alice and Claude Askew. London: Eveleigh Nash Company, Ltd, 1916. Price 6s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Macmillan announce the forthcoming publication of "The Wave: An Egyptian Aftermath," by Algernon Blackwood.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have just published (at 2s. 6d. net) "An Englishwoman Sergeant in the Serbian Army," by Flora Sandes.

"The Archæology of the Holy Land," by P. S. P. Handcock, has just been issued by Mr. Unwin, at 10s. 6d. net.

Another new book is "The War in Eastern Europe," which is written by John Reed, and published by Mr. Nash at half-a-guinea net.

The Gresham Publishing Co. have issued (8s. 6d. net) Volume 1 of "Field-Marshal Lord Kitchener: His Life and Work for the Empire," by E. S. Grew. The volume deals with Lord Kitchener's early life, his work in Palestine for the "P.E.F.," and his first experiences in the Sudan.

Messrs. Hachette have published recently "La Retraite de Serbie," by L. L. Thomson, a French Army surgeon. The price is 3f. 50c.

Mr. A. W. Marchmont, who is well known as a writer of stories of adventure, has gone to the Near East for the scene of his latest book, "Her Sentinel," which Messrs. Cassell publish.

A Constantinople telegram to the *Frankfurter Zeitung* says that the Committee of Union and Progress will meet at the end of this month.

Several of the great Atlantic liners now engaged on transport work have continued to publish that happy feature of their voyages in the days of peace, the ship's newspaper, says the *Morning Post*. There is to hand at Liverpool the journal of a well-known vessel much-beloved of rich Americans before the war. One entry, which refers to a day in the Mediterranean, says:—"Interested in movements of French dirigible and destroyer searching for an enemy submarine which was searching for us. The dirigible maintained a great height, the better to see the submarine, and the destroyer took her bearings accordingly. One enemy submarine the less within a few hours." . . . Here is another extract from the ship's journal:—"A small Arab boy was found on board and taken up to the bridge as a stowaway. On being questioned, however, the boy, who spoke English fluently, said he was no stowaway, but the mascot of the 1st Australians (who were on board), and he was going away with 'his men' because there was nobody else who could drill them as he could. He gave an exhibition of his powers in that direction, but all to no purpose, and he was put ashore in the police boat, much to his indignation and disgust."

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916.	1916.		1334.	5677.
Sept.	Sept.		Julhijja	Tishri
29	16	Friday	1	2
30	17	Saturday.....	2	3
Oct.				
1	18	Sunday	3	4
2	19	Monday	4	5
3	20	Tuesday	5	6
4	21	Wednesday	6	7
5	22	Thursday	7	8

Princess Bibescu has arrived in Bucharest from London.

Captain Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, of the Roumanian Legation in London, arrived in Bucharest last week.

Reuter's New York correspondent reports that on Monday representatives of leading American banks and export houses gave a luncheon in honour of Sir Richard Crawford, the Commercial Adviser to the British Embassy at Washington. Sir Richard, it will be remembered, was formerly Adviser to the Turkish Ministry of Finance.

The Serbian Minister and the Greek Minister were among the visitors at the Foreign Office on Tuesday.

The Roumanian Minister visited the Foreign Office on Wednesday afternoon.

M. Ch. Miyatovitch, formerly Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James, who has now recovered from his illness, hopes to pay a visit to Ireland next month for the purpose of delivering a course of lectures on Serbia.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (September 5):—Captain Orr, Chief Secretary to Government, whose health has temporarily broken down, was unable to leave by the last mail steamer, as he intended, and has returned to his home at Nicosia.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes:—Mr. W. Warfield, who has lately been appointed Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Legation at Sofia, has arrived in that city, and has been received by the Prime Minister. He has with him a quantity of clothing and comforts for distribution among the British prisoners.

Major-General the Hon. H. A. Lawrence (Temporary Lieut.-General), who this week was mentioned in despatches for the third time, is a director of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and also of the Bank of Roumania. He is serving in Egypt. His two sons have both fallen in the war. The younger, Captain Michael C. Lawrence, of the Coldstream Guards, died so recently as the 16th of this month from wounds received in action the previous day.

The Rev. A. Lee Warner, who has been doing ministerial work at Atbara, Port Sudan, Suakin, and Khartoum since the end of 1914, left the Sudan on the 1st inst. On the previous evening a meeting of farewell was held, at which the Rev. H. C. Robins presided; and several speakers voiced the regret felt at Mr. Lee Warner's departure and good wishes for his future.

The following is the official description of the deed for which Captain J. B. Barron, 3rd Worcestershire Regiment, was (as reported in THE NEAR EAST) awarded the bar to the Military Cross which he had won only a fortnight earlier:—"For conspicuous bravery and gallantry in action during the attack on the Hindenburg Trench on August 4. Although wounded before the attack started whilst assembling his company in the trenches, he refused to leave his post, but directed the attacking companies throughout the operations, and remained in action until the position was firmly in our hands."

On Thursday of last week, at Zamalek, Gezira, Cairo, the wife of Captain (temporary Lieut.-Colonel) H. A. Engledue gave birth to a daughter.

Private Harold C. Bond, of the London Regiment, has been wounded at the front in France, and is now in a hospital in England, where he is progressing favourably.

A Sudan correspondent writes:—

Several members of the Administration are due to return to their various posts this month (September), after absence on leave. In the Sub-Department of Forests Mr. A. A. Bisset, one of the four Inspectors of Forests, will be back at Khartoum, as will Mr. G. E. Hunt, of the Gordon College Higher School, wherein he fills the post of lecturer. Mr. A. B. B. Howell, of the Finance Department, attached, will resume his duties after a short vacation occasioned by indifferent health. In the Geological Section Mr. S. C. Dunn, the Government Geologist, is due to resume his duties on the 29th inst.

Dr. E. S. Crispin, of the Medical Department (of which he has been Acting Director some time), returns to the capital immediately, after a few months' leave of absence on medical grounds. Mr. T. E. Fyers, Carriage and Wagon Works Superintendent in the Railways Department, and Mr. A. N. Wilkinson, one of the Inspectors of the Repression of Slave Trade Department, have now returned to duty. The former has had fifteen and the latter five years' service under the Sudan Administration. In the Steamers Department, both the Director—Major W. B. Drury—and one of the Assistant Directors—Captain Huntly Walsh—who have been away on leave, have again taken up their duties at Khartoum.

In the provinces there have been one or two arrivals from Europe and Egypt of officials returned from leave. Mr. E. W. Drummond Hay, of the Berber Province, where he is First Inspector, stationed at El Damer, returned on the 13th inst., while Mr. A. W. Skrine, a Second Inspector in the Dongola Province, was to have been back at his post on the 17th inst. Two of the Kassala Province officials, Captain G. B. Wauhope, the Senior Inspector, and Mr. A. D. Home, a third inspector, have resumed their duties, as has Dr. L. Bousfield, the Medical Officer of Health of Khartoum. Mr. E. R. J. Hussey, a second inspector in the Sennar Province, got back to work this month.

The *Egyptian Mail* of August 29 reports:—"A serious accident, which, however, very fortunately resulted in no personal injuries, occurred on the Ramleh Road at Sidi-Gaber just after midnight on Saturday. Mr. Ronald Storrs, the Oriental Secretary to the Residency, was returning home to Ramleh in a public carriage when a taxicab, driven by a European, and travelling in the opposite direction at a high speed, crashed into the carriage, which was badly smashed. By a miracle Mr. Storrs, though thrown on to the pavement, escaped unhurt, though naturally he received a considerable shock."

M. Radeff, formerly Bulgarian Minister in Bucharest, arrived in Berlin last week.

Moukhtar Bey, of the Turkish Ministry of Finance; Fahsin Bey, the Turkish Ambassador at Bucharest; Essad Bey, and the General Consul, Halil Bey, have reached Berlin.

"The Arabs" will be the subject of a course of lectures to be given by Professor Seligman next February at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Mrs. Alexander Van Millingen has left London for Dunblane, N.B.

Major Sir Henry Paulet St. John Mildmay, sixth baronet, late Grenadier Guards, of Dogmersfield Park, Winchfield, Hants, who served in the Egyptian War of 1882, left unsettled estate of the gross value of £36,968.

Al Haj Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din, the leader of British Moslems in this country, has returned from India within the past few days, and will deliver his first sermon to-day at the temporary London Mosque, 39, Upper Bedford Place. He was met at Tilbury on his arrival by Lord Headley and his two elder sons, and at once proceeded to Woking Mosque.

The University College of London University has issued a list of lectures to which the public will be admitted. Among others we note one by Professor W. M. Flinders Petrie on "Ancient Egyptian Rings and Toilet Objects," to be delivered on Thursday, October 5, at 2.30 p.m., and another at four o'clock of the same afternoon on "Recent Babylonian Discoveries," by Dr. T. G. Pinches. Professor Petrie's lecture is the first of a course. There will also be a course of lectures on "Ægean Civilisation," by Mr. Norman H. Baynes. The first of these will deal with Crete, and will be delivered at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, October 11. Another course of lectures will be on the early period of Greek Art. These will be by Professor Percy Gardner, the first being given on Tuesday, October 10, at 3 p.m.

The British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, which have workers not only on the British fighting fronts but on all the other Allies' fronts as well, have taken prompt steps to co-operate with and assist the medical services of the Roumanian Army. More direct assistance is in contehplation, though it is not fully decided upon as yet, and a first motor ambulance, the gift of Messrs. Crawley Brothers, of the Galatz Waterworks, is being sent this week via Archangel to Lady Barclay at the British Legation, Bucharest. In the meantime £10.000 worth of warm clothing, medical and surgical stores, and comforts for the wounded have already been despatched to Roumania, and Mr. H. K. Hudson, of the British Red Cross, has also left for Russia and Roumania to supervise transport and other arrangements.

A series of popular lectures on "The Tropical Countries of the Empire," illustrated by the collections of the Imperial Institute, will be delivered by Miss Edith A. Browne, F.R.G.S., on Wednesdays in October, November and December, at the Imperial Institute, at 3 o'clock, commencing on Wednesday, October 4, 1916. Admission to the series of lectures will be free by ticket, for which application should be made to the Director of the Imperial Institute, South Kensington.

Another Dutch ambulance for Serbia, organised by the Dutch-Serbian Committee, of which Mr. E. S. Orobio de Castro, jun., is secretary, has left for Salonika. This ambulance is in charge of Dr. H. Van Dyk, of the St. Franciscus Hospital, Rotterdam. With him are Nurses J. Vermaas, G. van der Zwan, M. Kat, and A. Bakker, of whom the first two have already done noble work with the Serbians. Dr. Van Dyk is the discoverer of the new plague serum, used with good effect in Java. The party with Mr. De Castro arrived at Gravesend on Sunday in the Prins Hendrik, after being taken by the Germans to Zeebrugge. Dr. Van Hamel, surgeon at Delft, hopes to join the ambulance at Salonika as soon as the Dutch military authorities give him leave to go.

Term opens at King's College on Wednesday. At half-past nine there will be a service in the college chapel, at which the sermon will be preached by the Rev. Father Nicholas Velimirovitch, Professor of Theology in the University of Belgrade and Chaplain to the Metropolitan of Serbia.

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OBITUARY.

LIEUT.-COL. A. F. TOWNSHEND.

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Fitzhenry Townshend, who died on the 16th inst. of wounds received the previous day, was formerly H.M. Vice-Consul at Adana, Turkey in Asia (June 1903-April, 1905), and afterwards Consul for the Adrianople vilayet (1905-1906). The only son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel H. F. Townshend, of Castletownshend, Co. Cork, he was born May 19, 1874, was educated at Haileybury, and joined the Army when he was just twenty. Gazetted to the 2nd Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), he served with that regiment in India, and in the South African War he served with the 4th Scottish Rifles, and was mentioned in dispatches. He went to the front with his regiment in 1915, and in November of that year was again mentioned in dispatches, and he had been twice wounded. Last January he was appointed to command the Royal West Kent Regiment.

LIEUT. H. AUBREY BACK.

We regret to announce the death of Second Lieutenant Horace Aubrey Back, second son of the late Francis Formby Back, of Harrow Weald, and Mrs. Formby Back, of 16, Welbeck House, Wigmore Street, W., who was killed in action on Friday, the 22nd inst. Lieut. Back was educated at Marlborough College and Brazenose, Oxford, at which college he was a scholar. He studied for the Law in Cairo and Paris, and was in practice for some years in the office of Maître Carton de Wiart, the well-known avocat in Cairo. He returned to London from Egypt in 1911, and entered the firm of Messrs. Surtees, Phillpotts and Co., well-known London solicitors, in which firm he shortly afterwards became a partner. He joined the Army in November, 1915, and ultimately became attached to the Gloucester Regiment. He went to France on August 28, 1916, and had only been a week in the front line when he met his death. Lieut. Back was thirty-five years of age.

The death has occurred in action of Lieut.-Colonel Arthur Pastow Mack, Suffolk Regiment, of Manor House, Bacton, Norfolk. Mr. Mack will be remembered by Egyptian readers as one of the pioneers of the mining industry in the country, being a partner in the firm of Mack and Palmer. He was fifty-three years of age.

Lieutenant John Munro Milton, Northumberland Fusiliers, missing (believed killed), since September 26, 1915, at Hill 70, Loos, aged twenty-two, was the only son of Dr. Herbert Milton, one of the best-known and most popular physicians of Cairo, and grandson of the late Sir John Milton, Accountant-General, War Office. He was educated at St. Vincent's, Eastbourne, and Wellington College, Berks, and passed his "Little-go" at Cambridge in June, 1910. He was articled to Messrs. Harris, Russell, and Co., chartered accountants, of London and Cairo, in September, 1911, and passed the intermediate examination for the Society of Chartered Accountants in July, 1914. He played for the Harlequins, and in January, 1914, was especially mentioned as having the "makings of an international forward." He was in Switzerland when war broke out, but after some weeks' delay managed to return to Cairo. He left there in November, 1914, to offer his services, and was given a commission in the 13th Northumberland Fusiliers.

Among the latest contributions to the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund is a first instalment of £343 11s. 10d. received from the British Consulate-General at Alexandria, per Mr. D. A. Cameron, C.M.G.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

A Reuter's telegram from Cairo announces the appointment (foreshadowed by our Cairo Correspondent in his letter of this week) of Sir Ronald Graham, Adviser to the Ministry of the Interior, as Assistant Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office. Reuter adds that Sir Ronald's departure will be universally regretted. He has carried out his duties as Adviser most successfully and is very popular among the Egyptians.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture some little time ago applied to the Board of Trade for an expert in diseases of plants, and, we understand, Mr. Gordon Wallace Gibson, having been selected for the position, will leave for Egypt on October 12. Mr. Gibson, who is a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, and a contributor to the R.H.S. Journal, is very highly qualified. He has the Nicholson Prize and several diplomas. He formerly acted for the Surrey County Council, and for the last six years for the Board of Agriculture, under the Destructive Insects and Pests Act.

Miralai R. M. Fielden Bey, Governor, Bahr el Ghazal Province, has returned from furlough to the Sudan.

Mr. C. P. Browne, Governor of Berber Province, has been granted leave, and is visiting England.

Captain H. Smedley, the Manchester Regiment, and Lieutenant L. E. Holland, 1st Devon Yeomanry, having reported their arrival in Egypt, have been attached to the Egyptian Army as special service officers, with the temporary rank of Bimbashi. Captain Smedley has been attached to the Transport and Lieutenant Holland to the Arab Battalion.

Bimbashi J. J. Bramble, Upper Nile District, has been transferred to Sudan Government.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND.

The following is a list of subscriptions to the above fund received between September 16 and 25. Further subscriptions will be gladly received by the Hon. Treasurers (Mr. A. Baker and Mr. W. G. Middleton Edwards) at 5, Giltspur Street, London, E.C.

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E. P. Sallaway, Esq.	0	10	0
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Mrs. G. N. Stevens	2	2	0
Maurice Herszberg, Esq. (of Moscow)	2	2	0
Mrs. Wm. Rose	0	10	6
Lord Sanderson, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., I.S.O.	3	0	0
H. V. Masefield, Esq.	5	0	0

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATH.

MACK.—Killed in action, on September 15, 1916, Arthur Paston Mack, Lieut.-Colonel, Suffolk Regiment, of Manor House, Bacton, Norfolk, aged 53.

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THE DOORMAT OF EUROPE.

Since the days when she served as the portal through which civilisation entered Europe Greece has experienced many vicissitudes. Twenty centuries passed in Roman subjection, Byzantine servitude and Turkish slavery might have been expected to exhaust the sorrows of any nation. But once again the Greek people are thwarted in their efforts to reach a higher sphere of national life by the agency of constitutional government, and find themselves placed in the position of a European doormat. Greek history of the middle of last century bears a strange likeness to the events of to-day. In September, 1843, the issue between Hellenic liberty and German, or rather Bavarian, despotism was decided in front of the Palace at Athens. The leader of the people, supported by the troops of the capital, informed King Otho that all Greece appealed to him to fulfil the promises given when he was elected King of the Hellenes, that the people should be governed constitutionally. In order to save his crown the King agreed to abandon absolute power; but his attempt at constitutionalism was not a success. King Otho, writes Finlay, the historian of Modern Greece, "acted under the strange delusion that he was himself an honest statesman, and he believed that it was his honesty which rendered him superior to the ablest politicians in Greece. He could not understand, for his mental perceptions were very circumscribed, that what appeared to him to be fair in a king must appear to be something very like trickery in a private person. . . . It forms a remarkable trait in King Otho's dull intellect, that he knew how to conduct a game of personal intrigue with patient sagacity and to foil the restless activity of the acutest Greek. . . . The facility with which he won over deserters from the Liberal party destroyed both his own and the people's confidence in political honesty. Kanares was still a man whom neither the King nor the people believed could be gained by any bribe, either of wealth, rank, or honours, so that King Otho schemed to make Kanares himself the pilot of his own political shipwreck." The Greeks rid themselves of King Otho, and with the change of dynasty they abolished the constitution of 1844 and sought to introduce perfect government by means of an entirely new charter. It is probable that the constitution of 1864 was suited to the conditions of the day. Ample powers were conferred upon the Crown, on which the people relied to control the administrative authority of Ministers. But while no act of the Sovereign is valid, nor can be executed, unless countersigned by a competent Minister, no provision has been made for enforcing Ministerial responsibility. Experience has emphasised the shortcomings of this constitution, and the Greek people may yet be obliged to submit once more the charter of their liberties to drastic revision in order to reach the goal of their national aspirations.

Certain it is that no nation can continue indefinitely to view with indifference the record of its degradation and retain its own self-respect and prestige abroad. Under the guidance of King Constantine Greece has neither been able to take the tide of her opportunity at the flood, nor known how to make a virtue of necessity. A policy of neutrality at the outset seemed dictated by ordinary prudence and common sense; but only if the Greek Government reserved for itself complete freedom of action. Subsequent events have proved that the policy was forced upon the country not by a shrewd examination of actual circumstances, but by some understanding between King Constantine and Germany. Whatever the nature of this understanding, it has been responsible for each successive step in Greece's humiliation. The repudiation of the Alliance with Serbia was a severe blow to Greek national honour; but it had been anticipated by the action of the King in refusing to honour M. Venizelos' pact with the Allied Powers. Then came the occupation of Salonika by the Entente troops. In seeking to hinder the Allies' movements King Constantine exposed his country to a succession of rebuffs. It was necessary as a measure of precaution to consolidate the occupation, and the recalcitrant attitude of Greek military officers and Greek officials, acting under instructions from Athens, led to the adoption of various measures which in turn eliminated Greek control from that part of Macedonia and suppressed the more glaring cases of contraband traffic in Greek waters. In reality, however, no action on the part of the Entente, albeit seemingly high-handed, implied such contempt for the Greeks as the activities, under the King's auspices, of Germany's representative, Baron von Schenck, at Athens. The open bribery and corruption practised by the German emissary were no less derogatory to the recipients than they were to the author. In due course the occupation of eastern Macedonia followed, and the Bulgarians, whom the Greeks affected to despise as well as to hate, now associated themselves with the Germans in proclaiming their opinion of the Greeks. Both hastened to load Greece with the assurances she asked for, and saw no reason for explanations when one and all were broken. The kidnapping of the Fourth Army Corps is the latest stage in the history of the Greek doormat. Meanwhile, the Allies have presented Notes at Athens, calling upon Greece to admit her sins of commission and omission, and to make amends without delay. Quite early in these experiences King Constantine found that he could obtain no practical support from the Germans, whose cause he was pledged to uphold. Obstinacy prevented him from receding gracefully from an untenable position, and he sought what consolation he could find in granting audiences to foreign correspondents in order to set out the tale of his woes.

With a united people behind him King Constantine might possibly have afforded to flout the wishes of the Allied Powers. But like King Otho he has considered himself the superior in intellect and statesmanship of the ablest politician of his day, and in so doing has also set himself up against the popular will. The controversy has now reached a stage at which all those who are not Greeks will instinctively wish to withdraw from the arena, and leave the Greeks to settle the matter themselves with their Sovereign. There could be no more striking development in the situation than the departure of M. Venizelos from Athens for the purpose of placing himself at the head of the National Defence movement. That movement, as he is careful to point out, is not a revolution in the ordinary sense of the word. It is not directed against the King or his dynasty; but it challenges the right of the Government to allow Greek territory to be overrun by the Bulgarian enemy, Greek people to be maltreated and murdered, and Greek soldiers to be taken prisoners, without taking any action in the defence of Greek interests. A last chance is given to King Constantine to show himself as King of the Hellenes and to follow the path of duty by protecting his subjects. One word from him, we believe, would still bring the country together as one man, and establish both him and his dynasty firmly on the throne. There are indications that he has at last seen fit to bow to the inevitable, and he is credited with the intention of sanctioning Greece's military co-operation with the Allies. But he has persisted so long in a strange course of uncomprehending obstinacy that we must guard against undue optimism at this stage. History provides him with eloquent warnings. King Otho was also given many chances of falling into line with the national will, but he rejected them all, until the Greeks made up their minds that, however perfect the constitution offered them, they would have none which entailed the retention of Otho and his German methods on the throne.

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THE FUTURE OF MESOPOTAMIA.

By Sir William Willcocks, K.C.M.G.

" O thou River who didst bring forth all things,
When the great gods dug thee out,
They set prosperity upon thy banks."

This address of some old world Sumerian seer will again see its fulfilment on the day when Turkish misgovernment comes to an end. Like the delta of the Nile, the delta of the Tigris and Euphrates will depend for its full development on the goodwill of those who hold the upper waters of the two rivers, in the regions where they can be led out of their channels and utilised for irrigation. Heavy irrigation works carried out on the upper Euphrates and its tributaries, the Bellik and Khabour, upstream of Anah, past Meyadin, the ancient Rehoboth by the River, would deprive the lower Euphrates of the whole of its low supply; while similar works carried out on the upper Tigris and its tributaries, the two Zabs, in the neighbourhood of Mosul, near the ancient Nineveh, would seriously reduce the low supply of the lower Tigris. The whole of the low supply of the Diala, or the ancient Gyndes, is utilised between Khanikin and Bakuba, and none reaches the Tigris near Baghdad. Moreover, the developed irrigation of the Tigris and the Euphrates, upstream of Kût and of Shamia opposite Diwanieh respectively, would deprive the Shat-el-Arab of any low supply water at all, and insure the ruin of the Busreh date groves, unless compensating reservoirs were in existence. The magnificent date groves between Mohammerah and the Gulf owe no small part of their prosperity to the low supplies of the Karun River, of which every particle could be drawn off by barrages at Shuster and Ahwaz.

The ancients provided for contingencies like these on the lower Euphrates by the construction of reservoirs in the deserts south of Ramadi and north of Kerbellah, and by the construction of a reservoir in the heart of the delta on the edge of the two Sipparas (Sepharvaim) for the use of Babylon exclusively. In spite of these reservoirs there must have been occasions when the heavy irrigation around Rehoboth and upstream of it caused serious injury to the Babylonian delta. When working in Baghdad I used often to think that many of the wars between Assyria, which held the upper waters of the two rivers, and Babylonia, which depended on the lower, must have been undertaken to secure complete control of the water. During the years when the Babylonian kings were powerful enough to impose their will on the whole of Mesopotamia the lower delta was always prosperous; while, under the Persian kings, who held both the upper and lower valleys, and who were able to regulate the supply judiciously, Babylonia saw its greatest prosperity.

Though in antiquity Babylonia was only prosperous when the whole country from the line of the Baghdad railway past Harran, Nisibin, and Mosul, to the Persian Gulf was under the control of a single power, or when northern Mesopotamia was given up to anarchy, it will be possible to-day to make the Euphrates self-containing from Kerbellah to the Gulf, and possibly from Hitt to the Gulf. I have proposed reservoirs, of which an account is given further on in this paper, where we shall be able to store at least eighteen milliards of cubic metres or tons of water. Of this water it will be possible to utilise for irrigation twelve milliards, or four and a half times the capacity of the Aswan reservoir. In the matter of reservoirs, the Nile does not approach the Tigris and the Euphrates.

For four hundred years the Sultans of Turkey have had complete control of the two rivers from their sources to the Gulf, and have consequently been in a position to rival the Sassanian kings of Persia, but they have not had it in them to undertake any works of peace. " Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war " is no Turkish saying. Two monuments standing to-day, one on the Euphrates and the other on the Tigris, tell us why the Turks failed where the Persians excelled. Each time I have ascended or gone down the Euphrates I have been arrested by a tall column standing on the left bank of the river not far from Rakka, the summer residence of Haroun-er-Rashid. This column was erected by Sultan Selim the Grim, to his ancestor the first Osmanli Bêg who traversed Mesopotamia. Coming westwards from Turkestan at the head of his horsemen, he had forded the Tigris; and, at this point, encountered the Euphrates. Riding straight into the river, heedless of the warnings of his guides, he had been engulfed in the waters and drowned. I have never been able to pass this monument without spending an hour or two contemplating the past history of these same Osmanli Turks, of whose strength and weakness this tower is a true symbol. As one, in ascending the Tigris, approaches Baghdad, the ruins of the palace of Nausherwân, the greatest of the Sassanian kings of Persia, towers above the level plain. At the time that the king's engineers lined out the foundations of the palace they impinged on the holding of a small proprietor, who, like Naboth, refused to part with the heritage of his fathers. The work was stopped and Nausherwân was referred to. Unlike Ahab, he ordered the alignment to be deflected near Naboth's field; and so the palace was built, and so it stands to-day. In the length and breadth of the East the greatest compliment a high official can have paid to him is to be told that his justice is comparable to that of Nausherwân. Men with traditions like this divided fairly the waters of the two rivers while they had complete control of the whole country; on the occasions that they lost control upper Mesopotamia was given up to such anarchy that irrigation works there were out of the question, and consequently lower Mesopotamia, or Babylonia, saw a prosperity which was one of the wonders of the world. The overthrow of the Persians by the Arabs in the early years of the Hegira ushered in the ruin of the country, which was completed by the Tartars under Jengis Khan and Timur, and finally sealed by the Turks.

The problems whose successful solution will restore Babylonia to its ancient prosperity are far more difficult of solution than those which faced the irrigation engineers in the Nile Valley. Of all the rivers in the world, the Nile is the most gentlemanly. It gives ample warning of its rise and fall; is never abrupt; carries enough of sediment in flood to enrich the land without choking the canals; is itself free of salt; has its annual flood in August, September, and October, securing both summer and winter crops; traverses a valley with a climate mild enough to allow of Egyptian clover in winter and Egyptian cotton in summer; and flows between sandstone and limestone hills, which provide an abundance of building materials. The height of misgovernment which Egypt knew from the time of the Arab invasion in the latter half of the seventh century to the accession of Mohammed Ali in the beginning of the nineteenth, reduced the population from twelve millions to two millions and halved its cultivated area, but it could not destroy the extraordinary richness of what is rightly called in the Bible " The garden of the Lord, the land of Egypt." The same misgovernment turned the Euphrates delta into a wilderness and a marsh, dotted about with oases of cultivation. The Tigris and Euphrates rise without warning; are always abrupt; carry five times the sediment of the Nile; have their annual flood in March, April, and May, too late for the winter and too early for the summer crops; traverse a country where the temperature rises to 120 deg. in summer and falls to 20 deg. in winter, and where both Egyptian cotton and Egyptian clover are out of the question; have a considerable quantity of salt in solution; and flow between degraded deserts of gypsum and salted marl.

In spite of the many drawbacks, the ancient Babylonians made of the Euphrates delta a country so rich that Alexander the Great conceived the project of making Babylon the capital of the world, and had started on his enterprise when death intervened. Even in the days when shorn of its glory, the son of Harouner-Rashid is reported to have exclaimed, on ascending the Mokattam Hill, which overlooks Cairo: " Cursed be Pharaoh who said in his pride, 'Am I not Pharaoh, King of Egypt?' Had he seen Babylonia he would have said it with humility."

The excessive fertility of Babylonia was due to the system of perennial irrigation, or irrigation all the year round, which the early dwellers in the Euphrates valley introduced into the world. To Egypt was due the credit of having introduced basin irrigation, a system far more impressive and majestic than its rival, but not nearly so profitable, since it only insured one crop per annum instead of two. The Nile valley was irrigated in broad fields of thirty and forty thousand acres apiece, while in Babylonia the water was led to each field of two or three acres. I have always loved to contrast these two systems by comparing one to the flight of an eagle and the other to the

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN

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laboriously built up cells of bees just as Horace compared the poems of Pindar to those of his own composition. We see Egypt to-day everywhere abandoning its ancient system and adopting that of Babylonia. Babylonia will be re-created by the system of irrigation introduced by itself.

The Tigris-Euphrates delta is strangely flat. Baghdad, removed 500 miles from the sea, is only 120 feet above sea level. Opposite Baghdad the Euphrates is 25 feet higher than the Tigris. Between the two rivers runs a regular valley, across which are carried the giant banks of the ancient canals. Though the slope of the country longitudinally to the rivers is very slight, the transverse slopes away from the rivers are one in a thousand, or five times as steep as those of the Nile valley. If the Nile breaches its banks in flood it can be brought back after the flood to its old channel without any serious difficulty, while a very severe breach on the Tigris or the Euphrates has been followed by the river completely leaving its channel and forming a new one miles away, after inundating the whole country. Such was Noah's flood in the early days of the world's history.

The rainfall is, on an average, about eight inches per annum. The whole of the rain falls in winter, and there have been years in succession when the total fall per annum has not exceeded four inches. In the deserts of Babylonia there are practically no locusts, though they are in millions of millions in upper Mesopotamia.

The Euphrates and Tigris have high floods of 150,000 and 250,000 cubic feet per second respectively, and low supplies of 12,000 and 9,000 cubic feet per second. The floods, as already remarked, are in the early summer.

Wheat, barley, and beans are the winter crops, and maize, rice, melons, and cotton the summer crops. In antiquity sugar cane was largely grown. Everyone who can have a garden has one. Dates, vines, and figs are the principal fruit trees, while in the lower parts of the delta the date groves shelter extensive areas of lucerne, or *alfafa*. If the winter rains are timely and above the average, large areas of land are put under barley. Horses, camels, cows, buffaloes, sheep, and livestock constitute in great part the wealth of the people.

Of the total cultivable area of ten or twelve million acres in the delta, more than five or six have never been under cultivation at one and the same time. The Arabs of the early Khalifate used to say that so continuous were the villages on the Tigris that the cocks in crowing answered each other from housetop to housetop all the way from Baghdad to Busreh. In walking down a score of miles on the abandoned Arakthu canal, which irrigated Babylon, I have found myself always treading on broken pottery.

The waters of the two rivers and the soil of the country are yellow in colour. The percentage of lime in the water and the soil is fifteen, and this accounts for the excellence of the livestock and the sturdy build of the men. The chemical analyses of soil and water testify to their richness.

In the Tigris-Euphrates delta we must never forget that we are in the country of Noah's flood; and, as in antiquity, so to-day, the foundation on which will be raised the structure of Babylonian prosperity will be the protection of the country from floods; and the more thorough the protection the more substantial will be the prosperity. The control of the Euphrates is as economical as that of the Tigris is costly.

The ancient Babylonians controlled the Euphrates by means of powerful escapes into two depressions in the Arabian deserts north-west of Babylon. The northern depression, known to-day as "Habbania," covers an area of 150 square miles, and is some 25 ft. deep in flood. At its northern extremity is a low-lying but abrupt desert mound, where are to be seen to-day the foundations of the structure surmounted by a throne, seated on which the Emperor Trajan contemplated the delta of the Euphrates before he entered upon its conquest. The southern depression, known to-day as the "Abu-Dibis," covers 475 square miles, and is 20 ft. deep to the level of the sill where the water would naturally flow back into the Euphrates valley near Kerbellah. In ancient times these depressions were used not only as escapes for controlling the floods, but also as reservoirs for feeding the rivers in low supply. They were eminently suited for both purposes, and, by the construction of insignificant banks, were rendered capable of accommodating six milliards of tons of water, of which about a quarter was utilised for feeding the rivers in the time of low supply. For a period of 60 days they were able to withdraw from the river over 40,000 cubic feet per second.

In addition to these reservoirs they had numerous and capacious canals, and the low-lying Pallacopas, or Hindia, branch of the Euphrates, which took off from above Babylon and discharged the waters of the river into the Babylonian marshes. The first public work Alexander the Great undertook in Babylon was the excavation of a new head on solid ground for the Pallacopas, known some years ago as the Hindia branch, and to-day the main stream of the Euphrates.—Its head had hitherto been in sandy soil, and as the branch had to be opened in high floods to escape the excess waters of the Euphrates, and then immediately closed after the flood to keep the main stream full of water past Babylon, the closure had been a work of extraordinary difficulty, entailing the presence of 10,000 men. Next to building a masonry barrage this was the wisest thing he could have done.

Immediately after controlling the head waters of the Pallacopas, Alexander moved down the river and constructed a massive dyke between the Babylon branch and the Nejef marshes, north of Shinafia. He did this as a preliminary work for the reclamation of this extensive area; and the dyke can be followed to-day and its alignment admired. It was while he was working at the reclamation of these marshes that he contracted the fever of which he died.

The lands of the lower Euphrates, which were exceptionally fertile and supported a dense population, were protected by banks 100 ft. wide. Their remains can be seen to-day along hundreds of miles.

Provided with escapes into depressions in the deserts, whose contours can be followed for many scores of miles by the presence of thick belts of Euphrates shells, with many capacious canals, with regulation at the head of the Pallacopas branch, and with well-constructed dykes protected by brushwood, the Euphrates was thoroughly controlled, and we do not read of any disastrous inundations on its banks. The lessons learnt during the terrible flood of Noah's time had been engraved on the minds of the Babylonians by a diamond pen.

We now turn to the Tigris. Some kilometres above the spot where the Tigris entered its delta the valley was barred by a massive earthern dam, and the river turned over the hard conglomerate, so that it could flow at a high level and irrigate the country on both banks. From the upstream side of the dam were taken the three heads of the great Nahrwan Canal, 400 ft. wide and 17 ft. deep. Nimrod is credited with having constructed the dam and turned the river. This work existed for over 3,000 years and was only swept away in the time of the last feeble Khalifs. On one side of the river is to be seen to-day an imposing fortress, and on the other the wall of Semiramis, miscalled the Median wall on some maps. These works protected both flanks of the dam. Some miles to the north of the dam is to be seen the mound the Roman soldiers raised over the body of the Emperor Julian after their disastrous defeat by the Persians.

Though the ancients harnessed the Tigris for irrigation, they never controlled the floods of this river as they had those of the Euphrates; and there were occasional inundations, when the dykes were burst, which spread such ruin and disaster that no records exist of certain years except the dismal tale that the Tigris had burst its right bank. The whole right bank of the river was protected by a broad canal with high banks, known for great part of its course as the Nahr Melcha, or the Royal Canal. The most powerful Kings of Babylonia were proud to record the fact that they had strengthened and fortified these banks; for on their holding together the prosperity of fully one-third of the country depended. The ease with which the Arabs overthrew the Persians in the seventh century of our era was due to the fact that the invasion of the country followed close upon a terrible inundation of the Tigris. The Nahr Melcha, with its high banks, can be followed for hundreds of miles. It took its supply from the Euphrates, near the town of Sippara, which stood at the bifurcation of the Nahr Melcha, which went eastwards, and the Nahr Kutha, which went southwards. Sepharvaim, or the two Sipparas, was the name given to the town of the bifurcation, just as Ashmunên, or the two Ashmuns, marks the site of the ancient bifurcation of the Nile and the Bahr Yusuf, in upper Egypt. The Tigris floods relieved themselves by overflowing the left bank of the river, just as in the earliest times the Nile overflowed its right bank, while dykes protected the left bank, notably at Memphis.

For the control of the Euphrates I have already proposed to the Turkish Government the construction of the Habbania escape into the deserts with its head just downstream of Ramadi and its tail near Kerbellah. By cutting through a low hill of gypsum and salted marl, some eight miles in length, lying between the Habbania and Abu-Dibis depressions, it will be possible to gain a head of 50 ft. over what the Babylonians possessed. By the construction of a short dam 50 ft. high across the narrow outlet of the Abu-Dibis depression, we shall form a reservoir in which it will be possible to store 18 milliards of tons of water, two-thirds of which will be at a height sufficiently great to allow of its being used for irrigation, while the remaining third will be available for maintaining the supplies in the Kurnah marshes. The Euphrates will be completely controlled; and the delta from Kerbellah to the Gulf, past Niffur, Erech and Nasiriyeh, will be independent of the low supplies of the river.

(To be Continued.)

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Roumanian Help: Greek Promises.

Mr. J. Ellis Barker contributes to the *Outlook* (September 23) an article, "Germany, Roumania, Greece," from which we take the following passage:—

A weakened man may be brought down by a comparatively light blow. The intervention of Roumania has had a great moral effect in Germany. However, the military consequences of Roumania's hostility are probably not the most serious. Roumania possesses some of the richest lands in the world. Her wheat production is considerably larger than that of Austria. She raises in a good year 10,000,000 tons of grain of every kind. She can easily export 3,000,000 tons and more. She would yield magnificent plunder. A German-Bulgarian attack upon Roumania has been made, not in order "to punish her for her faithlessness," not in order to gain a spectacular victory in the only quarter where it may possibly be obtained, but to secure for Germany Roumanian grain, meat, and oil. German and Bulgarian troops are fighting in the Dobrudja not for prestige, but for food.

As to Greece, Mr. Barker remarks:—

Greece has given to the Allies fair words and promises, but has given to Bulgaria and Germany fortresses, guns, ammunition, and a considerable portion of her army. England, France, and Russia, who saved Greece from her Turkish tyrants a century ago, have the greatest sympathy with the Greek people. However, statesmen cannot discriminate between nations and their Governments. The nation is the principal and the Government its agent. In politics, as in business, the principal is responsible for the actions of his agent. The Greek people may suffer, and may suffer terribly, for the mistakes, if not worse, of the Greek Government.

Words and Deeds.

The extraordinary situation in Greece has naturally led to some plain speaking on the part of the British Press. Thus, the *Morning Post* on Monday, in a leading article entitled "Declarations," said:—

By this time we have learnt the value of "declarations" bearing the endorsement of the Greek Court. They have covered every unneutral act that the avowed enemies of the Allies could contrive. It was in spite of "declarations" that M. Gounaris and M. Skouloudis pursued their sinister policy; it was in spite of "declarations" that Kavalla and a large part of its garrison were surrendered to the Bulgarians; it was in spite of "declarations" that anti-Entente demonstrations were organized in Athens; it was in spite of "declarations" that M. Zaimis, after being nominally placed in power, had his advice and authority overriden and ignored, and was obliged as an honest and self-respecting man to resign his office. His successor's appointment marks not repentance but simply persistence in illdoing. That successor's commission is not to fulfil the obligations which M. Zaimis was prevented from fulfilling, but to procrastinate and to thwart in practice what is promised in principle. The composition of his Ministry is conclusive evidence on that point. There has not been even sufficient regard for appearances to choose Ministers who were at least not notorious for anti-Entente sentiment. The affront is as open as it could well be, and it is an affront that no offer of "declarations" can possibly mitigate.

The writer of the article believes that the heart of the Greek people has been sound enough," and that their patience is rapidly becoming exhausted.

It is plain that if the Entente Ministers were willing to recognize the new Ministry the greater part of the Greek people are not. It is a Ministry not of politics or affairs, but of make-believe, with the single merit that its appointment has been enough to produce the breaking strain and end a state of affairs that was intolerable. Be it remembered that the Entente's concern for the attitude of Greece arises not at all from the need for recruiting a new Ally. It arises from the necessity of fulfilling obligations to honourable Allies—obligations incurred at the invitation of a Greek Government. We owe it to Roumania as well as to Serbia to clear up the situation at Salonika and to acquire for the large army assembled under General Sarrail a free hand to exert its power. With a Greek Government acting in collusion with our enemies that free hand is impossible. Therefore we have a duty as well as a right to demand that if Greece cannot make up her mind to definite action, she should stand aside and leave us to act. To palter with the situation any longer—to allow ourselves to be put off with "declarations," however specious—is to betray the cause to which we are committed.

He concludes his article by stating that "Greece must shake herself free from those blind or traitorous counsellors who would persuade her, for the sake of existence, to forfeit all that, for her, makes existence worth having. But the Allies have a duty of their own, which is independent of the internal dissensions of Greece, and from that duty they cannot one moment longer afford to flinch. They must have done with 'declarations.'"

The Position of M. Venizelos.

M. Venizelos' departure from Athens formed the subject of leading articles in both the *Pall Mall Gazette* and the *Evening Standard* on Tuesday. The former speaks of the "hegira" of M. Venizelos opening "a new chapter in a career already crowded with the romance of patriotic genius," and continues:—

It was entirely by the forceful personality of the former Cretan leader that Greece was raised from the depths of national abasement to the highway of progress, prestige, and expansion. After organizing the cause of Hellenic freedom in Crete, M. Venizelos came to Athens and effected a wholesome purge of its unsavoury political life. He reformed the Army, raised the whole tone and spirit of public affairs, and prepared the country for the triumphs it was to win in the first and second Balkan Wars. The moral collapse which followed, when it became apparent that the King was the mere tool of his German brother-in-law, and that the nation had not sufficient courage or capacity to thwart his treacherous measures, might have broken the heart and ended the career of a less resolute statesman. But M. Venizelos has never lost hope, and we thus see him to-day launched upon a fresh crusade of national recovery, and determined, if it be within his power, to rescue his country a second time. Greece is fortunate in finding such a saviour, and it is upon her worthiness of him that her fate will depend.

The *Evening Standard* thinks that "M. Venizelos has crossed the Rubicon, and that so far as he is concerned there is an end to the uncertainties of the last eighteen months." The article concludes:—

If M. Venizelos is forced to save his country by an organization of the forces that have declared against the King's disloyal policy, it is alike our duty and our interest to support him by every means in our power. There must be no mean or timid vacillations, no desertion of proved friends for people to whom an additional insincerity means little or nothing.

German Promises to Greece.

The *Spectator* (September 23), dealing with the same subject of Greece's painful position, declares:—

The recent turn of events in Greece seems to indicate that the final overthrow of German influences there is rapidly approaching. As usual, the Germans have overdone their contemptuous exploitation of the Greek Court and the baser type of Greek politician. The kidnapping of a Greek army corps, or, at any rate, a portion of it, was more than even King Constantine and the Hellenic Government could stand, and we read in Thursday's papers of the despatch from Athens of a very urgent Note to Germany demanding the release of the captured Greeks. . . . Presumably the Germans, having got all they can out of Greece, will reply with a direct negative. They would be quite willing now to see a state of war arise between them and their late dupes, for war would automatically blot out the huge batch of promises which they no doubt have been making to the Greeks for the last six months. But though there is a certain interest and amusement in watching these recent developments, we are bound to point out that if circumstances have rendered the attitude of the Greek Government unimportant from the German point of view, they have rendered it unimportant also from that of the Allies. We are sorry for the position in which the Greek Government has been placed by those who have proved unworthy of the trust committed to them, and personally we should like even at the eleventh hour to see something done to help the unfortunate Greek nation, as distinct from its Government. At any rate, neither the British people nor the British Government will *want* to be vindictive or to demand their full pound of flesh. But if the Greeks are to escape the consequences of the criminal follies committed by their Government, there must be an end to all further trifling and a cessation of that muddy mixture of perfidy and procrastination which has hitherto passed in Greece for high policy.

The Importance of the Balkans.

The *Observer* (September 24) considers that it becomes clearer than ever before that "Bulgaria is the real focus of the south-eastern problem." It will be necessary to overcome that country before the Roumanian national cause or the wider purposes of the Allies can be advanced. And, very pertinently, attention is directed to the need for acting promptly:—

In view of the short fighting season, if we mean business in the Balkans, time is of the very essence of the contract, and there is not a day nor an hour nor a chance to lose by further dallying at Athens. To Russia and Italy, to France and Britain the conditions are equally clear. Bulgaria will not be disposed of as easily as in 1913. Hindenburg will fight for all he is worth to keep open the connections with Bulgaria and Turkey, and to crush Roumania if possible in the manner we have explained. This is a fundamental problem of the war. The vital duty of the Entente Powers is to master the Balkans without fail in the next few months if indeed the Grand Alliance in next year's campaign is to be able to close on the Central Empires with all its force and finish the struggle.

Turks—"Young" and "Old."

Writing to *Le Matin* (September 9) on the subject of "Young Turks" and "Old Turks," General Cherif Pasha declares that the final success of the Allies can no longer be doubted even by the partisans of Germany. He is, naturally, concerned for the fate of his own country, and writes:—

Mon malheureux pays que la funeste politique du Comité Union et Progrès a entraîné à la remorque des Impériaux, alors que la stricte neutralité que je lui avais conseillée lui eût ré-

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servé des avantages de tout ordre, est voué désormais au sort des vaincus. Il serait puéril aux Ottomans patriotes de se le dissimuler et, plutôt que de se lamenter et de se répandre en jérémiades stériles, il leur conviendrait de regarder la situation bien en face afin de tirer de la défaite qui s'annonce pour nous malheureusement non plus une leçon, c'est trop tard, mais les éléments de survie susceptibles de procurer la paix intérieure indispensable à notre régénération.

Turning to the question of punishment for those responsible for the war, he writes:—

Je supplie les vainqueurs de ne pas confondre la masse innocente de notre peuple qui a été et ne cesse d'être franco-anglophile, avec ses dirigeants d'occasion; les Vieux-Turcs avec nos soi-disant Jeunes-Turcs qui n'ont rien de jeune, ni rien de turc, la plupart étant des renégats et d'origine étrangère aux Tchagataï qui composent le fond de la race turque. Que leur juste colère s'appesantisse sur les Enver, les Djemal, les Nazim, les Ahmed Riza, les Djavid et *tutti quanti*, mais surtout sur le plus coupable de tous, Talaat bey, le dictateur dont tous les autres ne sont que des acolytes, il est vrai, mais subordonnés à la volonté impérieuse de cet ancien commis des postes qui les domine tous de toute la hauteur de son ignorance et de son immuable férocité.

A Fight for Coal Mines.

The *Morning Post* on Monday published a despatch from its Bucharest correspondent dealing with "The Campaign in the Carpathians." In the course of this article the writer refers to an official *communiqué* which announced that a Roumanian detachment, probably small in number, had advanced as far as the defile of Merishor, occupying Petroshani; and to a later *communiqué* announcing that "the troops are entrenching themselves between the north of the defile and the south of Petroshani." He then proceeds:—

The strategic object having been attained, it may be asked why our troops advanced as far as Merishor where a superior force of Hungarians were able to repulse them. It is evident to anyone acquainted with the surrounding circumstances that the coal mines of Petroshani, which to us are a luxury, are an absolute necessity to the Hungarians. The Hungarians saw that we should not be so foolish as to isolate in the Jiu Valley too large a number of troops, and they brought up every man they had available to save their coal mines. It is not yet known whether our troops destroyed the mines during their occupation. If not, they will have to do so next time, and if that occasion does not arrive because the Hungarians keep a superior military force at Petroshani, so much the better, since the object of the war is to defeat the army of the enemy or to immobilise as many of its men as possible.

The incident is instructive, because it serves to remind us of the extreme importance to the enemy of every coal mine he can possibly hope to retain. Similarly, the possession, or loss, of oil-fields is likely to have a far-reaching effect on the war.

The Price of Error.

In an article entitled "People Who Err," the *Daily Express* writes strongly of past blunders in our policy in the Near East, and more strongly of King Constantine's:—

During the past two years the statesman has blundered far more often than the soldier, and his blunders, particularly in the Balkans, have had costly consequences. Bulgaria was blundered into the arms of Potsdam, and the want of the strong hand is responsible for the muddles in Greece. King Constantine is still surrounded by German agents, and he is still evidently determined to serve his brother-in-law as effectively as he can. His policy is detested by the immense majority of his people. He will never be forgiven for his treacherous surrender of Macedonian towns to the Greek's hereditary enemy. . . . The King's father owed his crown to France and Great Britain. They who set up can also pull down. Constantine has had rope enough. He is determined to pay no heed to warning or advice. The continued intrigues in the Greek capital are hindering the campaign in the south-east, and are a fruitful source of weakness and distraction. It has become the duty of the Allies, both to Greece and to the general European cause, to bundle out this Teutonic-Danish King, and to set up a really national Government in Athens.

The Example of Roumania.

In an article entitled "A Military Stocktaking," a writer in the *Spectator* expresses the opinion that Roumania "has set us all an admirable example. When the war began the Roumanian people chose, and as we think most wisely chose, the bold part of advancing at once to the liberation of Transylvania and their unhappy brethren who have suffered so long and cruelly under the Austrian yoke." He goes on to say:—

The German General Staff, with that boldness of design and cleverness in political calculations which have always distinguished them, at once replied by an attempt to strike at the vital interests, or what seemed the vital interests, of Roumania by an invasion through Bulgaria of the Dobrudja, the great stretch of level swampy plain which lies between the Danube and the Black Sea. The country at this time of year offers few obstacles to an invading army, for that army has its flanks protected by the sea and the wide-stretching reaches of the great river while it appears to imperil the very safety of the Roumanian nation by striking a blow at the heart. A hostile army in the Dobrudja looks most unpleasantly near to the Roumanian capital. In truth, the German General Staff have been trying Frederick the Great's system of strategy. Frederick the Great boasted that he made the enemy Dragon turn back by treading hard on its tail. Happily, the Roumanian Dragon has a better head and a better heart than Frederick the Great's enemy. With a fortitude which is wholly admirable, the Roumanians have prosecuted their main objective, the invasion of Transylvania and Hungary, undeterred by the thought that the enemy seemed to be coming within striking distance of Bucharest. Resounding stories of successes like the storming of Silistria, and the alleged instant need for troops to defend the soil of the capital, were firmly disregarded. In a word, the Roumanians have taken their temporary setbacks with the most admirable good sense, and we may be certain that the German General Staff are now beginning to feel very unhappy at the failure of their strategic intrigue.

A Tale of Massacre.

On Wednesday *The Times* published an article "In the Hands of the Turks," written by an American lady, recently returned from Beyrout, who gives many interesting particulars of the treatment of the British in that city by the Turks. The opening passages of the article, however, concern another subject: the massacres of the Armenians. We quote the second paragraph:—

Here are a few facts about the Armenian massacres which we *know* to be correct. From one of the mission schools 157 boys between six and sixteen were taken away by a body of thirty soldiers "for deportation to a village at some days' distance." Only three of them arrived at that village. Near Kharput is a beautiful deep mountain lake, where foreigners used to spend their summer holidays. Ten thousand Armenians were taken there by Turkish soldiers Not one of them returned. In one of the villages on the Upper Euphrates a large bale was thrown on the bank one morning. It was found to contain the dead bodies of thirty-five babies. In Beirut, Armenian girls and women were sold in the streets for any price between 1s. and 5s. In three different places which we visited were camps of women and children, where mothers had to take off their clothes to protect their babies from the burning sun, and where any Moslem man could go in and select a child or woman and take them with him, dragging them along by the hair.

SERBIA AND GREECE.

Greek Press Opinions.

(From a Correspondent.)

Since the beginning of the offensive on the Salonika front, and especially since Roumania entered into the war, the Greek Press has started again to discuss with animation the question of the relations of Greece towards Serbia.

The Venizelist paper, *Rizospastis*, of July 17 (5 O.S.), writing on the occasion of the arrival of the Serbian army at Salonika, declares, in the first place, that M. Gounaris's friends feel uneasy. "It is only natural," the paper says, "that the culprit cannot bear without uneasiness the presence of his victim." But, immediately after, the writer adds that Liberal circles also are somewhat disturbed because of the presence of the Serbs. They are guilty also. "Can we," the writer asks, "expect the ordinary Serbian soldier to make distinctions between responsibilities, and to make a difference between the people and the Court? What else could he believe except that we, his allies, have shamefully deceived him, and that we are the cause of his ruin? What else could he think than that, while he has been fighting for two years, and is preparing to fight again, we are fighting solely to prevent one of our Greek noses from bleeding? Why will we not understand that the responsibility of their ruin rests partly with us Liberals, who have allowed our treaty with the Serbs to be put aside because of one person's hate? Why do we not see that we Greeks are different from the Serbs in that they have the right to call themselves honourable men, while we have renounced such a right?

"Our duty is merely to do the following: to admit our dishonour; to stretch out our hand, if they will accept it, to those whom we have deceived and ruined; and to tell them how we are ready and determined to rectify our mistake and to wash away the shame of it at any cost. This is the only thing left for us to do to-day. Otherwise, instead of showing silly anger and dissatisfaction, we should do much better to cover our faces in shame when we meet the Serbs."

The Athens *Hellas*, of July 29 (16 O.S.), in expressing its admiration for the heroism of the Serbian army, and in pointing out that this army has scored its first successes on Greek territory, says:—"This is a very handsome return on the part of the Serbians for the desertion and disloyalty of the Greeks. What a sad figure the Greeks will cut when they receive their own freed country back from the hands of the Serbs!"

The *Kyrix*, of July 30, says:—"The General Staff ensured to Germany the co-operation of Bulgaria by promising that Greece would break her alliance with Serbia, thus leaving Bulgaria at liberty to attack the Serbs. Afterwards, Fort Rupel was handed over to the Bulgars, in order to balance the forces in the Balkans, which were upset through the arrival of the Serbian Army. . . . We have deliberately trodden on the treaty with Serbia, and dishonoured the Signature of Greece."

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The future of the Egyptian oilfields, to which frequent reference has been made in these columns, continues to preoccupy the attention of experts. Results up to the present have not been over-encouraging—a circumstance that need call for no exaggerated pessimism on our part, however, as it is quite possible, if not probable, that none of the great oil-bearing strata, lying at a considerable depth beyond the deepest drill-hole existing in the Egyptian region, have been tapped. Sooner or later, if the fields in question are not to be a "wash-out," serious experiments with deep borings in the most modern sense of the word will have to be undertaken on a comprehensive scale. I have reason for believing that expert advice to this effect has been tendered to the Egyptian Government, which is of opinion that the proper oil deposits have not been found yet. Geological surveys, together with present results, certainly tend to the theory that they will not be found at the deepest level hitherto exploited, so that the sooner a deeper level is sought, the better for all concerned.

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I am glad to observe that the Egyptian Government do not intend to abandon the fuel problem without attempting again to discover a solution. The negative results of Mr. Wells's exploration and prospecting in quest of coal deposits will be recalled; Mr. Wells is now engaged busily in ascertaining how far cotton plant weed can be utilised as fuel. It would be necessary, of course, to convert the weed into some sort of compressed combustible if it is to attain any commercial value. But this is only one of the directions in which Mr. Wells's services are being utilised by the Government, for he is also experimenting with the manufacture of flax thread and other textiles, and it is no secret that the authorities are anxious that he should re-enter the service of the Government. Whether he will do so or not remains to be seen.

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Widespread interest has been aroused by the publication of the report of Lord Faringdon's Committee, and the recommendation that a great British trade bank should be established. Readers of THE NEAR EAST will recall that I have persistently advocated the establishment of such an institution, and have pointed out time and again that, particularly in reference to Roumania, it would be of inestimable advantage to British trade and commerce if it were organized soundly and conducted on reasonable lines. I am not satisfied, from the details available, that the proposed scope is all that could be desired. I can only deal briefly with the matter to-day; but it will be found to be a pretty general view among commercial men at home and abroad that to be successful the bank must have considerable ramifications, and be represented directly by its own officers in those countries in which its influence is hoped to be exercised. Anything short of this will spell failure. Meanwhile, other developments in connection with the scheme are spoken of, and the recommendation will be dealt with in a special article next week.

At the moment I can do no more than refer to the note issued by the Ministry of Public Works at Cairo, and telegraphed in summarized form by the correspondent there of *The Times*, regarding the progress of the Nile flood. "It is expected," it is stated, "that although the levels in the Sudan have fallen lately, the levels in Egypt during the greater part of October will remain at the highest at which the banks can be called on to withstand the strain. There is little danger that the river will overflow its banks, but the banks, however, might be burst, as the surface of the river in Lower Egypt is from 6½ ft. to 20 ft. above the level of the surrounding country. There is still danger of a probable further rise, but every precaution has been taken and the banks are being closely watched. The Ministry of Public Works is of opinion that, provided there is no relaxation of vigilance, the country may feel practically certain of safety." The flood is the highest for twenty-two years.

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Apropos my recent note regarding the claims which British subjects have been asked officially to prepare against the great adjustment, I am able to refer to some notes which the Public Trustee has just issued upon the subject. They will be found to clear up many of the points which hitherto have been obscure. The Royal Proclamation requires British subjects in the United Kingdom to make returns in respect of their claims against enemies. Such claims fall into two classes, viz.:—(1) Claims against enemy Governments, and (2) claims against enemy subjects, including, of course, firms and companies. Claims against enemy Governments are recorded with the Director of the Foreign Claims Office, unless they are claims in respect of money invested in the securities of enemy Governments, States and Municipalities, all of which should be recorded with the Public Trustee.

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The most important of the notes deals with claims against private enemy subjects and against persons living in territory occupied by the enemy, or in respect of property situated in such territory. Regarding the latter, the Public Trustee points out that such returns do not fall within the scope of the Royal Proclamation, but "in view of the information which they give," he hopes "that all who have these claims to make, and have not already made them, will do so. It should be clearly understood by those who have already made a voluntary return furnishing all particulars required that no fresh return is necessary under the Proclamation. If, however, anyone who has already made a return desires to amend that return, or to make an addition to it in respect of unpaid interest or dividends which may have become payable since the date of his previous return, he should apply for the necessary forms for this purpose."

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Information continues to reach me from Bucharest regarding the exploitation of Serbian industries and resources by the Bulgarians. I have already drawn attention to the shameless piracy practised in regard to the mining and silk industries, and now tobacco appears to have occupied the attention of the invaders. Large factories have been established at Monastir and Uskub in addition to others which were installed previously at Gumuljina. There is little doubt that the object of the Bulgarians is to wrest from the Serbians in these centres the little business and profit that remained to them. Since the factories were established the Allied advance has begun, however, and it will not be surprising to hear later on that the gallant Serbians themselves will derive considerable benefit from their enemies' industrial aggression.

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The Bulgarians and Austro-Hungarians are also paying attention to the Serbian forests, and the surveyors at Choupria and Rajague have begun, under instructions, to exploit the forest of Boukvitch. It was from this forest that the Serbian Railway management obtained most of its sleepers. My information is that felling has already been undertaken on a considerable scale, and I need not point out that, in this matter at least, the Serbian Government will incur heavy losses, because depleted forests cannot be restocked quickly.

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Apropos the article in THE NEAR EAST last week on trade in Greece, my attention has been drawn to an American Consular Report in which the manufacturers of dairy machinery are invited to turn their attention Athens-wards. For actual engineering details I must refer my readers to the Engineering Notes in this issue; but equally interesting is the shrewd advice the Consul gives to his compatriots regarding their possible dealings with the Greeks. It is interesting to note that he suggests that they can demand their own business terms "at present . . . but with the return of peace, when so many countries will be in the field, trying to capture the Greek market by their tempting offers, these terms will become too harsh." "These terms," it may be noted, are "cash against documents," and it will be as well for Greeks, who are tempted by unusual offers by Americans, to know why they have been made.

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Nevertheless, on general grounds, I give the text of the official American advice. It may be of use. "Great care should be taken in building up a trade here," he writes. "The proper method would be to act through a commission agent. There would be many advantages in appointing such an agent, conversant with the language, local conditions, requirements, etc. He would advise the American exporter regarding the manner of doing business, the credit terms offered by competitors, the financial standing of prospective customers and complaints of buyers, and could keep the importers interested in his goods. . . . It should be noted that the Greek business man, on the whole, works with very limited capital and requires two to six months' credit to sell the goods and then pay for them. There are many houses here entirely worthy of credit, and few bankruptcies of any importance have been reported in the last few years. The Greek merchant desires that all offers should be made him on the basis of c.i.f. port of arrival. He will cheerfully pay more in order to know exactly what the goods are to cost him, rather than take chances with regard to ocean freights, insurance, etc." All, or some, of which may be of interest to our own friends.

COMMENTATOR.

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Increased Value of Sudan Produce.

Three Years' Facts and Figures Compared and Analysed.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, Sept. 10.

Reports have been published showing the comparative figures of imports and exports for the first half of the years 1914, 1915, 1916, respectively. The greater part of the commodities of the Sudan are exported in the earlier months of the year as a rule, as the grain has been harvested; it is the season for the gum, the cotton is picked and baled, whilst animals are more easily moved in the cooler weather at the beginning of the year than in the hot months. Moreover, after June the great bulk of the population is employed in the cultivation of the food crops, and is not available for other forms of activity.

Striking Increases in Exports.

Most striking are increases in the following:—Untanned skins (sheep and goats), from £14,625 in 1914 to £15,070 in 1916, show a total of £22,652 for the first half of 1916. Ivory has increased in value slightly, but the output is only 4,000 lbs. better than 1914. Durra, on the other hand, shows an enormous increase, of 100 per cent. in amount and nearly 200 per cent. in value, reaching a total of £173,326 for this half year. Sesame, too, has increased in export from a value of some £50,000 odd to £132,081, the price appearing to be fairly constant.

The actual output of gum has not greatly increased, but the value of it has, and a sum of £470,597 is shown as the value of only a slightly increased production to that of the year 1914, when the value was only £287,519. The improvement in the price of cotton is shown by the fact that the same export in 1914 produced £171,140, as compared with £252,042 in 1916. Untanned hides show a decrease, but senna has gone from £8,448 in 1914 to £9,356 in 1915 and £27,443 in 1916, which is a very satisfactory improvement. The totals for the half years show as follows:—1914, £789,611; 1915, £746,654; 1916, £1,388,739.

Imports.

Imports also show an increase, but not so large proportionally, the totals for the three years being £598,083, £494,082, and £755,369.

The chief sources of increase are in sugar and tea, which seem to be rapidly becoming the staple foods of the Sudanese, whilst the enhanced price of coal is responsible for a good deal, 36,710 tons having been imported at a cost in value of £124,321. Most of the remaining increase is due to military stores and equipment, which in view of the expedition to Darfur is only natural.

Very notable is the increase in the value of sugar, for whilst the amount in 1914 was just under 70,000,000 kilos, valued at £114,000, approximately the imports in 1916 were 6,730,116 kilos, valued at £183,205. Tea, too, to the value of £23,261 in 1916 is £10,000 more than in 1914.

The chief factors in the increased values of exports consist in the increased price of gum and the much increased figures of durra and dukhn, the staple forms of millet grown in the Sudan, and in the increase of the amount of sesame. This is distinctly encouraging, as the growth of these forms of grain is natural to the Sudanese and does not entail any great expenditure of time, money, and staff in instructing them how it should be done.

Cotton Growing.

Cotton, for example, does require that the cultivator should be instructed, and also the picker, a much lower class of intellect. But the Government, which has always displayed the keenest interest in cotton-growing, can concentrate on the subject, confident that the normal forms of produce have their market, and will form a temporary income until the growth of cotton has been thoroughly instilled into the native mind.

At Tokar there is already a well-trained population that understands the business of cotton, but there are considerable expanses of land elsewhere suitable for cotton, which can be employed before the canalisation schemes come into effect. Indeed, the encouragement of cotton in the flooded spaces of the land lying near the banks of the Blue Nile in Sennar Province will form excellent training grounds, so that when the irrigation of the Gezira is an accomplished fact a large number of the population living in the neighbourhood will be fully capable of cultivating in the approved fashion.

Satisfactory Prices.

The very satisfactory prices obtained for Sudan cotton are enough to encourage the native, and he has only to be watched to see that he does not adopt his usual fatalistic method with the seed and the cultivation. To a people accustomed to put the seed in and, after weeding twice, to remain in a state of torpor until Heaven ripens the grain, the more elaborate processes of the production of cotton seem to entail a great deal of work, and even to show a want of confidence in Providence, and nothing but a course of boll-worm or the like will prove convincing. But the Sudanese are as avaricious as their more western neighbours, and will soon realise where the profit lies. Still, their education must have its beginning, and the sooner the better.

SUDAN GUM.

End of an Unusually Good Season

The following extracts are taken from the monthly report issued by the Commercial Intelligence Branch, Central Economic Board:—

During July, 1916, 1,772,100 kilos of gum, valued at £E79,069, were exported via Port Sudan, 4,813 kilos, valued at £E95, via Halfa, and 11,803 kilos, valued at £E264, via Gedaref.

The following table shows the value and quantity of gum exported from Port Sudan during Jaunary 1 to July 31, 1915 and 1916:

Country.	Jan. 1. to June 30, 1916.	July, 1916.	Total Jan. 1 to July 30, 1916.
	£E.	£E.	£E.
Australia	927	—	927
China.....	239	—	239
Egypt.....	7,298	2,566	9,864
France	137,281	8,662	145,943
Great Britain..	262,113	51,591	313,704
Japan	16,617	—	16,617
Italy	711	943	1,654
New Zealand ..	135	—	135
U.S. America..	29,896	15,307	45,203
Total	455,217	79,069	534,286
	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Total Quantity	10,432,551	1,772,100	12,124,651

During the same period in 1915 the exports of gum from Port Sudan were as follows:—

	Jan. 1 to June 30, 1915.	July, 1915.	Total Jan. 1 to July 31, 1915.
	£E.	£E.	£E.
Total Value	190,987	65,508	262,945
	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Total Quantity ..	7,494,766	2,412,000	9,906,786

Kordofan Province.

The gum season is now at an end. A few more kantars may come in in August. 7,794 kantars of 120 rottles (54 kilos) were sold in El Obeid market in July, including 1,395 kantars from Nahud. The total amount of gum sold in El Obeid market this season (November, 1915, to July, 1916) is 170,789 kantars, which is only 3,695 kantars less than in the record season of 1912-13, and is 2,950 kantars in excess of the 1914-15 season.

The season has, therefore, been an unusually productive one.

The price of gum in the El Obeid market during the month has been from PT. 140 to PT. 188 per kantar of 120 rottles (54 kilos).

DATES FROM THE SUDAN.

For some time past the Imperial Institute has been inquiring into the possibility of finding a market in this country for dates from the Sudan, and with the import preference given last spring to dried fruits of the British Dominions, as against those from foreign countries, the question assumed a new importance. Samples of dates from the Halfa province of the Sudan have now been examined at the Imperial Institute. The results were most satisfactory, and as the opinion of a leading firm of importers of dried fruit to whom the dates were submitted was also favourable, a small trial consignment of dates was obtained from the Sudan and offered on the London market. This was quickly disposed of at a good price, and the Imperial Institute has accordingly suggested to the Sudan Government that a larger consignment of these dates should now be sent to London for sale.

There are many varieties of dates in the Sudan, where the date palm flourishes freely as far south as Khartoum. Those now introduced to this country by the Imperial Institute resemble Persian Gulf dates, and were disposed of at about the same price. The present price of all dates is abnormally high, but there seems to be no reason why, after the war, Sudan dates should not still be able to compete with dates from Persia.

Samples may be seen in the Public Exhibition Galleries of the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, London.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

According to a Reuter wire, securities on the Stock Exchange show great firmness. Bonds of the last Five per Cent. National Loan are quoted at 84—10 points above the price of issue. Internal Bank shares are quoted at 53. There are many buyers, but no sellers. Agio has disappeared. The rouble stands at 2.30. The Roumanian War Budget for the fiscal year ending just prior to the outbreak of the war was £5,000,000 sterling.

Germany, in the past year, swept Roumania for grain, beans, and other vegetables to supplement the "calamity" crop. Even if the present crop came up to official predictions, it could not make up for the supplementary crops of Roumania. Even with good crops the loss of Roumania's supply would put the Teutonic food outlook in as acute a position as it was a year ago. Now this source of supplies is shut off, it is of graver import to Germany than another army appearing on the battle front.

Our (the *Financier*) special correspondent in Bucharest draws attention to an already-felt scarcity of chemical and pharmaceutical preparations, the private stocks of which have been commandeered by the military hospitals, etc. Buyers have combined, and are travelling throughout the southern part of Russia, but, as is well known, that country has not much to spare. Meanwhile, the hospitals, apart from the military ones, are already handicapped in their endeavour to cure, especially by the lack of fine drugs. It is understood that a large consignment is on its way from Vladivostock, containing goods from America and Japan. The normal import of chemicals and drugs averages 10,000,000 lei yearly.

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EGYPTIAN FINANCE.

Satisfactory Reduction in Deficit in June Quarter.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 11.

This evening the State accounts for the first quarter of the financial year were published here. They show that the Government finances are in a flourishing condition. Revenue amounted to £E4,591,290, as against £E3,695,246 at the end of June, 1915, and expenditure to £E4,781,351, as compared with £E4,350,501 at the same date. There is, therefore, a deficit of only £E190,061, instead of £E655,255, as was recorded as the result of the working of the first quarter of 1915-1916.

Compared with the corresponding period of 1914, which was before the war broke out, the improvement in the position is even more striking. At the end of June, 1914, revenue amounted to £E4,056,608, and expenditure to £E5,115,320. In other words, the current year shows an increase in revenue of £E534,682 and a decrease in expenditure of £E333,969, wherefore the net position is better by £E868,651—i.e., a deficit of £E190,061 as against one of £E1,058,712 two years ago. It should be pointed out that the first half of the year is always the lighter as regards collection of direct taxation, and that expenditure is spread as evenly as possible over the whole year. The prospects of a good balance-sheet are therefore very good.

Chief Increases.

The chief heads of revenue showing increases during the quarter, as compared with 1915, are :—Direct taxes, £E106,081; Customs, £E276.636; tobacco dues, £E126,008; railways, £E345,850; domains receipts, £E20,522; investment of funds, £E18,688; and sale of land, £E11,132; whilst the only decrease of note was £E26,930 under divers receipts. It is interesting to note that, compared with the corresponding period of 1914, direct taxes have increased by £E427,503; Customs by £E116,651, tobacco dues by £E57,105, railways by £E209,628, rent of Government land by £E24,646, domains receipts by £E19,300, and investment of funds by £E20,266. The main decreases were :—£E59,322 in legal fees, £E77,816 in port dues, £E40,347 in divers receipts, and £E146,149 in extraordinary receipts. It is evident from this that the improvement affects all the heads directly connected with the agricultural element.

Expenditure during the quarter increased by comparison with the previous year by £E17,794 under domains, by £E19,067 under public health, by £E31,968 under irrigation, by £E31,662 under War Office, by £E31,480 under post office, and by £E306.683 under railways. The only decrease of importance was £E17,820 under town drainage. It is again interesting to note that compared with the same period of 1914, expenditure on irrigation decreased by £E161,772, on town drainage by £E50.606, on War Office by £E70,418, on public instruction by £E26,827, towns and buildings by £E38,092, ports and lights by £E20,575, and coastguards by £E19,221. The only important increases have been £E10,809 in the Palace credit, £E80,162 under railways, and £E111,668 in the Moukabala instalment.

Capital Works.

It would appear that it will be financially possible to start once more on the various capital works stopped by the war as soon as the requisite material can be obtained, and there is no doubt that the cost of the White Nile barrage,* to which reference is made in another part of this issue, could be entirely taken out of the current year's revenue without any difficulty and without jeopardising even temporarily the financial position of the State.

*See "Engineering Notes" on page 529.

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COTTON-GROWING IN GREECE.

Interesting Experiments near Lake Copais.

The British Consul at Piræus writes that a British company carried out some interesting experiments in the growing of varieties of American cotton in Greece during 1915. The principal object of these experiments, for which seed was imported direct from the United States, was to find a quality of cotton which would mature early to escape damage by autumn frosts, and would be better in quality and yield than the cotton already grown locally.

As a result of experiments on alluvial soils a yield of 1,386 lbs. of seed (*i.e.*, unginned) cotton per acre was obtained with one variety of American seed. The native variety of seed on the same soil yielded only 684 lbs. per acre. On ash beds, however—a soil consisting of partially burnt peat overlying a subsoil of lime clay—a second new American variety yielded only 532 lbs. per acre, whereas an American variety which has been grown in Greece for a number of years yielded 922 lbs. per acre. Experiments with the same varieties are being continued.

An American View.

An American consular report gives some further particulars of the experiments :—

"The Lake Copais Co., which for a long time has been engaged in exploiting the large tract of land formerly occupied by Lake Copais (Topolias), has within the past year conducted experiments in the growing in the lake bed of several varieties of cotton—American from seed imported direct from the United States, naturalized American from seed obtained from well-known growers of certain American varieties in Greece, American-Cyprus from seed imported from Cyprus, and the ordinary native variety," the writer says.

"Experience has shown that the best or most profitable variety of cotton for this region is one that will come to maturity within a comparatively short period, that can be sown fairly late in the season (say toward the end of April), and that can be picked reasonably early (say toward the latter part of October), thus avoiding damage by spring and autumn frosts. This practically debars the growing of long-staple cottons, such as Egyptian, which usually require a longer growing period than the short staple variety."

Results of Experiments.

According to the director of the Lake Copais Co., the experiments were made with ten varieties of American cotton and four naturalized or Cypriote kinds. The director thus sums up results :—

"The experiments proved interesting, but in no degree conclusive. It will be necessary to continue the observations over three or four years, and this the company proposes to do. The imported American varieties were beaten on the alluvial soil by the native American, but this may be accounted for by the sudden change of condition, and better results may be looked for next season. In the case of the cotton grown on the central ashbeds of Copias—a soil consisting of partially burned peat of a depth of 10 to 20 ins. overlying a subsoil of lime clay—the results were rendered inconclusive for the reason that it was not possible, because of the contiguity of other crops, to control the water supply. Furthermore, the month of September was characterized by heavy rains, which restricted the early maturity of the crop."

WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS
Readers are Requested
kindly to mention
"The Near East."

TRADE NOTES.

Openings.

Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior for clothing, bedding, furniture, hardware, slippers, brushes, and other household necessaries required for Abbassia and Khanka Hospitals for the Insane, for one year, from April 1, 1917.—November 15, 1916.

Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Coast Guard Administration for the supply of general stores, including wood, rope, saddlery and stable necessaries, marine stores, bicycles, and clothing required during the year 1917. Copies of the specification and conditions of tender may be obtained from the Director of Stores, Coast Guard Administration, Alexandria, by whom sealed tenders will be received up to noon on November 15. A provisional deposit equal to 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent., of the value of the offer must accompany each tender. The tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt, or must have a representative in that country, and must give in his offer an address in Egypt at which notices may be served upon him. The specification, etc., may be consulted by British manufacturers at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

The British Vice-Consul at Chios reports that a local commission agent desires to obtain agencies of United Kingdom manufacturers of ironmongery, locks, etc., bedsteads; and Manchester goods, madapolams, calicoes, cabots, Oxfords, prints, cloths, and similar manufactures. British manufacturers and exporters desirous of being represented in Chios may obtain the name and address of the inquirer on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

To Shippers of Baling Wire.

The British Consul-General at Algiers reports that instances have recently been brought to his notice of shipments of baling wire ordered from British firms having been refused by the consignees in Algeria on the ground of the gauge not being correct. The gauge generally ordered is No. 13 (French), and the wire ordinarily shipped is No. 14 (English). The latter is little more than one-thousandth of an inch larger, and this difference might in the English trade be covered by the customary "drawing allowance," but in Algeria it is sufficient, it seems, to prevent the wire passing through baling machines.

Liquidations.

Deutsche Orient Bank A.G.; Receiver, Mr. R. E. Moore, Savoy Chambers, Cairo.

Société Anonyme Egyptienne d'Enterprises Foncières et Immobilières; Receiver, Mr. E. Moore.

Licences to Trade.

Joseph Cohen, Khan Khalil, Cairo.

NOTICE.

Société Anonyme pour la Fabrication des Cigarettes Egyptiennes marque HADJES NESSIM en liquidation.

Offers for the purchase of the following items of Stock and House Property will be received in the name of EDWARD D. JOYCE, P.O.B. 206, Alexandria (Egypt), Receiver of the above Company, up till 8 a.m. on the 15th of NOVEMBER, 1916 :—

(*a*) The TRADE MARK belonging to the Company, together with all the Stock of Tin Boxes, Labels, Cigarette Paper, etc., on which the Trade Mark is printed.

(*b*) The BUILDING situated No. 12-14, Rue Abou El Dardar, Alexandria (Egypt), belonging to the Company.

Details of the above can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, 12-14, Rue Abou El Dardar, Alexandria, between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon, on any day except Sundays, from this date to the 13th of NOVEMBER, 1916.

Offers must be made in writing, under registered cover, to the above mentioned P.O. address, and must be accompanied by a deposit in Cash of 10 per cent. of the amount offered.

Offers may be made for items A and B separately.

The Receiver is not bound to accept the best or any offer made.

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PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, September 28.

Currants.

The market has been very active this week and prices have advanced again 2s. to 3s. per cwt. Provincial is quoted 60s. to 65s., against 30s. to 35s. the same period last year. Amalias, 66s. to 69s., against 34s. to 36s. last year; Patras, 65s. to 70s., against 36s. to 40s. last year; and smalls, 64s. to 74s., against 36s. to 46s. last year. Considerable business has been done during the week in forward shipments, encouraged to a certain extent by the fact that the quality is very good this year, and the crop, according to latest reports, is calculated as the smallest since 1900.

Sultanas.

The demand continues at steady prices, with business done mostly in Afghanistan fruit at 76s. to 100s., while Greeks are quoted at 90s. to 110s. A further increase of prices is almost certain, for the available stocks are very small and future prospects are doubtful.

Figs.

The demand is moderate, with only small sales taking place at late rates, while business in new crop is very difficult owing to the recently increased restrictions on import.

Dates.

There is a good enquiry and prices are steady, with the probability of a further advance.

Seeds.

Linseed is closing rather quiet. London-Calcutta is offered at 79s. spot and 79s. 6d. afloat; September-October, 80s.; October-November, 80s. 6d.; while Bombay small grain is quoted September-October 79s. 6d., and ordinary ditto 82s. Rapeseed is inactive, but prices are well maintained, as available supplies are small. Toria is quoted for September-October 69s. 6d., with bold Ferozepore ditto 68s. 9d. Cottonseed is quiet. London-Egyptian, prompt, offered at £13 7s. 6d., and October at £13 1s. 3d. per ton. Rangoon beans have further advanced, £25 per ton being now asked for spot, while for shipment quotations are higher. Mustard seed is selling very slowly at late rates. Split peas are offered at 94s. to 96s. per 504lbs.

Oils.

Linseed oil has been more or less quiet this week. Spot, pipes, landed, quoted £38 5s.; barrels, ditto, £39 5s. Rape oil is steady. Ordinary brown naked, spot, £43; while English refined, barrels, is quoted £48 to £50. Cotton oil is firm, but in small demand. Crude, spot, pipes, £35; refined, pipes, pale, £40; barrels, ditto, £41; and sweet, barrels, £48 to £51 10s., as to make.

Oilcakes.

Cotton Cakes: Egyptians are scarce, buyers offering £10 7s. 6d. to £10 10s. for ready parcels, while for October shipment a good amount of business was done at £10 5s. to £10 7s. 6d., ex-ship terms. English makes are sparingly offered at £10 10s. to £10 12s. 6d.

Linseed cakes had a good enquiry, which brought a slight increase both for spot and forward positions. Best London are offered firmly at £14 5s. to £14 10s.; and East Indian £13 10s. to £13 15s.

SHORTAGE OF GREEK TOBACCO.

No tobacco has come to Egypt from Greece for the last four weeks, but other Greek products are still being imported in smaller quantities, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, writing on September 9. The reason why the tobacco import has gradually dwindled to nothing is not quite clear, but it is believed that the occupation by the Bulgars of the Macedonian districts of Greece is probably the cause, for the region round about Kavalla and Seres is famous for its fertile tobacco fields. As we have already stated, the tobacco stock in Egyptian ports is big enough to supply the country for about nine or ten months.

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CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Some Particulars of the White Nile Barrage.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 10.

It is highly probable that the wish often expressed in these pages, viz., that the execution of the capital works, which are of such vital importance to Egypt and which were suspended on the outbreak of war, would be proceeded with at the earliest opportunity, will soon be realised. It is understood that the Egyptian Government is at the present moment studying a project presented by the Ministry of Public Works for the construction of a barrage on the White Nile, and that the approval of the Council of Ministers will soon be sought for the commencement of the work. Although, theoretically speaking, this barrage forms part of the irrigation work which will have to be undertaken on the Upper Nile to provide water for the development of the Sudan and the extension of cultivation in Egypt, in reality it is an entirely separate enterprise intended for a very special and important object. It must be borne in mind that all irrigation experts, commencing from Sir William Garstin, have given it as their opinion that the Blue Nile water might be devoted to the requirements of the Sudan, as Egypt could safely rely on that of the White Nile for all her needs. It is for this reason that all works destined to improve Egypt's water supply will be carried out in the latter river.

Fighting Inundations.

In his last report, Sir Murdoch Macdonald, the Under Secretary of State for Public Works, dwelt at some length on the great necessity for providing some protection for Egypt against inundation. It is in the White Nile that this protection must be created. Whilst the original intention in constructing a barrage slightly to the south of Khartoum —this project was brought forward some two summers ago—was to create a reservoir upstream, and thus add considerably to Egypt's summer supply, the main idea underlying its erection is to set up some form of protection in times of abnormal flood. In days gone by the irrigation authorities had little reason to fear the effects of high floods. The river might burst its banks and inundate part of the country, but the damage done was always comparatively slight, and in certain parts the overflow of water came rather as a godsend and added to the cultivated area. But the development of Egypt has to-day altered the situation. The Delta is so thickly populated and the cultivated area is so extended that inundation might inflict not only financial ruin, but also great loss of life on the population. Consequently, something must be done to set up a safeguard. The authorities have been impelled not to delay any longer with the execution of this protective work by the knowledge that we have been passing through a period of low Niles, and that, as each year goes by, we are approaching more certainly to a cycle of high Niles, including, very probably, a year of abnormally high flood. Granted the fact that the irrigation works in Egypt are not sufficiently strong to hold up any abnormal head of water, and that the river banks, as Sir Murdoch explained in his recent report, are not of a nature to resist the pressure which the volume of water carried by a high flood would put upon them, the prompt execution of this work becomes of paramount importance.

A Million Pound Job.

War or no war, the first duty of the Government is to safeguard the welfare of the country and its inhabitants, and the financial and irrigation authorities are fully justified in their decision to proceed with the execution of this work without waiting for the advent of peace, with its possible further amelioration in the financial situation. The cost of this work will be approximately £E1,000,000, truly a small insurance against the risk that lies ahead, when one comes to consider that the cotton crop alone is annually worth at the lowest estimate £E30,000,000 to Egypt, and the damage that might be done in one year by inundation would most certainly, at the lowest estimate, come to 10 per cent. of that figure. The decision of the Egyptian Government is all the more justified seeing that Egypt had such a substantial surplus last year, and very probably will have a satisfactory balance at the end of the current year, and that the creation of this barrage will, at the same time as it protects the country against the dangers of inundation, provide water for a larger area, and thus repay its initial cost in a very short time.

American Push.

As frequently pointed out in The Near East, our American friends are adopting very pushful methods along the Mediterranean—and elsewhere. They are making great use of their fine consular organization. Greek trade in dairy products was the subject of a recent consular note, and that an attempt is to be made to capture whatever market there may be in Greece for dairy machinery is obvious from the document from which the following is extracted :—"It is believed that American dairy machinery, if once well introduced to the Greek market, would make headway against machinery from other countries, and that the demand would increase from year to year. The average Greek business man has a favourable opinion of American machinery, and many of them consider it superior to all other machinery. Most of the dairy machinery in local use, however, has been imported from France, Germany, and England. French machinery is used more than any other, because most of the leading agriculturists have studied in French agricultural schools, and naturally prefer to use machinery with which they are familiar. Some dairies prefer German machinery, as it is cheaper and simpler than either the English or French, although it does not last so long."

New Legation House at Cettinje.

From the current number of the *Building News* we take a brief description of the new British Legation House at Cettinje. The provision of the house at Cettinje was decided upon in 1911, as a result of the extreme difficulty experienced in finding adequate accommodation for H.M. Minister in this remote place. The work was finished in 1914. A property adjoining the King's Palace and the residence of the Crown Prince was acquired, and the old buildings of Montenegrin construction were largely demolished. These buildings originally formed four small houses, which had been altered and adapted for use as one residence, but the poorly treated exterior, with varying roof levels, remains practically unaltered. It was decided to remodel the whole, retaining parts of comparatively sound construction. The exterior was redesigned for simple stucco treatment, and a vestibule formed by making use of an open porch, constructed of reinforced concrete, which had been added to one of the houses. An arrangement was made with the municipality to take in additional ground in the front for the purpose of forming an enclosed garden. The difficulties of arranging a contract led to the work being carried out by the purchase of materials and the employment of labour direct by H.M. Office of Works. Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining labour owing to the two Balkan wars, and men of many nationalities, including at one time Turkish prisoners of war, were employed during the carrying out of the work. The architect was Mr. R. J. Allison, A.R.I.B., H.M. Office of Works, whose design was shown at the exhibition of the Royal Academy this year.

AGRICULTURE IN EGYPT.

Notes on the Cultivation of Wheat and Maize.

The Ministry of Agriculture continue to issue the interesting bulletins dealing with the agricultural affairs of Egypt, the latest containing informing notes by Mr. G. C. Dudgeon, Consulting Agriculturist, and Mr. G. Bolland, Botanist to the Ministry. The former presents some very interesting facts relating to Egyptian wheat as a possibly marketable product in European countries. In spite of the fact that it had become a common practice to regard Egyptian wheat as worthless for export, and to refer to the lack of "strength" exhibited in Egyptian flour, actual tests, says Mr. Dudgeon, have shown that the contrary is the case. Following the information supplied and the valuations obtained by the Bureau of Commercial Intelligence, directed by the writer in the Ministry of Agriculture, trial consignments were sent to England, which showed that remunerative prices could be readily obtained.

"Strength" of Egyptian Flour.

Then again careful chemical tests made by Mr. Hughes, the Chemist of the Ministry, have shown that "strength," the definition of which is the degree of ability possessed by the flour to produce a well-risen loaf, is exhibited to a considerable degree in most Egyptian flours. In fact, Mr. Dudgeon declares, the chief obstacle to the demand for Egyptian wheats in European countries lies in the state in which they are marketed.

He goes on to state that the Hindi wheat of Egypt, which can be considered for practical purposes identical with that shipped from India under the name of "choice white Karachi," could compete favourably in the English market with the Indian kind, if the same regulations for cleanliness as those which have been enforced in India were made to apply to Egypt. To attain this position it would only be necessary to wash all wheat before shipment, and to maintain a greater uniformity in the crops sown. This last is what is at present being attempted in the experiment farm of the Ministry of Agriculture, and an account of the operations conducted during the past year is given in Mr. Bolland's report, which states that so far about twenty wheat types have been separated from the ordinary Baladi variety. Descriptions of the types ultimately selected will be given later.

Irrigation and Maize.

Mr. Bolland is also responsible for the Bulletin of the experimental work connected with millet and bersim and for the paper in Bulletin No. 9 on the field trials with Egyptian maize in 1915. Mr. Dudgeon's notes in the same Bulletin refer to the fact that the rapid establishment of maize as an important crop in the rotation employed in Lower Egypt was coincident with the development of the perennial canal irrigation system, which only became possible by means of the erection of barrages on the Nile. He explains that in accordance with the extension of the perennial irrigated areas maize has rapidly taken the place of millet, with which only a few feddans are still planted in Sharkia in Lower Egypt, practically only the now canalised areas of Upper Egypt; and that while until in past years maize had not been largely exported from Egypt, a good external demand was created during the first year of the war, and this has steadily continued. France took no less than 93,348 ardebs last year, and England 67,063 ardebs, while 11,163 ardebs went to British possessions in the Mediterranean.

The estimated production of maize in 1914 was 12,132,334 ardebs grown on 1,698,606 feddans, and that of 1915 13,650,432 ardebs grown on 1,837,516 feddans.

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Operations in connection with the opium crop have been started in the departments of Kavadar, Strumnitza, and Negotin.

At the request of the Bulgarian Government the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Ministry has forbidden the transit through the country of cocoons.

The Government have placed contracts in Nottingham for the supply before Christmas of 4,800,000 yards of mosquito netting, needed mostly for Mesopotamia.

The Nile continues very high, states a Cairo telegram. Several regions of Lower Egypt are threatened with inundation. Every precaution is being taken to avert this.

This year's cotton crop of the Turkish Province of Adana will probably not exceed 20,000 bales, owing to the diminished acreage and the exceptionally hot winds that prevailed in June.

Messrs. Henry Bath and Son report that, according to official estimates by cable, the exports of nitrate of soda in September from Chile will amount to 207,690 tons to Europe (including Egypt), against 101,700 last year; 125,250 tons to the United States, against 75,790; and 3,980 to other countries, against 2,970.

A number of important new regulations have just been promulgated by the Sudan Government in connection with the harbours and shipping of the Protectorate, all of which came into force on the first of this month. The regulations comprise pilotage control, hire of port plant at Port Sudan, dues, and harbour rules, etc.

A note from Odessa says that a large portion of the shares of the Odessa Merchants' Bank has been acquired by the representative of a group of English capitalists from Petrograd. These, having become the controllers of the bank, propose to transfer the head offices to Petrograd, in order to develop Russo-English trading operations.

A recent Turkish law makes obligatory the use of the Turkish language by companies and corporations doing business in Turkey. For foreign companies this obligation is limited to their correspondence with the Turkish Government and to any documents which they may use in their dealings with the public. They are granted until July 10 (23), 1919, to comply with the law.

The story has again been received that Germany and Austria are negotiating a record purchase of copper. It is said that the estimates of inquiry ranged from 12,000 to 24,000 tons for delivery next year. Negotiations are understood to have reached the preliminary stage, and to call for all metal available for export from America in 1917, the copper to be stored there until after hostilities are concluded in Europe. It is to be shipped then to Germany, Austria, and Turkey.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

The following, which appeared in *The Times* of September 26, amplifies the note published on this page last week:—

Yet another increase of 50 centimes (5d.) per ton in the Suez Canal dues is announced to-day. The increase is to take effect as from January 1 next, and will make the rate for loaded ships 7f. 75c. (6s. 2d. at the normal rate of exchange) and for ships in ballast 5f. 25c. (4s. 2d.). The rates were raised by 50 centimes as from January 1 last, and it was announced in July would be raised by a further 50 centimes to 7f. 25c. and 4f. 75c. as from October 5 next.

Since 1905 the dues have not reached the scale now announced to take effect as from the beginning of next year. The advances in the dues are to be attributed to the serious falling off in the receipts, which declined last year by nearly 24 per cent. in consequence of the reduced traffic, coupled with the rise in working costs.

Receipts.

	Fr. 1915.		Fr. 1916.
September 21, 22, 23, 24 ..	640,000	..	620,000

CYPRUS CATTLE EXPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nicosia, September 5.

Large numbers of sheep are being exported from the island, and fears are expressed in native circles that this may lead to a shortage of meat or to the establishment of prohibitive prices. The papers accordingly urge that the export of sheep, and perhaps also of oxen, should be restricted or entirely prohibited.

The purchase of donkeys, as well as mules, for the British Army is being continued. About 350 of the former have been bought here at prices ranging from £5 to £7, and more are being obtained in all districts.

Shortage in Egypt.

The meat question is beginning to cause some anxiety in Alexandria and other parts of Egypt owing to lack of imports, states the *Egyptian Gazette*. Before the war the price of good mutton was PT.9 per oke and the price of beef PT.7. Prices have now risen to PT.14 and PT.10 respectively, and it is probable there will be a further rise. The causes are obvious. Before the war Egypt imported sheep, goats, and cows from Tripoli, Cyrenaica, Anatolia, and the Sudan. Now, however, all imports from Turkey or Cyrenaica are stopped. The Sudan has also ceased to export sheep to Alexandria, and the only source from which Egypt can still receive sheep and goats from abroad is Cyprus, but Cyprus cannot export more than a few hundred head per month. Of course, Egypt has its own *baladi* mutton, but the quantity produced is far from being sufficient to meet the needs of the country.

GERMAN "PEACEFUL PENETRATION."

The "peaceful penetration" of Germany has been discussed very frequently in the columns of The Near East, and further light is thrown on the subject by the following extract from the *Journal of Commerce* of September 26:—

"We have of late supplied innumerable instances of the peaceful penetrating tactics of the Teuton with special regard to shipping, but we are indebted to a paper published in Lima for another instance—in another sphere of activity. This Peruvian newspaper published as recently as last June an advertisement on behalf of the German Transatlantic Bank, of which the subjoined is a full translation:—

GERMAN TRANSATLANTIC BANK.

PURCHASE AND SALE OF BILLS ON FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

This Bank sells its Bills on New York at the following exchanges:—

By cable at $4.91 for £1.
By draft at sight at $4.91 for £1.
By draft at 30 days' sight at $4.93 for £1.
By draft at 90 days' sight at $4.97 for £1.

It buys Bills on New York as follows:—

Drafts on sight at $4.94.
Drafts on 90 days' sight at $4.99 to $5.

This Bank can arrange for payments by cable or letter in England, France, Italy, etc., at the most favourable exchanges. It will also remit by bills of exchange on Germany, China, Spain, and Japan by cable or drafts at sight or at 90 days' sight at equally advantageous rates. The drafts by cable are subject to the payment of a commission and the cost of the cablegram.

If "England, France, and Italy," why not Egypt and other countries in which we are directly interested, either by possession, occupation, protection, or by alliance?

SHIPPING NOTES.

The Greek barque Elli, of Syra, has been sunk, and the crew landed at Palermo.

The Greek steamer Assimacos was sunk on September 11. The crew was landed by the Norwegian steamer Beatrice.

Two large cargo steamers, each of 6,000 tons, are being constructed by the Fernic Co. at Galatz for the Romana Steamship Co. These are the first large vessels to be built by Roumanian shipbuilders.

TRADE RESTRICTIONS.

Exports for Morocco and Tunis.

The Director of the War Trade Department announces that undertakings in the approved form will be required on and after October 9 in respect of goods packed in bags, etc., for export to certain destinations in Morocco. The regulations on the subject applicable to exports to certain neutral countries in Europe should therefore be complied with. These undertakings are not required in respect of exports destined for the French zone in Morocco and imported viâ the ports of Mogador, Saffi, Mazagan, Casablanca, or Rabat.

The Board of Trade have received through the Foreign Office a copy of a Beylical Decree, dated August 8, and published in the *Journal Officiel Tunisien* for August 30, which extends the prohibition of export and re-export in force in Tunis to cover the following articles:—Acetones, and crude or refined substances which can be used for preparing acetones; animal wax, crude or worked; coffee extracts; menthol (essence of peppermint); monazite (ore of cerium, lanthanum, and thorium); and tea.

FIRMS BARRED TO EGYPT TRADERS.

The following is the concluding portion of the list of the firms with whom trading by persons in Egypt has been prohibited by proclamation dated August 28, 1916:—

Netherland East Indies.

Cultuur Maatschappy Goenoeng Goemiter, Djember; Cultuur Maatschappy Kali Klepoeh Goenoeng Passang, Djokjakarta, Java; Cultuur Maatschappy Montaja, Batavia; Cultuur Maatschappy Silan Doenia, Batavia; Cultuur Maatschappy "Soekabiroes"; Cultuur Maatschappy Tji-Karang; Cultuur Maatschappy "Tjikopo-Zuid"; Cultuur Maatschappy Wangoen Wattie.

Horak, F.

Kina Cultuur Maatschappy.

Tan Soen Tjiang, Maccassar; Technische Bureau Behn Meyer and Co., Sourabaya.

Wirbatz, Otto (or Wirbatz and Co.), Sourabaya.

Norway.

Bergens Blikvalseverk, Simonsviken by Gravdal, Bergen; Berger, Carl F. Th., Carl Johansgt 27, Christiania.

Excelsior Limfabrik A/S., Jernbanetorvet 11, Christiania.

Hausen, A. C., Larvik; Hordaland Sardine Co. A/S., Torvlam 31, Bergen.

Jorgensen, J: S., Kjobmandsgt. 28, Trondhjem.

Krogh, Rasmus, Christiansund N.

Olsen, Karnelius (Smörfabriken "Victoria") Bredgt. 10 and Jorenholmsag 14, Stavanger.

Parelius and Lossius, Christiansund.

Saltlager A/S (A. Meyer Johnsen and Johan Heldal), Bergen; Schölberg, Ragnar, Bodö.

Peru.

Arce, Don José Elisés (of Emmel Hermanos), Arequipa.

Bast, Rodolfo, Piura.

Gildemeister, Enrique (of Gildemeister and Co.)

Weiss, Carlos and Co., San Pedro 111, Lima; and Callao.

Philippine Islands.

Duft, Charles G., Manila.

Keller, E. A., and Co., Martinez 4, Manila.

Merlo, Timeto.

Porto Rico.

Stubbe (of Gandia and Stubbe), San Juan, Porto Rico.

Portguese E. Africa.

Breyde Johan (of the Mozambique Whaling Co.).

Goncalves, Paulino, Fontesville.

Mozambique Whaling Co.

Spain.

Albert, Joaquin Duran, Vervaga 12, Barcelona; Algarra y Postius Jaime, Trafalgar 37, Barcelona.

Badina, Lorenzo, Santa Cruz, Tenerife; Baget José, Plaza Hurinera, Reus; Barrau, Teixido, Passeo de Gracia 47, Barcelona; Bosser, Emilio Badia, Aribau 110, Barcelona.

Cao, José, Calle de Principe 50, Vigo; "Correo de Andalucia," Seville.

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Ditmer, Carl, Las Palmas, Grand Canary; Duran, Joaquin, Vervaga 12, Barcelona; Duran, José, Barquillo 26, Madrid.

Gil Juan, Paseo de Colon 19, Sevi le.

Hanne Antoine, Las Palmas, Grand Canary; Hernandez, Juan Castro, Santa Cruz, Tenerife.

Ituruagoitia, Viuda é Hijo de J., Bilbao.

Kalle and Co., Trafalgar 37, Barcelona; Kalle Kniesling, Gupillermo, Trafalgar 37, Barcelona.

Lluck y Cia, Paseo de Gracia 51, Barcelona; Lluck y Vinals, Salvador, Paseo de Gracia 51, Barcelona; Lopez and Co., Malaga.

Malaga Dried Fruit Company, Malaga; Marra and Co., Malaga.

Navarro, Salvador (Sucesor de Navarro y Capo), Rambla Capuchinos 8 and 10, Barcelona; Nolla y Badia, José, Cortes 612, Barcelona.

Paetow Carl, Las Palmas, Grand Canary.

Raich Hermanos and Co., Plaza Urquinaona 10, Barcelona; Rein and Co., Malaga; Romeo, Joaquin, Rambla Santa Monica 13, Barcelona; Rose, Louis, Hotel España, Calle Mayor, Madrid.

Serrano, Augustin and Cia, Malaga.

Weinhagen Gustave and Co., Calle de Napoles 107, Barcelona; Wirth, Robert, Calle Sevilla 6, Madrid.

SWEDEN.

Akerman and Dahl, Norrkoping, Andersson, Axel, Tornea; Andersson S. August, Skeppsbron 3, Malmö; Appelbom Nils, of P. L. Engstam (A/B), Drottningg 81, Stockholm; Arvum (A/B) V., Hamng 14, Gothenburg.

Bojsen C. V., S. Hamngatan 59, Gothenburg; Bojsen Sture, Föreningsgatan 52, Malmö.

Edström, Simon, Skeppsbron 11, Malmö.

Fredriksson G., of P.L. Engstam (A/B), Drottningg 81, Stockholm; Fridafors Fabriks (A/B) Fridafors.

Gredt Paul, Stockholm and Malmö.

Hamren, J. S., of P.L. Engstam (A/B), Drottningg 81, Stockholm; Hansen's M., Fabriker (A/B), Arsenalsgat 3, Stockholm; Hertz, Ellis (or Elis), of P.L. Engstam (A/B), 81, Drottningg, Stockholm.

Jaeppelt and Son, Malmö.

Klippans Chromlader Fabriks (A/B) Klippan, near Malmö.

Pettersson, Miss L., Brunkebergstorg 15, Stockholm.

Rondorf Conrad, Norrtullsg 55, Stockholm.

Sahlberg Th. and Co., Kaptensgaten 15, Stockholm; Steinmetz and Knetsch (A/B) Jakobsbergsgatan 26, Stockholm, and Sodergatan 26, Malmö; Stockholms Yllefabrik, Reymersholm, Stockholm; Svensson C.V. and Co. (A/B) Exercisgatan 16, Malö.

URUGUAY.

Castillo, Geraldo, Montevideo.

Removals.

BRAZIL.

Carioca, Manoel Vicente Manaos.

Diaz Garcia and Co., Rua General Camara 39/40, Rio de Janeiro.

Wiegandt, Para.

DENMARK.

Hirschsprung E., Studiestraede 5, Copenhagen.

GREECE.

Spiliotopoulos C., Patras.

NETHERLAND E. INDIES.

Force J. C. E. de., Medan.

NORWAY.

Kroepelien's C., Enke A/S, Bergen.

PORTUGAL.

Guedes Eduardo; Guedes Felisberto, Rua Augusta 124, Lisbon.

Mattos, Antonio, Rua 24 de Julho, Lisbon.

Worm Luiz B., Rua da Alfandega 160; Rua da Prata 133, Lisbon.

PORTUGUESE E. AFRICA.

Figueireido, Antonio, Palma; Ibo and Porto Amelia.

SPAIN.

Compania Sevillana de Electricidad, Calle San Pablo 30; Avenila San Sebastian, Seville.

Drack, Otto, Alicante and Valencia.

Rubert Sucesores de Juan, Calle Roger 9; Puerta del Muelle, Alicante.

SWEDEN.

Clase, Gustav S. Hamngt. 15, Gothenberg; Klarabergsg. 26, Stockholm.

U.S. OF AMERICA.

Kupper, Hermann C., 52, Murray Street and 536, West 111th Street, New York.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

Egyptian Hotels.

The nineteenth annual general meeting of the Egyptian Hotels, Limited, was held on Wednesday week at the registered office of the company, 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., Lord Claud Hamilton, M.P. (the chairman), presiding.

The notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors having been read,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The accounts for the year ended April 30, 1916, are in your hands. It is with great pleasure that I am able to draw your attention to the fact that the amount of the profit shown therein is almost as large as the profit which has been earned by your company in any year previous to the war. Last year, you will remember, I was in the position of having to report to you that the results shown that year were the lowest on record, and I think it is a matter of congratulation for us all that, despite the continuation of hostilities, the profits of the company have reverted to the normal. The management in Egypt are, I think, to be congratulated upon the results; they have during the last year laboured under serious disadvantages arising from the war, including the temporary absence of many of the staff on military duties, and for reasons consequent on the existing military situation. In these circumstances the local board felt it necessary to add to their number by the co-option of other members, and they appointed Messrs. Warren Gillman and W. B. Delany. This is probably a temporary expedient on the part of the local board, for their constitution and procedure are, as you are aware, solely matters which concern themselves.

Turning to the accounts, I have little to add to what is stated in the directors' report. Since the end of the financial year compensation has been received from the military authorities for the use of the Ghezireh and the Semiramis Hotels, which, although not sufficient fully to meet the claims made in respect thereof, has been substantial. As regards the asset in the balance-sheet which appears under the heading "Advance to and shares in the Swiss Egyptian Hotels," I have to inform you that the Semiramis Hotel, owned by that company, is now vacant, and this asset is at present unrealisable. The future value is dependent entirely upon the conditions prevailing after the war, and it is this in the main which has influenced your directors in proposing to limit the dividend to one year on the preference capital and to add £10,000 to the reserve. The plant, fixtures and fittings have been consistently and adequately depreciated. As regards the freehold and leasehold land and buildings, in normal conditions the value of these properties would be vastly in excess of the figure of £190,000 at which they stand in the balance-sheet. Under present conditions realisations in respect of sales of land are entirely suspended, and it is doubtful if there is any prospect of income from this source during the war. Proper reserve has been made for any bad debts included under the heading "Sundry debtors." The stock on hand has been certified by the managing director. An intimation has been received from Mr. Hug since the issue of the report that he does not desire to remain a member of the board of the company, which resignation has been accepted, and in due course a suitable successor will be appointed. In conclusion, the best thanks of the board and of the shareholders are due to Mr. Baehler and his staff, who have made the results of this season so satisfactory, and to the local board, who have had their share of anxiety and hard work during this difficult period. I now move: "That the directors' report and accounts for the year ended April 30, 1916, as submitted to the shareholders, be received and adopted."

Mr. E. A. Harrison seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved: "That a dividend of 5 per cent. on the preference shares for the year ended April 30, 1916, be and the same is hereby declared payable on and after October 30, 1916, and that there be added to the reserve fund £10,000."

Mr. E. A. Harrison seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The retiring director (Sir William B. Peat) and the auditors (Messrs. Turquand Youngs and Co.) were re-elected, and a resolution was passed expressing the shareholders' high appreciation of Mr. Charles Baehler's management of the hotels and of the assistance rendered by his staff.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

Ottoman (Smyrna-Aidin) Railway.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin was held on Tuesday. The directors had reported that the Ottoman Government still remained in possession of the railway and its revenues.—The President (Lord Rathmore) said the official returns from Smyrna carried them no further than August 31, 1914. They were incorporated with the present accounts, and the figures now given would be subject to adjustment when the returns had been received. He could give no authentic information as to the present condition of the line and rolling-stock, but if any alarming damage had been done to their property some rumour, he thought, would have reached this country. A statement of claim against the Ottoman Government in respect of their property had been lodged with the Foreign Claims Office. Theirs was a specially hard case. The company was the pioneer railway enterprise in the Turkish Dominions, and after many vicissitudes had built up a first-class system of railways throughout wide districts of Asia Minor. The enterprise conferred benefits on the population by giving cheap and speedy conveyance of their goods to distant markets and facilitating the introduction of improved methods of tillage for the development of the natural resources of the country, while the revenue of the Turkish Government from those districts was immensely increased. Those benefits the Turkish people, with whom they had always worked on the most friendly terms, and their rulers, reaped from the enterprise of the company. When a prosperous future seemed assured for the company war was suddenly forced on the Turkish people, contrary to the wishes of the vast majority, by a small clique of reckless Ministers, who acted without the assent or even the knowledge of their colleagues, and at the dictation of that disastrous German influence which had brought such havoc on all who had yielded to its selfish designs. Sooner or later the company would be entitled to demand that the good old rule should apply, "Those who break must pay," and that the heavy losses they had so unjustly suffered should be made good by those who had inflicted them.

COMPANY REPORT.

Ellerman Lines.

The report of Ellerman Lines, Limited, for the year 1915 states that the dividends on the guaranteed preference shares, the 5½ per cent. preference shares, and the preferred ordinary shares to September 30, 1915, have been duly paid, and the dividend for the remaining three months has been reserved for. The profit and loss account has been charged with £428,469, being the difference between the amount recovered from insurance on steamers lost and the cost of steamers contracted for to replace them. A sum of £550,000 has been transferred to the reserve fund, making that fund £800,000. The whole of the £900,000 reserve and guarantee funds are invested in outside securities, Government loans, or bank bills. Last year £500,000 was provided for depreciation, etc., and £250,000 placed to reserve fund.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.
Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.
GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc, Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c,

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COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, etc.

Messrs. Rothschild and Sons announce the numbers of 239 bonds amounting to £69,000 of the Ottoman Four per Cent. Loan of 1891 (secured by Egyptian tribute), which have been drawn for redemption on October 10.

The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due on October 1 on bonds of the Greek Guaranteed 2½ per Cent. Gold Loan of 1898. The necessary lists can be procured on application at the Dividend Pay Office.

It is announced that Coupon No. 24 of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt 3½ per Cent. Bonds due October 1 will be paid on October 2 by the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for week, 25 tons (last week, 7 tons); Hurgada production for week, 622 tons (last week, 640 tons).

Bibi Eibat.—Week ended September 17, 59,933 poods.

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Week ended September 16, 20,129 poods.

British Maikop.—Week ended September 16, 43 tons.

European Oilfields Corporation.—Week ended September 17, 84,000 poods.

Maikop Combine.—Week ended September 16, 5,186 poods.

North Caucasian Oil Fields.—Week ended September 16, 88,800 poods.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended September 16, 53,800 poods; figures for September 9 not yet received.

Spies Petroleum.—Production, including 3,115 poods from ambars, for week ended September 17, 149,615 poods.

Ural Caspian.—Week ended September 14, 2,565 tons.

ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, E.C.,
September 28.

The market continues very inactive. A few Aboukirs have been done at 15s. Some trifling transactions have taken place in Agriculturals on the basis of 4⅜ to 4¾.

Alexandria Water are still wanted at 11⅝ but there are no sellers.

Delta Lights are a firmer market, with some business passing at about 5¼. Delta Land have changed hands up to 9s. 6d.

Khedivial Mail Prefs. have been done at 3¾, and the Ordinaries are firm at 28s.

National Banks are quiet at 13½.

A few Union Foncières were done at 20s., just about 5s. up on the last transactions, and there are still further probable buyers at the higher price.

In Greek bonds the market has been quite nominal and prices are here and there about a point lower; but business has been at a standstill, awaiting, no doubt, for some definite form to emerge from the political chaos in Athens.

THE HUNS IN THE BALKANS.

The offices of the German-Balkan Association are in Berlin, Lutzowplatz 14. Its president is Heinrich Brühl, who, it is claimed, knows all that is to be known about the Balkans.

The proprietors of German goods in Greek ports are informed that the War Commission for German Industries, Berlin W.9, Lindstrasse 25 III., is in a position to introduce to them a well-recommended intermediary for the sale of these goods.

THE NEAR EAST.

Any Newsagent or Bookstall in the United Kingdom can supply copies of the NEAR EAST every Friday morning.

Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining the paper, a post card addressed to the Manager, 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C., will oblige.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27, 1915.	Price Sept. 22.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4% 1909	99	78	78
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	62½	62½
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	71⅜	71⅜
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	81½	80⅜
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	71⅜	71
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82⅛	67	67
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80¼	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	58	57
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	57½	56
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	50½	50
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44	43⅜
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	53	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50⅛	50⅛
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	68	67
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	77	74⅛
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	55	55
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	77½	77½
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	xd	xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	85	85
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	78	78
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	52	52
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65⅛	37½	37½
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅛	4⅜	4⅛
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	69	69
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	71	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	11⅞	12
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	2	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	6⅝	6⅝
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6⅜	6⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	3⅝ xd	3⅝ xd
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5⅛	5
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	13½	13⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	5	5
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5½	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	88⅛	88⅛
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89⅛	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅛	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅞	10	10
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	11⅛	11⅛
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	59⅛	59⅛
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	55	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10⅞	10⅞
Pirsens, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	55xd	55xd
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	15/-	15/-
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	91	91
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	¼	¼
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2¼	2¼
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	6¼	6¼
Do. Pref.	4⅜	3⅝	3⅝
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Invcs.	9/-	9/4½	9/4⅛
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	87	87
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	¼	¼
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	⅜	⅜
" " Founders	¼	¼	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	96	96
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	9/-	9/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅜	¼	¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	⅜	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11⅝	11⅞
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	12/6	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	25/6	26/-
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	95	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	18/3	18/3
Do. 6 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	28/-	27/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	89	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	1⅜	1⅜

OIL.

	Price on Sept. 20	Sept. 27.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	9/3	10/6
Anglo-Persian	21/9	21/9
European Oilfields	4/-	4/-
Roumanian	17/9	17/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Sept. 13.	Sept. 20.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4600	4550
Credit Foncier Egyptien	650	664
Turkish Unified 4%	66	63.25
Egyptian Unified 4%	90.15	90.10
Serbian, 1895	66	64.50

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON SEPTEMBER 14.

National Bank of Egypt	£	12⅜	to 12½
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	86	" 87
Alexandria Water Co.	£	12	" 12⅛
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5⅛	" 5⅜
" priv.	L.E.	3⅛	" 3⅜
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	127	" 130
Bons de Panama	Frs.	103	" —
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	60	" 61
" Privilégiée	Frs.	85	" 90
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	75	" 76
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2½	" 2⅝
Comptoir Financier et Commercial	£	⅜	" —
Building Lands of Egypt	£	¾	" 1
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	8	" —
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	4	" 4⅛
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	4⅜	" 4⅝
Unifiée	L.E.	8⅜	" 8⅝
Privilégiée		72	" 72½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4⅜	" 4⅝
" Fondateur	£	—	" —
Pressage et dépôts	£	29	" 29½
Nungovich Hotels	£	2⅛	" 2⅜
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	4⅞	" 4⅞
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅝	" 3⅝
" Ord.		21/-	" 22/-
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3⅜	" 3½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£	5⅜	" 5½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	104	" —
" Jouissance	Frs.	154	" —
Egyptian Markets		24/-	" 25/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	210	" —
" Div.	Frs.	140	" —
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	110	" 115
Egyptian Salt and Soda		18/-	" 18/6
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	595	" 600
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	308	" 309
" 1903 "	Frs.	246	" 247
" 1911 "	Frs.	254	" 255
Delta Lands		—	" —
Port Said Salt		33/3	" 33/6
Cotton Ginners		⅜	" —
New Egyptian Co.		7/6	" 7/9
United Lands	P.T.	—	" —
Levant S.S. Co.		27/-	" 28/-
" Deferred	£	5	" —

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 31 Juillet, 1916, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

	£E.
Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien	9,343,003
Titres divers	245,117
Comptes-Courants	301,017
Avances sur Marchandises	154,253
Avances sur Titres	1,147,523
Avances sur d'autres garanties	771,205
Effets sur l'Etranger	543,541
Effets sur l'Egypte	168,610
Immeubles et mobilier	235,745
Placements à courte échéance	658,125
Comptes Banques	747,528
Gouvernement du Soudan	427,745
Comptes Divers	217,516
Encaisse:	
Billets de Banque £E.1,218,557	
Or £E.86,743	
Argent, nickel, etc. £E.114,608	
	1,419,908
	£E.16,380,836
	£E.
Capital (300,000 actions de £10 chacune entièrement libirées)	2,925,000
Fonds de Réserve:—Réserve Statutaire	1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	6,664,652
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,322,101
Gouvern. Egyptien	3,008,140
Comptes Banques	628,941
Chèques et effets à payer	123,254
Comptes Divers	441,248
	£E.16,380,836

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Or	£E.6,403,690
Titres	4,396,310
	£E.10,800,000
Billets émis	£E.10,800,000
	£E.10,800,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended Sept. 16.	1916. Week ended Sept. 14.
Cattle markets	520	593
General markets	349	359
Cattle markets closed	13	2
Receipts (£)	869	952
Total from commencement of year (£)	35,873	37,502

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for eleven days ended August 31, 1916.

	1915. £E.	1916. £E.
Aug. 20-Aug. 31	4,775	5,420
April 1-Aug. 31	59,206	72,151

THE SUDAN TIMES.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 283.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The operations in the Near East continue to be full of incident to an extent to which a long period of trench warfare has rendered an expectant public unfamiliar. During the past week the enemy has claimed a "complete victory" in the Western Carpathians; he has certainly suffered a reverse at another point in the same range; the Roumanians have thrown a force across the Danube into Bulgaria, and the Dobruja battle line has changed its position considerably. It is, however, still too early to determine how the struggle in this part of the world will go in the immediate future. Political considerations, in which Hungary probably plays a prominent part, have compelled the Germans to devote special attention to the Roumanians. With General von Falkenhayn, who made way for Hindenburg as Chief of the German General Staff, appointed to the supreme command in South-Eastern Hungary, and von Mackensen in charge south of the Danube, it is evident that Germany is straining every nerve to secure a decision in this theatre. Such a course is entirely in keeping with the practice of the German Higher Command during the war. Recognizing that there is little chance of achieving any conspicuous success in the West or East, it resolves on a concentration against Roumania, with a view to encouraging the people at home, who are becoming depressed at the turn of the tide in the Allies' favour.

As at the Vulcan Pass, so at the Roter Thurm Pass, south of Hermannstadt, the enemy succeeded in driving back the Roumanians for some distance. Fighting began on September 26 in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, which would seem to have been a kind of "No Man's Land" since the Austrians evacuated it. The operations along the Carpathians, we must infer, are of a very open character. A continuous front, such as is to be met with in the West and East, does not exist, and there must be ample room for turning movements. Thus the enemy reports speak of the Roumanians being taken in the rear after some of the Austro-German forces had made a bold march through the mountains. The Roumanians admit that they were compelled to fall back, but are silent on their losses, which, according to the Berlin version, included three thousand prisoners and thirteen guns. Before the German Press, however, has been really able to do justice to this "feat of arms of the first rank," certainly before the Order conferred on the successful general by the Emperor can reach him, the news comes that the Roumanians have rallied, are counter-attacking von Falkenhayn's army at the Roter Thurm Pass, and have caused it to withdraw from some of the ground it had won. The Allies, therefore, will do well to leave the shouting from day to day to the enemy, and content themselves with the thought that the Roumanians are employing the tactics most calculated to increase the drain on Austro-German resources.

But while the Roumanian line is held at the western end of the Carpathians, it is being pushed forward vigorously in the centre and in the north. Further advances are recorded beyond Fogaras and on the extreme right wing, where touch is maintained with the Russian forces now gradually emerging from the Bukovina. Two thousand prisoners have been taken in a few days on these two sectors. It is the Roumanian thrust in this extreme south-eastern corner of Hungary that has caused so much heartburnings in the Dual Monarchy, especially among the Magyars. The excuse offered by the Hungarian Government is to the effect that at the time when the Roumanians attacked it had good reasons to believe that the Russians were about to embark on an offensive which was to exceed in violence even the other Russian attacks the Austro-Hungarian troops had already experienced. It was, therefore, out of the question to expect that Austria-Hungary would be able to keep a hundred thousand men inactive in Transylvania and allow the Russians to break through the Galicia line and "inflict irreparable defeat." The explanation affords an excellent illustration of the value of co-operation among the Allies.

For the moment, however, Roumania's chief feat consists in having thrown a large body of troops across the Danube between Rustchuk and Tutrakan. Their arrival on Bulgarian soil is acknowledged in telegrams from Sofia, but while one version announces that the Roumanians crossed in boats, another speaks of bridges, and adds that an Austrian monitor succeeded in destroying one of the bridges. As the bridges would consist of boats, the discrepancy may not be serious. The main consideration is that the crossing should have been effected, and at such a critical spot. The Rustchuk-Varna railway runs parallel to the Dobruja frontier.

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At a point sixty or seventy miles west of Varna the direct line from Tirnovo meets this railway; but von Mackensen will rely on both the Rustchuk and Tirnovo arms of the system for the transport of his material and reinforcements. Riahovo, where the crossing took place, is only twenty miles away from Rustchuk, and the distance from that town to Tirnovo, the key to the railway system of north-eastern Bulgaria, is only a hundred miles. If the Roumanians already in Bulgaria are in sufficient strength for a forward move, and General Averesco is able to effect another crossing higher up the river, which would threaten the railway west of Tirnovo, the position of the enemy force invading the Dobruja must become precarious. It is, therefore, no wonder that the report should be current that the Bulgarians have already begun to evacuate Silistria and Tutrakan. Without doubt they are falling back before vigorous Russo-Roumanian offensive, which in the last few days has secured a thousand prisoners.

The chief interest in the operations on the Macedonian front has attached during the past week to the extreme left of the Allied line. Here the Bulgarians held tenaciously to the height of Kaymaktchalan, and until that position was entirely in the Allies' hands it does not seem to have been considered possible to attempt a serious thrust at any other point. As a result of hard and resolute fighting, characterized by the most violent counter-attacks on the part of the Bulgarians, the Serbians at last succeeded in clearing the plateau. They were at once able to push on, and, with the French and Russians on their left, have made a notable advance towards Monastir. On October 3 the Bulgarians not only evacuated the positions which were the immediate objects of the Allies' attacks, but they have abandoned all their first and second line positions over a wide front. The crescent-shaped front now occupied by the Allied troops is at one end of the curve within ten miles of Monastir. Most probably the enemy has fallen back on fresh positions which also lend themselves to resolute defence. The Allies have to pay for the long period of immunity from attack accorded to the Bulgarians, which enabled them to convert the natural features of the country into really formidable obstacles for an attacking army. But it is a satisfactory achievement to have familiarized the enemy at this early stage of the advance with the habit of lengthy retirements.

On the Struma section of the line the river has once more been crossed by British troops, and this time the ground captured has been retained for occupation. Both on the western and eastern wings the Bulgarians have shown the finest fighting qualities. They have consequently suffered very serious punishment at the hands of the Allies, and we may expect another rapid withdrawal on the Struma front as soon as the supply of reinforcements is unequal to making good at once the heavy toll of casualties. For the moment the Allies' plans in the Balkans appear to be developing with clockwork precision.

Greece continues to draw a subtle distinction between a Cabinet and a Government. The former she has never lacked, but she has dispensed with the latter now for a number of months. Her last Cabinet, associated with the name of M. Kalogeropoulous, has now resigned. "Not having succeeded in getting into touch with the representatives of the Entente Powers, and considering that the situation hinders progress in national questions," runs the official statement, "the Government has begged the King to accept its resignation." King Constantine has complied with this request; and in the intervals of receiving and congratulating officers who have not joined the National Defence movement, he is in consultation with various political and military personages. M. Dimitrakopoulos, who declined the invitation which M. Kalogeropoulos accepted, is once more mentioned as the King's probable nominee for the Premiership. King Constantine's attitude, however, shows no sign of a *rapprochement* with the Entente Powers. Reports from Greece represent that part of the kingdom over which he still rules as little better than a bear-garden. After the outrage in the French Legation at Athens the Allied Governments demanded the suppression of the Reservists' League. Nothing, however, has been done to check their excesses. Disorders have broken out at their instigation in a number of towns, and generally they are taking advantage of the state of affairs entailed by the existence of a Cabinet which cannot govern.

The Allied Governments are apparently satisfied to allow Greece and her ruler to vegetate in their own impotence. Whether German money is beginning to fail or the logic of events is proving too strong for the King's pro-German entourage is not clearly established. But there would seem to be a growing number of converts to intervention in the war, and it has been reported that King Constantine himself has accepted the policy in principle. No doubt ultimately he will offer with a bad grace to take the step which ought to have been taken many months ago. As far as the Entente Powers are concerned, the interest they had in Greece at an earlier stage of the war ceased as soon as her capacity for mischief had been eliminated. With the army divided against itself and with the navy either wholly or in part gone over to the Allies, the latter know that Greece is not likely to interfere with their military operations, even under German provocation of the most alarming type. King Constantine, therefore, may continue to nominate Premiers and sanction the formation of Cabinets; but until he and the Government of the day can once more speak in the name of Greece, the Entente Powers will, perhaps, be well advised to remain out of touch with the Athens Administration.

For the present the jurisdiction of the Athens Administration, in so far as any is acknowledged at all, is restricted to the southern portion of the Greek mainland. The Greeks of Macedonia, of Crete, and of the Islands have associated themselves with the National Defence movement, and have accepted the Provisional Government represented by the triumvirate of M. Venizelos, Admiral Condouriotis (Commander-in-Chief of the Navy), and General Danglis (an ex-Minister of War). The headquarters of the latter are to be at Mitylene. As the purpose of the movement is not revolutionary, but is to secure the defence of Greek territory against the Bulgarians, an indefinite period of grace is being given to King Constantine in which to associate himself with the national will. In the meantime steps will be taken to raise a Greek force capable of playing its part in the work of ejecting the enemy from the districts which he occupied with the connivance of former Cabinets. Such an anomalous position must reach its breaking point sooner or later. King Constantine's obstinacy is now said to be restricted to a personal hatred of M. Venizelos, which will not allow him to make use of or have any relations with the man who not only saved Greece, but made it possible for King Constantine to recover the throne which he was held to have forfeited. If the Greeks ever have to make a choice between these two protagonists, it is to be hoped that they will be accurately apprised of the services they have respectively rendered to the country.

Not the least noticeable feature of the *impasse* in the Hellenic world is the solidarity of Greek opinion outside Greece in favour of the policy for which M. Venizelos stands and against the line of action to which King Constantine has committed himself. A meeting of the Greek colony in England was recently held in London, and the tenor of the speeches left no doubt as to the feeling of those present. There was a praiseworthy desire to use respectful language in referring to the King, but most of the speakers condemned his attitude

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in unmistakable terms. The resolution adopted, which was ordered to be telegraphed to M. Venizelos, was to the effect that "this meeting, representing all sections of Greek colonists in Great Britain, congratulates you and Admiral Condouriotis upon the action you are taking to uphold the honour of Greece, to protect her territorial possessions, and to assure the future of Hellenism. It urges you to proceed towards your goal without reference to any other authority, and assures you of every support." A committee was appointed to raise funds and enrol volunteers. The volunteer movement will be under the direction of Lieut.-Colonel K. P. Mavromichaelis, who is making an appeal to Greeks in foreign countries to come to the support of the national cause. In Paris a similar meeting allowed itself to be carried away by its indignation, and roundly resolved that Constantine XIII., King of the Hellenes, was unworthy of presiding henceforth over the destinies of Greece, and was to be shorn of the title of King, adding that "the constitutional régime having been suspended by Constantine, every Greek citizen is legally empowered to dethrone him by force."

An experiment in dethronement has just been successfully carried out in Abyssinia, which resembles Greece inasmuch as the peaceful tenor of the country's way appears to have been disturbed by German intrigues and bribery. Here, too, the ruler came wholly under German influence, and was persuaded to embark on a policy of pinpricks against such of the Allied Powers as were near him. Unlike King Constantine, he did not think of sending his brothers on missions to European Courts, nor could he count on his own shortcomings being viewed so leniently as the son of King George of Greece. In the pursuit of his efforts to play the Turco-German game, the Emperor Lidj Jeassu left his capital on a visit to Harrar, where he was in personal touch with a Turkish Consul. During his absence the Abyssinian chiefs held a Council at Adis Abeba; the Metropolitan released the people and chiefs from their solemn oath of allegiance to Lidj Jeassu, and the latter was declared to be deprived of the throne of Ethiopia. In his place a daughter of the late Emperor Menelik was elected Empress. The new ruler is favourably disposed towards the Allies, and for the time being quiet and security reign in Adis Abeba. Possibly the last word on the subject has not yet been said; but the episode serves as an excellent example of a dethronement carried out decently and in order.

One effect of the entry of Roumania into the war has been somewhat overlooked. Her dealings with the Central Powers in grain and other foodstuffs had achieved considerable notoriety, thanks to the efforts made by the Entente Powers to interfere with them. It is certain that the affected indifference of Germany to the closing of the Roumanian market to her does not represent her actual feelings on the subject. Between December last and March of this year contracts were made in Roumania for the supply of nearly 2,000,000 tons of different kinds of grain. The proportion of these orders actually supplied to the Central Powers is not known. It is possible that the full effect of the cutting off of Roumanian supplies may not be apparent at first, in view of the German harvest, but before the end of winter Germany's position, it is pointed out, should become critical, and it is then that the absence of Roumanian grain will make itself felt. On the other hand, Germany becomes deprived of her principal source of supply of mineral oils, which, next to grain, form the largest export business of Roumania, and if the Galician oilfields again pass under the control of the Russians, Germany will be unable to replenish her stocks of mineral oils, whether motor, illuminant, or lubricant. The effect of this shortage of oil in her munition factories can well be imagined, and it may not have been a mere coincidence that General von Falkenhayn's Army Order imposing the strictest economy in the use of guns and ammunition was issued at the time of Roumania's entry into the war

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 20.

The Coming Cairo Racing Season.

Just as we are approaching a fresh racing season, a rumour gains currency that certain obstacles may be raised which may seriously affect the holding of race meetings in Cairo. This rumour may quite possibly have its origin in a recent misunderstanding which resulted in the Alexandria Sporting Club, much to the general surprise and disappointment, suspending all racing for a month or so. It is sincerely to be hoped that this is but one of the usual rumours current in Egypt at this time of year, and that nothing will prevent Cairo from having its Turf season this coming winter. Those who may feel inclined to object to racing during the continuance of the war should bear in mind that, apart from the much-needed distraction and healthful amusement which the meetings last year provided every week for the troops stationed here, there is the very important and undeniable fact that the race meetings at Gezira have for years past had a most beneficial influence on horse-breeding in this country. Any stoppage of racing, even for one season, would certainly have a detrimental effect on a matter which is of national and, in present circumstances, of Imperial interest.

The New English School.

I understand that a sufficient number of British children have been entered to enable the committee to start the new English school of which I wrote you recently. The opening has been fixed for October 2, by which date it is hoped that most of the staff will be available.

The Fuel Question.

The coal crisis which Egypt has experienced since the outbreak of war, and which became acute this last winter, owing to the difficulty of obtaining ships and to the high freights ruling, has not unnaturally turned attention to the question of whether the agricultural resources of the country could provide material capable of being converted into fuel. Various experiments have been, and are still being, carried out with this object by private individuals and also under Government supervision; and at the Exhibition of Egyptian Industries recently held in Alexandria there were shown some briquettes, made out of a combination of various agricultural products, which, it was claimed, could profitably be substituted for ordinary coal. Whether in this particular instance the claim is justified or not remains to be seen, but there is reason to believe that as a result of recent experiments carried out here under official supervision the near future holds some important surprises in the matter of substitutes for coal.

Macmillan's Guide.

The remarks made by "Britisher" in The Near East of August 25 with regard to the latest edition of Macmillan's "Guide to Egypt and the Sudan" are cordially endorsed by all out here who have read them, or have had the book through their hands. Indeed, it is thought that his criticism was, if anything, far too mild; for there are several other references in the "Guide" to enemy concerns and enemy relations with Egypt, the Sudan, and East Africa, which, as it happens, "Britisher" did not mention, but the inclusion of which is none the less a matter of regret and intense surprise. It is remarked that the introductory note explains that the object of the present issue is to assist the many members of the large military force which has taken the place of the usual stream of tourists to Egypt, and that where transformation of an enemy commercial house is believed by the editors and revisers to be of a temporary nature, the name has been retained. In the first place, however, the inclusion of the references complained of could well have been dispensed with. This cannot possibly help our military guests, since they deal with factors which are non-existent at the present juncture.

Advice to British Traders.

Apropos of enemy trade, home manufacturers and merchants should note that they will receive every

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assistance in this country in any endeavour they may make to take up the openings now left by the elimination of German and Austrian firms and agents. I have good reason to believe that those in charge of the conduct of Egyptian affairs are prepared to look with lively sympathy on any such enterprise, and that the old obstacles set up by the former régime will not be allowed to stand in the way of British traders obtaining their proper share of business that may be offering. Those who may be prompted to enter the Egyptian market or to extend their relations with it would do well to get into touch as soon as possible with the various authorities. They must, however, understand that they must be prepared to mend their ways and come more into line with local requirements and circumstances. If they will show more elasticity in their conditions, more enterprise and more attention to the personal side of representation, they can, I am certain, be sure not only of practical assistance from the authorities, but of readiness on the part of the local trade and of the population to take their goods, which they recognise will be far superior to the trash that was foisted off on them by the Teutons.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, September 18.

The Archiepiscopal Election.

There is so far little prospect that there will be a large majority of electors in favour of any one of the candidates. There is a fairly general feeling that, although the three Greek Bishops in Cyprus are all men of distinction and zeal in the Church, it would be an advantage if an outsider of influence like the Archimandrite Chrysostomos, of Athens, could be unanimously elected, if he would consent to accept the appointment. The members of the Holy Synod, as well as all leading Greeks, are strongly in favour of proceeding seriously and without further delay to the consideration of reforms in ecclesiastical administration, which have long been needed in the island.

One of the chosen electors, a priest, met with a sad fate while travelling on foot behind his mule to Nicosia. He was badly kicked in the abdomen by the beast, and succumbed soon after from the effects.

The Turkish prisoners from Egypt, about 3,000 in number, are expected about September 23. The arrangements for their accommodation at —— are being actively pushed on. For work in connection with the camp several clerks and interpreters will be required, and these will no doubt be appointed shortly.

King Constantine's Spiritual Family.

The list of new godchildren for the Greek King is steadily increasing. Nearly fifty have already been baptized, and other batches of names have been submitted, which will bring up the number to about eighty. As regards the name Constantine, it is already one of the most common in Cyprus.

Greek Feeling in the Island.

Greek papers comment freely on the situation at Athens. While they speak very cautiously and reservedly on the subject of the King and the shifting Governments, it is plain that they regard with dismay and growing indignation the sacrifice of the honour of Hellas, the loss of territory, the blow to Hellenism, the strife of factions (the hereditary curse of the country), and the prospect of further impending degradation. The wonder is that they do not yet speak more plainly than they do, as Greek-born subjects are doing elsewhere, in all countries and islands.

To be a member of Parliament in Greece is an expensive business, says a writer in the *Daily Chronicle*. If the candidate is well-to-do he is expected to spend his money with a free hand, and "treating" is still a recognised institution at election-time. And such expenses do not end when the member takes his seat, since he is often called upon to give his services for nothing in a private capacity. A constituent, for instance, involved in litigation will rarely trouble about his barrister's fees if his member happens to be an advocate. Politicians, too, are constantly being asked to stand as godfathers to their constituents' infants, and an obscure Greek godchild may cost the Parliamentary godparent anything up to £2.

THE STATE OF SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 20.

The dark cloud that has been hanging over Syria seems at last to be lifting, either because the Young Turks are conscious of the impending end and therefore inclined to take a more reasonable view of things, or because of the firm attitude of the United States. A telegram just received from the editor of a well-known Arabic paper in New York by the secretary of the Syrian Relief Committee in Cairo confirms the news, previously received through a private channel, that the Ottoman Government has at last permitted the transmission of funds to Syria, to be distributed among the victims of famine and the war by a joint commission of the American Red Cross and the Ottoman Red Crescent.

Although the official replies received by the American Government from their diplomatic representatives in Turkey declare the reports published hitherto in the Press to be somewhat exaggerated, yet, judging by statements made in a letter received by a friend from the assistant secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., at New York, the need for relief in Syria is both urgent and great. The Central Relief Committee in Cairo has already received subscriptions to the total amount of over £12,000, and now that means of transmission are available the said committee has convened a meeting of the members with a view to consider the question of remitting the amounts collected. This, together with the much larger amounts that may be reasonably expected to have been collected in America from both Syrians and Americans, should go far towards affording material relief to the needy in Syria. It is known that, on the motion of the deputy for West Virginia, the House of Representatives agreed to, and the President of the Republic sanctioned, the fixing of a day on which subscriptions were to be received for the Syrian Relief Fund throughout the United States. It is not known here yet what these subscriptions have amounted to, but the well-known munificence of the American people and their present extraordinary prosperity justify the hope that they are very substantial. Apart from the authorised transmission of funds raised by public subscriptions, the American Diplomatic Agency here has just notified publicly its willingness to transmit both money and letters from individual Syrians here to their families in Syria, under certain conditions; and this should further contribute to the alleviation of the distress prevailing in that country.

Judging by private letters, it is the poorest classes and those who lived on trades that the war has temporarily paralysed who are suffering most acutely. Most fortunately the grain harvests are said to be quite satisfactory. The same is said to be the case with regard to fruits and vegetables, especially in the plains. In the higher mountainous districts of the Lebanon, however, the early cessation of rain about the end of April—in normal years the rains continue there till about the end of May—has affected rather adversely the crop of vegetables and fruits. It is satisfactory to know, on the other hand, that grain has been sown in the gardens and fields adjoining dwelling-houses, and more attention has been paid to this than to mulberry plantations. In this connection it is interesting to mention that the cocoons of the last crops are said to have been bought by Swiss, as well as German and Austrian, firms at magnificent and, indeed, unprecedented prices.

Another pleasing item of news that may be deduced from a private letter received recently from Lebanon is that conscription has not been enforced, as had been rumoured: because the writer of the letter mentions two young men of military age who up to the middle of July had been attending to their peaceful occupations.

SALARIES OF CYPRUS OFFICIALS.

A Cyprus correspondent writes:—In view of present high prices, it is not surprising to learn that many officials of different Government departments are again submitting petitions to the Government for an increase of salaries. A few years ago the Colonial Office recognised that circumstances demanded some increase for certain officials, but the percentages allowed were generally considered inadequate, and there appears to be ample justification for the present claim. The Colonial Office, as well as the local authorities, must be fully acquainted with the conditions of life in the island, upon which the officials are basing their memorials. It is represented that at least some addition should be made, if only to the pay of lower officials, for the duration of the war, should prices fall to more normal rates at the end. There should be no difficulty in deciding the question on its merits.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, September 20.

The French Legation Incident.

Those who pass the French Legation—which is situated exactly opposite the Royal Palace and the Ministry of War—see a distressing sight: the building is guarded by marines from the French squadron, and two sentries are on guard at the entrance from the Kephssia Avenue. The outrage which has led up to this humiliation was the result of the anarchy that has prevailed in Athens since M. Venizelos went out of office (February, 1915); for his successors have revived and encouraged all those pernicious elements of the old parties which M. Venizelos had suppressed. On the other hand, the circumstances of the case compelled the Legation to take steps for its own security, however bitter it might be to Greek self-respect. For it must be borne in mind that the Government, having been warned (by the German Minister, it is said) that such a demonstration would take place in the evening, sent a strong detachment to the garden of the Ministry of War, opposite the Legation; but in spite of their presence and of the guard at the Royal Palace, the attack took place. The offenders indulged in cries against France and England; they even fired pistols in the Legation garden; and yet they were allowed to get away scot free, passing before the soldiers sent to prevent the demonstration taking place! The incident is so scandalous as to be beyond any comment.

Resignation of M. Zaimis.

It may be considered that the resignation of M. Zaimis was a fresh check to the policy of intervention. In fact, I am in a position to state that the Zaimis Cabinet had entered upon negotiations with the Entente, and that these negotiations were progressing very favourably; but when they were almost completed M. Zaimis discovered that the King was not prepared to abandon the policy of neutrality, and consequently he insisted upon resigning. M. Zaimis has declined firmly to say anything regarding the true motives of his resignation, and has confined himself to stating that he considered that his work of forming a *cabinet d'affaires* was completed. By this he intended to express his opinion that circumstances necessitated a new orientation of Greece's policy, and that a passive attitude should no longer be followed.

Recall of M. Dimitracopoulos.

M. Zaimis persisting in his refusal to retain office, the King called upon M. Dimitracopoulos, a former Minister under M. Venizelos. As I have already informed you, this step was prepared for some time ago. According to statements he made to certain journals, M. Dimitracoupoulos was in favour of an active policy, and opposed to that of MM. Gounaris and Skouloudis. But, on the other hand, he wanted a General Election; which would have adjourned intervention by Greece indefinitely if it had not rendered it quite impossible. Evidently he aimed at creating a political party of his own; and he put forward pretensions tending to annul the effects of the Powers' Note of June 21, and to give him entire freedom of action. Consequently, at his first meeting with the British Minister he found himself faced by a categorical refusal to recognise such a Cabinet as he proposed; and he was compelled to tender his resignation. He had believed that by his declaration in favour of intervention he would wheedle the Entente into yielding all other points—a piece of folly worthy of a Greek politician of the old school, and rivalling the wisdom of M. Gounaris.

The Kologeropoulos Cabinet.

The sudden formation of the Kologeropoulos Cabinet, composed of adherents of the old Theotokist party, is regarded as a tentative step towards the reconstitution of that party, of which the leader, the late M. Theotokis, was a frank supporter of German policy. In Entente circles it is regarded as indicating a continuation of the policy pursued by the Gounaris-Skouloudis Cabinets, the real head of which—though he kept in the background—was M. Streit, who will also be in effect the President of the present Cabinet. It seems tolerably certain, therefore, that this Cabinet can hardly be recognized by the Entente Powers, since, owing to its composition, it will be unable to give those guarantees asked for in their Note of June 21 regarding the application of a truly benevolent neutrality and the free expression of the will of the Greek people. For, though the Bulgarian invasion has rendered the elections impossible for the time being, that is no reason for a return to political and anti-constitutional Cabinets, supported by the simulacrum of a Chamber.

The three protecting Powers, after having allowed public opinion to be influenced and falsified so long, wish, at last, to learn whether the Greek people approve of the present policy, arbitrarily exercised, and whether Greece is inert and indifferent at the time when her interests and her very existence are threatened. The duty of protecting this country, which they have assumed, combined with the fact that their own interests are also concerned, gives them the right to intervene. Also the three Powers appear determined not to permit any occult influence to affect the fortunes of the Greek people any longer. Yet, in spite of all the steps they have taken, the same intrigues go on under a change of form. Thus the leagues of reservists, in spite of their nominal dissolution, continue to exist, to work, and to threaten. Is it possible to put an end to this state of affairs, and, if so, how can it be done? There is the great problem to solve—and it is an anxious one, indeed.

Royal Words.

The speech delivered yesterday by the King at the ceremony of swearing in the recruits of the 1915 class was hardly of a nature to give the impression that the working of the Constitution, demanded by the Powers, will be restored. The *Patris* observes that the King, in telling the conscripts that they must render blind obedience to him, to whom alone they owe it—and consequently not to the country, as their oath declares—tends to create a monarchical régime, such as is hardly conceived of even in Prussia, regarding the functions of the army; and to make of it an instrument of the Sovereign's personal will. Moreover, the very just theory propounded by his Majesty, according to which the soldier has no right to act in accordance with his personal opinions regarding his country's policy, but must simply obey, is in flat contradiction to the policy which he himself has followed *vis-à-vis* statesmen selected by the people for the responsible government of the country and the direction of its policy.

A Possible Development.

This terribly trying situation is driving the leader of the Liberals and his party to despair; they consider that their duty will not allow them to confine themselves any longer to protests and mere words while Macedonia passes into the hands of the Bulgarians. The latter, in spite of promises given by Germany, have not hesitated to occupy even Kavalla. Yet all those who denounced M. Venizelos as a traitor when he wished to give Kavalla up to Bulgaria, only in order to secure rich compensation elsewhere, now maintain a discreet silence.

The Liberals are still waiting to see how events will shape. But if the present state of criminal apathy on the part of the Government continues, it is quite likely that M. Venizelos will go to Salonika, to place himself at the head of the insurrectionary movement, which would then spread rapidly, and would embrace the islands and Crete. Thus Greece would offer the sad spectacle of a house divided against itself; but that may be the only way of bringing about complete national unity.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, September 13.

The Fall of Tutrakan.

The news of the fall of Tutrakan, confirmed by the official *communiqué* of the 8th inst., caused no depression among the public. It is well understood to be only an episode, regrettable, of course, on account of the loss of life entailed, but unlikely to have any serious effect on the march of events. It will, indeed, rank in Roumanian history as one of the most glorious events of the great campaign undertaken by this country. For five days and nights about twenty thousand devoted Roumanian soldiers resisted with valour above all praise the repeated assaults of the Bulgaro-German forces quite five times as numerous, and vastly superior in artillery; and if they finally had to give way it was only when their number was reduced to a minimum, and after inflicting terrific losses on the attackers.

The absolute confidence of Roumania in its Army is one of the most striking points in the events of the moment, and doubtless this confidence will be amply justified in the end.

Far from having any depressing effect on the general spirit, the Tutrakan episode has had a contrary result. At all headquarters of the regiments in the capital volunteers are presenting themselves daily, demanding to be enrolled in order that they may avenge the Roumanians fallen on the field of battle. At the headquarters of the 2nd Artillery alone, for instance, where the average of volunteers was but about three per day, there presented themselves yesterday no fewer than thirty. The same regiment requiring 150 pairs of oxen, 350 pairs were offered, the proprietors stating they had brought their best.

Bulgarian Atrocities.

The frightful atrocities committed by the Bulgars and Germans at Tutrakan have caused great indignation throughout Roumania. Those who were waverers as regards the policy of taking sides against the Central Powers are among the first to demand ample reprisals upon the enemies across the Danube, and a fight to the finish is called for. "Let not a Bulgar be allowed to remain on earth" is the general cry. Prisoners were put up against walls and shot in batches by the Germans. The ambulance corps in Tutrakan, while waiting for wounded to be brought in, were set upon by the populace and put to unheard of tortures, women and children aiding gleefully in the atrocious work. The hospitals in Bucharest contain hundreds of proofs of the savagery of the Bulgars; but those who escaped are but a handful compared with those who fell victims to the frightful tortures inflicted on them by these fiends in human shape. The Roumanian authorities are causing strict investigations to be made, and soon another set of horrors will be ready to present, with protest, to the neutral Powers.

Austro-German Prisoners.

When war was declared all enemy subjects were ordered to be interned in buildings erected for the purpose in various parts of the country. At the last moment, however, the papers announced that the well-to-do Austrians and Germans of Bucharest would be lodged in houses prepared for them in the capital till "the lodgings" being constructed for the purpose in the country were ready. This has now been done, and as these undesirables are housed in hotels and other large edifices left empty by the mobilization and the general flight of Austro-Germans, it is accepted as a fact that the real object is to use them as a means of protection against air attacks, as it is thought that the presence of all these well-beloved in various parts of the town may to some extent deter bomb dropping.

There are in the concentration camps in the Jablonitza district alone 32,000 persons, subjects of the countries with which Roumania is now in a state of war. Those who have the means can arrange to live as they please; the poorer ones receive an allowance for food of 1f. 50c. per day.

MOSLEM PATRONYMICS.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Coptic Press in Egypt has recently been discussing the seemliness of parents bestowing English names upon their children at baptism. The concensus of opinion seems to be that it is an undesirable departure from precedent, that too much is apt to be expected from a child named Wolseley or Kitchener, and that there is a sufficiency of good old Coptic names to draw upon, less liable to be a source of embarrassment to the possessor. A train of thought suggested by this little polemic is the almost universal lack of continuity in Moslem patronymics.

For the benefit of readers other than Anglo-Egyptian, it should be explained that it is the custom of Moslem parents to bestow the father's surname upon the eldest son, adding thereto a second name which often has no *raison d'être* other than the whim or fancy of the parent. Thus, for the sake of example, where the father's name is Aly Hassan the son may be named Hassan Abdulla. In the result all continuity of the family name, and consequently all possibility of identifying an individual thereby, is irredeemably lost with the passing of the first generation.

This practice is all the more inexplicable in a country such as Egypt, where the pitcher has gone to the well in the same fashion for thousands of years and where continuity in tradition and custom generally is so carefully observed.* That it mitigates against the well-being of some fourteen millions of people, and will continue to do so in the era of development that is now foreshadowed, the writer cannot but believe.

Whether in an Imperial Service or a regiment, a college or a school, a profession or a business, a family or an individual, tradition, be it of good or evil, must always be taken into account. The word implies age, and age, whether in a violin, an egg, or an individual, claims the respectful consideration of all right-minded people. To multiply examples of the influence of tradition is unnecessary; they suggest themselves to the minds of us all, and the point need not be laboured. Where it is possible to trace tradition to its source, however, it will generally be found to have originated in an individual.

Now, they who win fame or distinction in any walk of life are comparatively few, and the majority must remain obscure; nevertheless it is always open to the humblest among us to found a reputation for morality and virtue, a legacy by no means to be despised by his posterity. He may feel a legitimate pride in having done so, in which case he will endeavour to inculcate and foster similar principles in his children, especially if his efforts be supported by the mother of his offspring. In time, continuity of example and of precept will tell its tale, and, allowing even for the ubiquitous black-sheep, these virtues will have become traditional in the family; for it is through continuity of qualities, characteristics, peculiarities—what you will—that they become traditional.

Egypt rejoices in the possession of a most enlightened ruler, under whose ægis much is being accomplished for the mental, moral, physical and economic welfare of its people. Does he, do his counsellors, realise the dormant possibilities of reform in this matter of patronymics? A man may have an evil influence upon his surroundings without setting in motion the machinery of the law. Repressive measures are all very well in their way, but it is better to work at the root of an evil than to wait until it blossoms and then lop off the flower.

In the opinion of the writer, this lack of continuity of the family name represents a lamentable waste of moral force in the direction of proper pride, example and incentive. The descendant of a family which has borne an honoured name for generations will be averse from besmirching its reputation. Tradition will act as a drag on the wheel.

Two hundred Greek residents of Cardiff have sent the following cablegram to M. Venizelos at Canea:—"At this moment, when you have come forward to lead the Hellenic nation out of the degraded position to which it has been brought by a policy unworthy of our traditions, and out of harmony with the views of the overwhelming majority of the Greeks in the motherland and throughout the world, the Hellenes of Cardiff unite to hail you as the saviour of our nation, and hereby declare our unbounded confidence in and determination to support your leadership, firmly convinced that in your hands our country will be redeemed from the humiliating situation in which, in the eyes of all true Greeks and of the friends of the Hellenes, it has been unconstitutionally placed to the detriment of the real interests and ideals of the Greek people."

* Occasionally nowadays the petroleum tin is a substitute for the pitcher.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

FROM AUSTRALIA TO GALLIPOLI.*

This book is a straightforward, manly account of an Australian trooper from the day of his passing the riding test at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, to the evacuation of the Gallipoli Peninsula. His readers share with him the varying fortunes of the Australian Light Horse, a famous mounted regiment who were destined to leave their beloved horses behind in Egypt with many regrets and win immortal fame for themselves as infantry. As one sergeant of Boer War renown said rather pathetically, "I went to South Africa as infantry and was given a horse, and they sent me to North Africa as cavalry and then turned me into infantry."

The book must make a personal appeal to all those who had near and dear ones in the Australian or New Zealand forces at the Dardanelles, and it will be read by all with a thrill of pride at the immortal story, so simply and naturally told, of those great souls whose attacks nothing but death could stop, and whose only fault was an impetuousness that led them to take more trenches than the number they were bidden to occupy. There is no complaining among these men, no carping criticism at the military authorities or Government for any shortcomings, no discussion of the policy of evacuation. The personal element in the narrative introduces us to men who have fought and fallen—their photographs are there—and one can almost feel one knew the great-hearted Colonel Hubert Harris, of the 5th Light Horse, or popular Lieutenant Robson, "Robbo," the quartermaster.

The first few chapters deal with the voyage to Egypt and the sojourn there, and the part played by the Australian troops in repelling the first attack on the Canal. A certain incident in Cairo is referred to. It was not a very creditable one, but very human, and caused chiefly by "high spirits and the chafing under the monotony of camp life in Egypt."

The story of the first landing and the charges up the cliffs are graphically told, and all the little daily incidents of life and death on those fatal shores are most vividly set before the reader, including an account of a visit of two hours to a hospital ship, which is described as being like a visit to heaven straight from hell. One chapter is devoted to "Bombs" and another to the aeroplanes, whilst the "Padre" comes in for fine and well-deserved tribute, as well as the Church militant. The chapter on the taking of Lonesome Pine is an epic of immortal heroism.

The loss of mails, some 250 bags, in a barge, being sunk by a shell just before reaching the beach, was a bitter blow to men so far from home as these Australians; and a pathetic description is given of the disappointed man who got no letters on mail day, and of the piles of letters which arrive too late to give cheer to the men they were destined for. Cheerfulness and pathos run all through this very human book, and there is a delightful tale of the Anzac who was roused to anger by getting a letter from a friend saying, "We're having rather a bad drought in this district; you're well out of it." He wrote back: "Come over here," and, after painting a picture of a battle or two, he concluded: "It is nearly as bad as your drought, and you're well out of it." Later the two men met at Gallipoli.

The losses were bitter, in some cases only 100 remaining out of the original 1,200, and in one case the 3rd Brigade lost thirty-two officers and 400 men in ten minutes, and the 8th and 10th Light Horse are described as "just thinned out and wilted away" under the machine-gun fire.

The departure from Gallipoli was a bitter one: disappointment at failure and deep regret at leaving so many gallant comrades behind. This is very well expressed in the poem "Anzac," which, with another called "Gallipoli," by L. H. Allen, completes a book that will be read with pride and pleasure, be the reader of this country or of the great-hearted country "down under" which has sent so many of her gallant sons to fight in the noble cause.

* "Trooper Bluegum at the Dardanelles." By Oliver Hogue. (Melrose. 3s. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

Lady Frazer has translated M. Chéradame's book, "The Pan-German Plot Unveiled," which Mr. Murray will publish shortly, and Lord Cromer contributes an Introduction.

Mr. Secker has published "Mahomet, Founder of Islam," by G. M. Draycott. The price of the book is half-a-guinea (net).

L'Imprimerie de l'Est has issued "La Politique de la Grece," a French translation of the speeches delivered by M. Venizelos last October and November in the Greek Parliament. The price is 3 fr.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The War in Eastern Europe. Described by John Reed. Pictured by Boardman Robinson. (Eveleigh Nash Company. 10s. 6d. net.)

Half-hours at Helles. By A. P. Herbert. (Oxford: B. H. Blackwell. 1s. net.)

Intellectual Poland: A Lecture Delivered at Cambridge on May 19, 1916. By Leon Litwinski. With a Preface by Lord Bryce. (George Allen and Unwin. [For the Polish Information Committee.] 6d. net.)

An officer who was taken prisoner at Kut-el-Amarah has written to a friend at Simla:—"We are well treated, and the climate of Kastamouni is delightful. The accommodation is good and the food wholesome. Our health is perfect. Our only want is warm clothing and sketching materials."

On Monday evening, at University College, Professor Pollard lectured on "The Turning of the Tide." Referring to operations in the Near East, he said that the defence of the Dobruja was bound to be left to a large extent to Russia, and clearly the Russian preparations were not quite up to date. The consequence is that Roumania is not in a very enviable position at present. The Central Empires are attempting to cut Roumania out of the Entente; it is obviously the duty of the Allies as a whole, and Russia in particular, to prevent this. On the Salonika front our task from the military point of view is of the utmost difficulty. We have succeeded in driving the Bulgarians out of Greece, where their incursions were made with the goodwill, and probably at the invitation of, the King of Greece. The only hope of a satisfactory solution in Greece is the success of the revolutionary movement headed by Venizelos; and if it is able to impose upon their pro-German King a national Greek policy it will enormously facilitate the progress of our offensive against Bulgaria. Meanwhile, we must look very largely to an advance from the north-east on the part of the Russian forces.

Speaking at the Kingsway Hall last Saturday, Private Matthew Fahmy, an Egyptian member of the Army Veterinary Corps, appealed for a united Africa in the determination of the British nation to defeat the Germans. "Even the worst parts of Africa are more civilised than Germany," he declared. "The dream of the Kaiser is to take Africa and Egypt. If he did, he would make our countries worse than Belgium."

That resounding termination to so many Greek statesmen's names, "opoulos," is merely one of the many Greek equivalents to our "son" (says the *Daily Chronicle*). The frequency of the ending, varied by "ides," "akos," or "akes," points to an emergency. Before the Turkish domination was destroyed the non-aristocratic section of the Greeks had no surnames, and these had to be found quickly along the lines of our Robinsons and Hendersons. Other ways of creating Greek surnames were tried. Thus, "Metaxas" will have had a father or grandfather who wove silk; while "Petalas" will furnish the surname of a man whose father was a blacksmith, but had no name other than plain Socrates. Higher in the social scale, families were known by their descent, as in the case of Venezeloi, who came centuries ago from Venice.

Public Opinion

Edited by PERCY L. PARKER

PUBLIC OPINION'S greatly increased and increasing circulation since the war began shows that it fulfils a most useful purpose to-day by way of inspiration and information. It gives a magnificent analysis of all the great problems—social, political, financial, and religious—arising out of this War of Nations which will alter the whole of life for the present generation.

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TWOPENCE WEEKLY

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The sorry figure cut by Greece ever since she declined to honour her obligation to Serbia must have made many people wonder what Lord Byron would have had to say on the subject, had he been alive to witness her shame. Should we have had a new Song of the Greek Poet? Some of these lines seem to fit the present case wonderfully, even as they stand:—

The isles of Greece, the isles of Greece!
Where burning Sappho loved and sung,
Where grew the arts of war and peace—
Where Delos rose and Phœbus sprung!
Eternal summer gilds them yet,
But all, except their sun, is set . . .

The mountains look on Marathon—
And Marathon looks on the sea;
And, musing there an hour alone,
I dreamed that Greece might still be free . . .

***

Again, how terribly appropriate seem these lines from another of his poems:—

Clime of the unforgotten brave!
Whose land from plain to mountain cave
Was Freedom's home or Glory's grave!
Shrine of the mighty! Can it be
That this is all remains of thee?
. . . . . .

'Twere long to tell, and sad to trace,
Each step from splendour to disgrace;
Enough—no foreign foe could quell
Thy soul, till from itself it fell;
Yes! self-abasement paved the way
To villain-bonds and despot sway.

We could almost imagine that Byron was touched by the spirit of prophecy when he penned those lines: that he foresaw the state to which unhappy Greece would be reduced by the small-minded, self-seeking men who have controlled her destinies of late. Truly, there has been little "splendour" about her modern history, but during the past eighteen months there has been "disgrace" enough and to spare. The only consolation—if consolation it be—for those who feel the disgrace is that it actually has been due very largely to "foreign foes." Byron could not foresee Baron Schenck and his myrmidons, nor could he possibly have conceived of those creatures attaining such power over the men who ought to have been the first to defend the honour of Greece. If only he could come to life again, how he would castigate them!

***

Have you read the interview with M. Derussi, the Roumanian Minister at Sofia, which Reuter's Petrograd correspondent telegraphed on September 29? It confirms the many stories we have heard before about the bribing of Bulgarian Ministers by Germany, and M. Derussi specifically mentions M. Tontcheff, the Bulgarian Minister of Finance, and General Boyadjieff. But the most delightful part of the message is that in which the Roumanian Minister is reported to have said that "Tsar" Ferdinand had burned his boats, "and would not spare the last drop of *Bulgarian* blood." That is no doubt quite true. But Ferdi will do his very best to spare his own blue blood, we may be sure.

***

The Egyptian woman of the lower class is usually an affectionate mother, in her own way, but her ideas about feeding her infants are often peculiar. She appears, as a rule, to think that the proper method of treating a baby is to keep it well filled up, so to say, and the consequence is that an appallingly large number of infant deaths take place every year, as the result of sheer overloading of the poor little victims' tummies. This is due not so much to carelessness or indifference as to sheer ignorance. The problem is: how to get the mothers to realise what a mistake they are making. And I heard lately of a case in which three Egyptian women were taught the lesson in a most effective fashion.

***

It happened in this way. The babies of these three mothers were in a particular institution in Cairo, undergoing treatment for various complaints brought about by over-feeding; and a certain English lady who was interested in the institution one day determined to try what a practical illustration of the evils thus brought about would do for the mothers of the little patients. So she had the three women brought before her, and on their arrival they found on the table a huge bowl of new milk, of which she invited them to partake. Flattered—for the lady was a very Great Lady indeed—they accepted the invitation and drank freely of the milk. When they paused in their drinking the Great Lady urged them to go on, and, for the sake of politeness, they did so. But politeness has its limitations, and very soon the trio showed a strong disinclination to drink any more. They felt, in fact, decidedly uncomfortable, and they showed it. But the Great Lady would take no denial; they *must* go on. And they went on—till the bowl was empty, while they received some sound advice on how babies should be fed, and so forth. When they began to feel pains they were invited to consider what their little ones must feel as a result of the same treatment to which they had just been subjected. There, perhaps, a discreet curtain had better descend. I hope the mothers saw the humour of the situation. They are, I imagine, unlikely to fall into the particular error of overfeeding their little ones again, and it is to be hoped that they will prove diligent apostles of the new wisdom amongst their friends and acquaintances.

***

I remember an archæologist telling me, once, of some curious finds that he made in the ruins of a Parthian fortress. Amongst other things his workmen discovered three eggs (goose's eggs, if my memory serves me aright) bricked up in a hollow in one of the walls; and elsewhere in the crude mud bricks themselves were found numbers of beads and small ornaments, which my informant thought had been thrown into the bricks in the course of making, with some idea of "bringing luck" to the building. This was brought back to my mind lately when I was told of some of the strange things that the Germans are using in their shrapnel—nails, buttons, and odd bits of metal of all kinds. Recently one of our men was carried into a field hospital with a nasty-looking wound in the shoulder. The surgeon examined it, and finding it did not go deep, proceeded to extract the bullet, when, to his own surprise and his patient's enormous interest, he fished out—a small model of an elephant! Was that put into the shell to "bring luck"? At any rate it has provided one of our fighting men with a souvenir of which he is, justly, not a little proud.

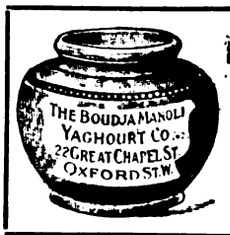
***

It is a long time since I saw a copy of the *Basrah Times*, but lately I have looked through quite a batch of them, and I am glad to see that the paper is going strong. Its size is reduced—there are only two pages now, and the Arabic has disappeared—but it is quite a live little production, on which the editor and his staff are to be congratulated. A feature that is especially deserving of praise is the information given in the form of notes about places mentioned in the various despatches and *communiqués*. This must be very welcome to many readers of the paper who, being "somewhere on the Mesopotamian front," have little chance of forming a collection of maps of the various theatres of war; and, as far as I have been able to test it, the information is trustworthy and clearly conveyed.

***

It was not my intention to give the *B.T.* an unsolicited testimonial, as I find I have done. But, on the principle of "What I have said, I have said," it may as well stand: for there have been so many grumbles about Mesopotamia that I suspect some of my readers will be glad to hear a good word for something and somebody in that part of the world. What I really set out to do, however, was to call attention to one of the advertisements in the *B.T.* This is not a "gem" like that famous announcement regarding the beauties of the Aleppo world to which I directed attention some time ago; it is a business-like notification that the "Basrah General Library," at 17, The Strand, Ashar, is "open daily for the use of H.M. Naval and Military Forces in Basrah." The institution, I note, has branches at Magil, Amarah, Nasiriyeh, Kurnah, and Ahwaz; and—here is the point—"Contributions of Books from officers and others will be gratefully received." Perhaps some of my readers have books to spare. If so, it looks as if they might do worse than send them on to the B.G.L., of which the hon. sec. is (Mrs.) Maude M. Gaunt.

CORSAIR.



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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Oct.	1916. Sept.		1334. Julhijja	5677. Tishri
6	23	Friday	8	9
7	24	Saturday.....	9	10
8	25	Sunday	10	11
9	26	Monday	11	12
10	27	Tuesday	12	13
11	28	Wednesday	13	14
12	29	Thursday	14	15

Sunday is the birthday of King Nicholas of Montenegro, who was born September 25, 1841 (O.S.).

Sunday is also the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Harald of Denmark, the second brother of King Christian.

Wednesday is the birthday of Prince Peter of Montenegro, the youngest son of King Nicholas, who was born at Cettinje in 1889.

Thursday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Natalie of Montenegro, wife of Prince Mirko, who was born at Trieste in 1882, and married at Cettinje in 1902.

Under date of September 25 the *Times'* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula reports from Bucharest:—Yesterday Queen Marie attended the opening of a hospital for wounded soldiers established by the Armenian colony here. Her Majesty is indefatigable in her care for the wounded soldiers, whom she visits daily at the various hospitals, bringing them gifts of bonbons and flowers.

Prince Andrew of Greece left Paris for Naples on Wednesday to embark in a Greek torpedo-boat for Athens.

Major-General Georgiescu, of the Roumanian Army, who is in England on a special military mission, had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday. Lieutenant Georgiescu, Roumanian Army, and Major R. G. T. Baker-Carr (specially attached) also had the honour of being received.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Nile upon General Sir Archibald Murray, the Commander-in-Chief in Egypt.

The Earl of Cromer was last Friday reported to be confined to bed with a cold, but by Sunday he had recovered sufficiently to be up all day. On Wednesday he presided at a meeting of the Dardanelles Commission.

Captain George Lloyd, M.P., left England on Tuesday for Egypt.

Lord Oranmore and Browne left his residence in Cavendish Place for Castle Macgarrett, County Mayo, last week.

Mr. W. J. Ansell, I.S.O., Chief Collector of Customs in Cyprus, has left London on his return to Larnaca.

The new Lord Blythswood, who succeeds to the title on the death of his brother, which occurred last Saturday at Blythswood House, Renfrewshire, is Major-General Sir Barrington Bulkeley Douglas Campbell-Douglas. He saw service in the Egyptian War of 1882, taking part in the battles of Kassassin and Tel-el-Kebir, and also in the South African War. He was born in 1845, and married, in 1869, a daughter of Sir Joseph Hawley.

Mr. John Wells, who has been conducting experiments in regard to fuel on behalf of the Egyptian Government, has returned to England in connection with these experiments.

Second Lieutenant Gilbert Legge, Royal Field Artillery, had the honour of being received by the King on Wednesday, when his Majesty conferred on him the decoration of the Military Cross. Lieut. Legge was formerly resident in Egypt, but had latterly been in business in New York.

An engagement is announced between Albert Guy Pawson, of the Sudan Civil Service, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pawson, of Howe Combe, Watlington, Oxon, and Helen Humphrey Winer, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mr. H. Lawson, of The Cedars, Chertsey, Surrey.

The engagement is announced of Irène, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Ross, of Alexandria, Egypt, to Captain T. B. Pritchett, Royal Field Artillery (T), only son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Pritchett, of King's Norton, Warwickshire.

An engagement is announced between Captain Eric M. Tabor, R.E., and of the Egyptian Irrigation Service, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Tabor, of Sunnydene, Eastbourne, and Elsie Grace Carey, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Herbert Druce, of Orchard Mains, Woking.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place on the 9th inst., between Second-Lieutenant C. A. Wilkinson, Middlesex Regiment, formerly of the *Egyptian Gazette*, and Miss K. M. Martin, daughter of Mr. W. D. Martin, of Travancore, India.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Mr. Everard Stokes, Manager in Egypt of the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation, son of the late Henry Stokes, of 4, Mayfield-terrace, Edinburgh, and Miss Irene Lusena, eldest daughter of Maître Enrico Lusena, Délegué au Caire du Conseil de l'Ordre des Avocats d'Egypte.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Order of El Kemal on Lady Graham, daughter of Viscount Midleton.

The Rev. Dr. Dearmer and Mrs. Dearmer are amongst the passengers on the P. and O. s.s. Kashmir, which leaves London to-day.

Under date of September 26 we note that the *London Gazette* contains the name of Temporary Lieutenant Frederick John Gordon Whittall, Manchester Rifles, who was awarded the Military Cross "for conspicuous gallantry in action. He led his company with great dash and for twenty-four hours, under heavy shell fire, occupied and improved a line of trenches. On two previous occasions he has displayed great courage in action." Lieutenant F. J. G. Whittall is the son of the late Frederick Whittall.

In the dispatches from General Sir Archibald Murray, in Egypt, of June and July, in the *London Gazette* of September 25, under "Mentioned in despatches and recommended for reward," occurs the name of Temporary Lieutenant Hugh Whittall, of the Royal Marines. Lieutenant Whittall is the son of Mr. W. J. H. Whittall.

News has been received at Alexandria (says the *Egyptian Gazette*) that Second-Lieutenant R. N. Dilberoglue, Coldstream Guards, youngest son of Judge Dilberoglue, former President of the Court of Assizes, Cairo, has been wounded in France. This young officer, who is not yet 21 years of age, left Eton to take up his commission in the Army, and went to France with his regiment in May of last year.

Lieutenant-Colonel K. P. Mavromichalis is appealing to the patriotism of Greeks residing in foreign countries to enrol themselves as volunteers in their country's service. A copy of his appeal will be found on another page.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mavromichalis has a distinguished record of service, having been through five campaigns, says the *Morning Post*. In the war against Turkey in 1897 he commanded the Foreign Legion, and in the last war when Greece fought Bulgaria he was a chief of artillery on the staff of the 4th Division. His purpose is to raise a large force in various countries, where among the Greek communities strong feeling prevails in favour of intervention to save not only the honour but the future of their nation. It is estimated that England and France can each yield 1,000 Greeks of military age, while in America there must be from fifty to sixty thousand, who, it is believed, would eagerly support the national cause, as they have previously done. There are also from twenty to thirty thousand Greeks in Egypt able to fight, many of them, as elsewhere, not having been born in Greece, are free from military obligation. The call is especially addressed to this class, and the best results are anticipated in view of the general sentiment.

It was announced at the Cardiff Chamber of Commerce last Friday by the President, Mr. T. E. Watson, that Mr. Leonidas Embiricos, now of Athens, but a Cardiff shipowner and a member of the chamber, had offered to place his entire fortune at the disposal of the patriots of his country. Mr. Watson remarked that Mr. Embiricos bore the noble name of the leader of the three hundred who held the Pass of Thermopylæ.

The Roumanian flag day has been fixed for October 26 for London and the neighbourhood. Those who are willing to help in making this tribute to our new and gallant Ally a great success should send in their names at once to the Organising Secretary, Roumanian Flag Day, 1, Central Buildings, Westminster, S.W.

In accordance with arrangements which have been made between the First Commissioner of Works and the Trustees, one of the swords of the late Lord Kitchener has been deposited on loan for exhibition at the Armouries, Tower of London.

This afternoon, at 4.30, at Eustace Miles' Restaurant, Chandos Street, Lord Headley will deliver the first of a series of lectures to be given under the auspices of the Central Islamic Society. His subject will be "Sister Religions." Al Haj Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din will preside.

Dr. R. W. Seton Watson is delivering a course of lectures on Serbia and Bulgaria on Thursdays at King's College, London. The first of these, given yesterday, dealt with Serbia's struggle against the Turks from 1389 to 1878. The succeeding lectures will deal with the Liberation of Bulgaria, the Concert of Europe and the Balkan League, the Balkan Wars and the Peace of Bucharest, and Austro-Hungarian Policy in the Balkans and its Influence upon the Outbreak of War.

Another lecture by Dr. Seton Watson at King's College will be given on Friday next. His subject will be "Roumania and Transylvania," and H.E. the Roumanian Minister—M. Nicolas Misu—will occupy the chair.

On Tuesday next, also at King's College, Professor T. G. Masaryk commences a course of ten lectures, entitled, "A Sociological Introduction to the Study of the Slav Nations." The fifth of these will deal with the Southern Slavs (Serbo-Croats and Slovenes) and with the Bulgars.

The Sufi Order, whose meetings take place on Sundays and Tuesdays at 86, Ladbroke Grove, London, W., has now entered on its autumn and winter session. Among the lectures, etc., that it announces is one on Mohammed, to be given by Inayat Khan on the morning of Sunday, October 15. On the evening of Sunday, December 3, Q. Abdullah, B.A., speaks on the "Essence of Islam"; while the week following the

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"Teachings of Islam" will be the subject of Maulavi Sadar-ud-Din. Of a somewhat different order will be the lecture on "Legends and Superstitions," to be delivered by Professor Henri Léon on Sunday evening, October 22. Among the addresses to be given after Christmas we note two by Dr. Abdul Majid, on the "Influence of Islam in Modern Civilisation" and on "Education in Islam," and one on "Sufism and Islam," by Sheikh Mushir Hosain Kidwai.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Bimbashi J. U. F. C. Alexander, 10th Sudanese, has been appointed Aide-de-Camp to the Sirdar.

Mr. G. E. Seabright, Sudan Civil Service, has been granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi whilst employed with the Western Frontier Force.

Bimbashi J. P. L. Mostyn and Bimbashi C. S. Northcote, Sudan Government, have been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam.

Kaimakam N. B. de L. Forth Bey, Officer Commanding Arab Battalion, has been granted the temporary rank of Miralai.

Bimbashi J. M. C. Scott, Egyptian Camel Corps, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

Captain E. D. M. Heriot Hill, Army Service Corps, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer, with the rank of temporary Bimbashi, and attached to the Transport for duty.

Captain A. W. D. Bentinck, Coldstream Guards, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer, with the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and is attached to the 9th Sudanese.

Bimbashi (temp.) S. F. McI. Lomer, attached Khartoum District, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

In an Army Order issued on the 10th September the Sirdar announces with regret the death of Bimbashi W. J. Maxwell, 10th Sudanese, which took place at Abiad on August 26.

The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* states that Dr. von Kühlmann, German Minister at The Hague, has been appointed German Ambassador in Constantinople, in the place of Count Wolff-Metternich.

In forwarding news of the appointment the *Times* special correspondent at Amsterdam adds: Herr von Kühlmann is known at Constantinople, where he was born, and his father was Director-General of the Anatolian Railway Company. Herr von Kühlmann, who is regarded as an excellent *connaisseur* of Eastern relations, has already spent some time in Constantinople during the war as First Councillor of Embassy. He became German Minister at The Hague in March, 1915.

Among the passengers by the Bibby Line s.s. "Leicestershire," which sails from Marseilles for Port Said on the 9th inst., are the Lord Bishop of Jerusalem and Mrs. and the Misses MacInnes, Dr. Douglas Dunlop, Mr. A. King Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Ireland, Mrs. M. H. Westropp, Mrs. Graves, Mrs. R. Snelling, and Mr. A. van Millingen.

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OBITUARY.

Captain H. W. Verelst, M.C., Coldstream Guards, who is reported killed on September 26, aged twenty-six, was the elder son of Mr. H. W. Verelst, of Aston Hall, Sheffield, and Mrs. Verelst, of Melmerby Hall, Ripon, Yorkshire. He was educated at Cheam School, Eton, and Sandhurst. He received his commission and joined the 3rd Coldstream Guards in Cairo in October, 1910, and was transferred to the 2nd Battalion on receiving his promotion in 1913. With them he went out to France on the outbreak of hostilities on August 12, 1914. He was gazetted temporary captain on December 27, 1914, and his rank was confirmed in November, 1915. He was mentioned in despatches in January, 1916, and awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the field in June.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of September 20 reports that news has been received of the death in action, in France, of Mr. Herbert G. Skill, Chief Inspector of the Survey. At the commencement of the war he was on leave in France and then tried to obtain service in either the British or French Army. There was difficulty on account of his age. He, however, persevered and was eventually accepted for the French Foreign Legion, with whom he fought as a private for the next eighteen months in the trenches in France, taking part in the big push in Champagne last summer. At the end of this period he was offered service in the British Army, and in due course joined a battalion of his father's late regiment, the Devonshire Regiment, still as a private, and went to England to be trained in the British infantry drill. He was offered a commission just as his battalion was leaving for France, and, trained in his new duties, he said that he could not leave at that moment, and went to France, where he was killed in the recent fighting. Mr. Skill lived a very retired life. He was a man of great capacity, energy, and courage. He had worked with the Survey for about eighteen years, during which time he was responsible for a very large out-turn of work. His loss will be greatly felt by the Survey and by those who knew him.

Captain Gerard Prideaux Selby, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps, who was killed in action on September 26, was born in April, 1891, and was the eldest son of Dr. and Mrs. Prideaux George Selby, of Teynham, Kent. He was educated at The Grange, Folkestone, and Winchester and New College, Oxford, and continued his medical studies at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He was an excellent oar, and rowed for New College in the Torpids in 1910. He served in Bulgaria in a British Red Cross unit during the Turco-Bulgarian war, and in July, 1914, he entered the R.A.M.C. He went to the front attached to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in the following December, and was wounded near Ypres in March, 1915. He returned to the front on September 4 last and was killed on September 26 while attending to wounded at the capture of Thiepval.

In a letter to the *Morning Post*, written from France, Lord Esher announces that General Girodon was killed recently by the explosion of a shell. As a colonel the deceased officer had accompanied Lord Kitchener to Gallipoli when he visited the peninsula for the purpose of judging for himself the prospects of successful evacuation.

We regret to learn that the death occurred, in Cairo, on the 17th ult., of Mrs. M. E. Austin, widow of the late Mr. Meredith Austin, whose death was announced in these columns so recently as August 11.

Second-Lieutenant Walter Rowland Heath, of the Ministry of Education, Cairo, and of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, who was recently killed in action, was the fourth son of the late Richard Heath, of Yoke House, near Rochester, and of Mrs. Heath, Handford, Herne Bay, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. He was educated at the Royal Naval School and at Hatfield Hall, Durham University, where he was Senior Scholar, and took Honours in Classics and Philosophy. He was a great athlete and swimmer—captain of the Durham football team and of the Fives, and President of the University Boat Club. He was an assistant master for a short time at All Saints, Bloxham, and from 1903 until he joined the Army he was at Cairo in the service of the Education Department of the Egyptian Government. He obtained his commission in July, 1915, and for a time he held a Staff appointment, with temporary captain's rank, as Inspector of Physical Training and Bayonet Drill—work for which his athletic achievements particularly fitted him. He had been only four weeks at the front when he fell in action.

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ROLL OF HONOUR.

British Subjects from Turkey in H.M.'s Forces.

The Editor of THE NEAR EAST *would be obliged if relatives of former British residents in the Near East who have joined H.M.'s forces would communicate additional names or other particulars for insertion in our Roll of Honour. Biographical details concerning those who have fallen in their country's service would also be appreciated.*

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co., Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Captain A. Warden, Assistant Military Attaché, Rome, Italy.
BARKER, Lieut. Eric, Interpreter, Shropshire Light Infantry, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
BARKER, 2nd Lieut. C., Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
BARRON, Captain J. B., Worcester Regiment, France, Military Cross.
BATH, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
BELL, Sister M. J., Edinburgh War Hospital, Bangour, West Lothian.
BINNING, Sergt. G. A., South Wales Borderers B.E.F., France.
BINNS, Captain C. E., R.N., Assistant Military Attaché, Berne, Switzerland.
BINNS, Lieut. Harold H., Royal Naval Division Headquarters, British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
BINNS, Miss Hilda B., V.A.D., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., H.M.H.S "Aquitania"
BINNS, Lieut. W. Hylton, care of The British Consul, Brindisi.
BLUNT, Pte. R. E. (5495), A. Coy., No. 2 Platoon, 2/4th Batt., Northamptonshire Regt., Newmarket
BLYTH, Captain R. C. P., 1st Gloucestershire Regiment, attd. Egyptian Army. (*Killed in Action.*)
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt. (*Wounded.*)
BOND, Lieut. Gladwyn J. T., 1/3 West Riding Brigade, R.F.A., Ripon.
BOND, 2nd Lieut. Sidney, Royal Horse Guards, Interpreter, Salonica.
BOND, Corporal R. (41,357), Headquarters Staff, "D" Battery, 79th Brigade, R.F.A., 17th Division, B.E.F., France.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Corporal Henry J. (2424), R.A.M.C., British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
BROOKS, Corporal George, 41356, D. Batt., 78th Brig., R.F.A., 17th Div., B.E.F. France (in hospital with fever).
BURN, E. R., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BURNS, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Accidentally Killed.*)
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C. Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CHARNAUD, Lieut. A., R.N.V.R., Acting Interpreter.
CHARNAUD, 2nd Lieut. Fred, Intelligence and Interpreter.
CHARNAUD, Temporary Lieut. Percy, R.N.V.R.
CLEMOW, F. G., M.D., C.M.G., British Red Cross Mission.
CLIFTON, Captain Ernest H., Pioneer Batt., Cornwall Light Infantry, Salisbury.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital, Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CORBETT, Lieut. H. C., M.D., R.A.M.C.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CROWE, Louis B., Red Cross Motor Ambulance B.E.F., France.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Liason Officer, 29th Division, Headquarters, Salonica.
CUMBERBATCH, Captain R. C., 7th Bn., Rifle Brigade, 14th Division, B.E.F., France. (*Wounded.*)
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. H. D., 6th Bn., The Buffs, 12th Division, B.E.F., France. (*Wounded.*)
CUMING, Sergt. A. C., No. 38,983, Intelligence Corps, 3rd Army Headquarters, B.E.F.
CURSI, Pte. F., 8th Bn., King's Liverpool Regt., B.E.F., France.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Battalion.
ELLIOTT, Flight Sub-Lieut. Clifford W., R.N.A.S.
EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FREWEN, Rifleman Walter K., London Rifle Brigade.
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade
GATER, Private E. A., 3/1st E.A. (Res.) Div., Cyclist Coy., Halton Camp East, Bucks.
GATER, Private A. G., 3/1st E.A. Reserve Divisional Cyclist Corps.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GORDON, 2nd Lieut. Stephen, Intelligence and Interpreter, B.C.E.E.F.
GOUT, Captain Charles L. Gout, 2/4th K.O.Y.L.I., Lark Hill Camp, Camp No. 10, Salisbury Plain.
GOUT, 2nd Lieut. Evelyn, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade, Intelligence and Interpreter, B.C.E.E.F.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GRAVES, Captain Philip, Intelligence Department, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian H., "A" Co., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade, Queen's El Ward, Bed 40, Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester. (*Wounded.*)
HARRIS, Trooper H. L., 1st King Edward's Horse, 48th South Midland Division, B.E.F., France
HARTY, 2nd Lieut. George, R.N.V.R. (Special service at Salonika).
HENSMAN, Sergt. R., 3rd Wilts Regt., Littlemoor Camp, Weymouth, Dorset, Interpreter.
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HILL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, R.N.V.R. (attached to British Legation, Athens
HOLMES, 2nd Lieut. Gerald H., 2/5th Batt. Leicestershire Regiment.
HOLTON, Corporal Alfred, Royal Naval Division, Divisional Engineers.
HOLTON, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.
IRELAND, 2nd Lieut. D. J., 15th County of London Regiment, Intelligence and Interpreter, B.C.E.E.T.
JACKSON, Cadet E. V., 28th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, King's Park Schools, Edinburgh, N.B.
KERR, Miss E., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., H.M. No. 13 Stationary Hospital, B.E.F., France.
KEYSER, Captain A. G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment, Intelligence and Interpreter, B.C.E.E.T.
LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. Fred, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade, Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
LA FONTAINE, Captain S. Hubert, Intelligence Department, British East Africa Protectorate.
LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. Hugh, 2/7th City of London Regiment, Acting Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
LA FONTAINE, Lieut. J. S., R.N.V.R., Hawke Battalion. (*Wounded*), Intelligence and Interpreter, B.C.E.E.T.
LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. E. L., Intelligence and Interpreter, B.C.E.E.T.
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LE BAILLY, Lieutenant R. F., R.N.V.R., Recruiting Officer for Royal Naval Air Service, Brook Green Road, Hammersmith.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
LYSTER, Lieut. Henry Newbolt, Brigade Intelligence Officer, 81st Infantry Brigade, British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Salonika.
LYSTER, Pte. Frederick John, 6129, 5th Co., Inns of Court O.T.C., Berkhamsted, Herts.
MACKENZIE, 1st Lieut. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
MACKINNON, Dr. John M., Captain, R.A.M.C., 3rd King's African Rifles, Mombasa, British East Africa.
MACKINNON, Dr. Frank I., Captain, R.A.M.C., c/o D.M.S., Malta.
MACKINNON, Lieut. Patrick, 12th Field Co., Royal Engineers, 6th Division, B.E.F.
MACKINNON, Lieut. Eric, 13th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
MACRAY, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.
MCLOCHLAN, 2nd Lieut. B., 1st Canadian L.I., Intelligence and Interpreter, Egypt.
MCLOCHLAN, 2nd Lieut. G., 1st Canadian L.I., Intelligence and Interpreter, B.C.E.E.T.
METCALFE, Sister E. J., Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
MOORE, Miss K. M., Royal Red Cross, Serbia.
MORRISON, Lieut. J., 4th Seaforth Highlanders, B.E.F., France.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MOUNTAIN, 2nd Lieut. Harold G., Royal Engineers.
MUMFORD, P. F., Army Service Corps, R.E., Baldock.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NEWELL, Pte. W. A., Royal Marines, Chatham. (*Wounded at Dardanelles.*)
NOWILL, 2nd Lieut. Sidney, 2/17th City of London Regiment, Acting Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Captain Alexander, R.A.M.C., 1st Scottish General Hospital, Aberdeen, N.B.
PEACOCK, 2nd Lieut. Frank, 4/4th Batt. London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers.
PEARS, Major G. B., Military Cross, R.E. (*wounded*), now temporarily Chief Instructor (G.S.O.), Royal Military Academy, Woolwich.
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
PODMORE, Lieut. Arthur, Military Cross, R.E.
POTTER, Very Rev. Archdeacon, Hon. Chaplain Volunteer Training Corps, Godalming Company. (Archdeacon in Cyprus and Syria.)
POYNTER, Lieut. Hugh E., No. 2 Base Supply Depot, Portishead, Somerset.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, B.E.F., France.
REES, Sub-Lieutenant J. Langdon, R.N.V.R.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
REES, Sub-Lieutenant T. B. F., R.N.V.R.
RICHARDS, Miss, Dispenser, Edinburgh War Hospital, Bangour.
RICE, Rifleman Cecil, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Died from Wounds.*)
ROBINSON, Sergeant J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem. (*Killed in action.*)
ROBSON, Driver F. B., 2/1st E.A. (Essex), R.G.A., Heavy Battery.
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (T.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. R. A. C., Royal Engineers, P.S., Army Base Post Office, Salonica.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SAMSON, Seaman George McKenzie, V.C., R.N.R. (*Seriously Wounded.*)
SEAGER, Driver B. W. (7739), H.A.C.'s H.Q., Armoury House, Finsbury, E.C.
SEAGER, Lieut. J. A., 16th Middlesex Regiment, France.
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regt. (*Wounded.*)
SELLAR, Lieut. Fred. B., Interpreter, Central European Expeditionary Force.
SEMPLE, Rev. S. H., C.F., 7th Royal Scots, 156th Brigade, 52nd Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
SILLEY, 2nd Lieut. Edward C., Interpreter, Headquarters Staff, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
SILLEY, Rifleman Bernard (4361), 3/12th London Regt. (The Rangers), East Sheen.
SIMMONS, Gunner H. C., 123rd Heavy Battery, R.G.A. (*Died from Wounds.*)
STEPLING, Rev. Canon, R.A.M.C.
STOCK, Captain H. W., H.M.S. "Europa," c/o G.P.O.
STOTT, Sergt. F., 3/5th Sherwood Foresters, Grantham, Derby.
SUMMERS, Lieut. H. C., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Europa."
SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).
THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
THOMPSON, John, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
THWAITES, Captain H., R.A.M.C., France.
TORRANCE, Dr. D., R.A.M.C.
TRENTER, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.
TUCKER, Asst. Paymaster Charles, R.N.V.R. (attached to British Legation, Athens).
VAN LENNEP, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
VAN MILLINGEN, 2nd Lieut. Charles A. M., 7th Batt., the Rifle Brigade. (*Wounded.*)
VAN MILLINGEN, 2nd Lieut. R.A.M.C.
VAN MILLINGEN, Aldridge, Intelligence and Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
VAN MILLINGEN, Private R. G. C., 3rd Batt. London Brigade. (*Wounded.*)
VEDOVA, Rifleman Eghbert, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
VISICOMBE, 2nd Lieut. Leo, Royal West Kent (*Killed*).
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
WEALE, Lieut. W. W. C., 27th Div. Headquarters, Intelligence Department, Med. Ex. Force. (*Wounded.*)
WELLS, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
WHEATLEY, Miss K. H., Matron of No. 17, Stationary Hospital, Bombay, India.
WHEELER, Captain P. F. C. d'Erf, 3rd Dorset Regiment, Medit. Exp. Force. (*Wounded.*)
WHEELER, 2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Nowell Popham d'Erf, 7th Dorset Regiment, France.
WHITEHOUSE, Canon F. C., 3/6 City of London Rifles, Fovant Camp, Salisbury.
WHITEHOUSE, Mid. L. Edwin, H.M.S. "Triad," Mediterranean.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Commander F. E., R.N.
WHITTALL, Lieut.-Commander H. E. C., R.N.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, Lieut. F. J. G., 17th Batt., Manchester Regiment, British Expeditionary Force.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. H. V., Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Kenneth, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut Roland Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. (*Died from Wounds.*)
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Vernon, Intelligence and Interpreter, British Central European Exp. Force.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Walter, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade, Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force. (*Wounded.*)
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut., 6th Batt. King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, India Expeditionary Force. (*Seriously wounded.*)
WHITTALL, Miss E. M., Q.A.I.M.N.S., No. 10, Stationary Hospital, British Expeditionary Force.
WILSON, Dr. Marian E., Scottish Women's Hospital, Abbaye Royaumont, France.
WOODS, Harold, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
WRATISLAW, Captain J. C., 8th Leicestershire Regiment, 110 Brigade, 37th Division, B.E.F., France.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS.

CAMPLIN.—On the 30th Sept., at "Winnthorpe," Lee, Kent, Muriel (*née* Woods), the wife of John Camplin, Mamoura, Egypt—a son.

CLAYTON.—On September 28, at Gezira, Cairo, the wife of Brigadier-General G. F. Clayton, C.M.G., of a son.

HARGREAVES.—On September 29, at The Moorlands, Oxton, Birkenhead, the wife of Lieutenant Alfred R. Hargreaves (C.M.S. Hospital, Old Cairo), R.A.M.C., Lancashire Fusiliers, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

BALTAZZI—PALLI.—On September 2, at Athens, Emmanuel Baltazzi, (Reserve Cavalry Officer), son of Mr. and Mrs. George Baltazzi, late Minister of Foreign Affairs, and grandson of the late Prince Nicolas Mavrocordato, to Helen Angeliki Palli, daughter of the late Count Philip Palli and Countess Philip Palli, and granddaughter of the late Sir Walter Burrell, Bart.

DEATH.

SUTER.—On September 23, at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, Captain Harry Charles Nelson Suter, of Cairo.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1916.

THROUGH THE BALKANS TO GERMANY.

Even the most obdurate and sarcastic opponent of so-called side-shows in this war is beginning to pay considerable attention to the course of events in the Near East. The force of the contention, urged from the very first in these columns, that wherever the final scene in the campaign may be enacted the way to the end lies through the Balkans, is now generally appreciated. The point would have held good, even if Bulgaria and Turkey had not joined the Central Powers; it becomes still more obvious when the Allies have to deal with a block of Powers stretching from Antwerp to Baghdad. If the diplomacy of the Allies had been equal to its task, the blow would have fallen on Germany and Austria from the Balkan States themselves. As things are, the first step now to be accomplished is to divide the Central Powers from their vassals in South-Eastern Europe and to deal piecemeal with the two groups. In some quarters it is suggested that Germany is finding the burden of supporting these vassal States too great for her, and that she will be better off when she has only herself to look after and defend. The theory hinges on conditions which cannot be accurately gauged at present: whether Germany will suffer first and more from a scarcity of material or from a shortage of men. If her man-power shows signs of giving out, while her supply of equipment and munitions is maintained, then Turkey becomes for the Central Alliance the only source of fresh troops. On the other hand, if the strain of the two years of war is being felt in regard to both men and material, only elaborate calculations, for which the German General Staff alone has the necessary data, can decide at what stage it may become advisable for Germany to leave the vassal countries to themselves and to devote the whole of her strength to the defence of her own territory. If such a stage should be reached in the opinion of the German authorities, counsels of despair will have prompted their decision. The Allies need have no anxiety lest by driving a wedge through the Central European Block they may in some way lessen a strain which is telling on Germany. The moral effect of detaching Bulgaria and Turkey from their alliance will be second only to an extensive capture of German territory; an almost certain practical effect will be the shortening of the war by a considerable period. This must have been the conviction of the French General Staff when it insisted on the Allies going to Salonika. The French have consistently urged a vigorous offensive in this region, but have had to submit to delays in the provisioning of the Franco-British force. Now that the offensive has begun, we can only hope that it finds the Allies adequately equipped in every particular for all that is expected of them, and that the move has not merely been prompted by the necessity of supporting Roumania's declaration of war.

In addition to the possibility of divided counsels having delayed the Allies' preparations at Salonika, there is some foundation for the belief that far too much attention has been paid to Greek politics. The military authorities in this matter will have had to seek guidance from diplomacy, and, as there is no reason to suppose that the Allied Governments were better informed regarding conditions in Greece than they were of the real state of affairs in Bulgaria before King Ferdinand threw in his lot with Germany and Austria, the General Staffs must be exonerated, if they decided that an advance was out of the question so long as Greece's attitude remained equivocal. Nothing has happened to invalidate the contention that King Constantine and his pro-German advisers never contemplated an actual state of hostilities with the Allied Powers, provided the latter retained the mastery of the sea. Their sympathies were with the Central Powers, and they were determined to annoy and handicap the Allies as far as they were able to do so with a whole skin; but nothing short of a German occupation of Greece would have overcome their wholesome fear of the Allies' naval power. If the Entente Governments had any ground for supposing that King Constantine was capable of such active treachery as would endanger the safety of the Franco-British force in Macedonia, the right course to have pursued would have been to deprive him once and for all of the opportunity. If they have had no fears that Greek antagonism would be carried to such extremities, then there was no need to distract the attention of the Higher Command at Salonika by visits to Athens and useless audiences of King Constantine. On the same principle it is to be hoped that the recent developments in the political situation in Greece will not be allowed to interfere with the prosecution of the Balkan campaign. Such an elementary proviso becomes necessary in view of the halting counsels that have dogged every action of the Allies in the Near East. If King Constantine is to be allowed to continue to earn Germany's approval, while his advisers earn their German pay, there is no reason why they should not be told that the Entente Powers, which guaranteed Greece independence and constitutional government, will not allow civil war or individual persecution. Such a step will facilitate the task of the National Safety movement, and will allow patriotic Greeks to play their part in the liberation of their country from the Bulgarian occupation.

If the Allies are to be in a position to put forth their maximum effort against Germany and Austria-Hungary in the spring, it is essential that they should detach the Balkan henchmen of those two Powers before the end of the year. Late as the Salonika offensive was in starting, there is still time, if the preparations have been adequate, for a decisive campaign during the next few months. For this purpose Bulgaria will have to be attacked with the utmost vigour from two sides, by the Roumanians and Russians from the north and east, by the Allied army from the south-west. The thrust along the Greek frontier is being prosecuted, as far as can be gathered, strenuously and systematically. There must be checks in some places, and it will not be overlooked that the Bulgarians have had many months in which to consolidate their positions. It is, however, to the north that the Allies will look for the more telling blows on the enemy. Profiting by Roumania's unpreparedness south of the Danube, von Mackensen launched a sudden attack on the Dobruja, which carried him from seventy to ninety miles into Roumanian territory. He failed, however, to reach his objective, the Constantza railway, and has been unable to improve upon the initial advantage which the fall of Tutrakan and Silistria gave him. In the meantime, the Roumanians held on their way in the Carpathians. They have experienced two more or less serious set-backs on the left of their line of advance, but have shown remarkable powers of recovery which have so far robbed the enemy of the fruits of his victories. In spite of the pressure which the Austro-German forces in the Carpathians and the Bulgarians in the Dobruja seemed capable of exerting, the Roumanian Commander-in-Chief has boldly thrown a force across the Danube between Rustchuk and the Dobruja frontier, threatening the communications of the enemy on Roumanian soil. It is too early to form any opinion of the effects of this move, although it is already reported that Tutrakan and Silistria have been abandoned. Not the least important aspect of the situation is the clear indication that the Allied forces in the north are not hesitating to adopt a vigorous policy, which, if adequately seconded in the south, augurs well for a rapid and successful campaign in the Balkans.

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THE FUTURE OF MESOPOTAMIA.

By Sir William Willcocks, K.C.M.G.

We now come to the Tigris.* So far I have estimated for and recommended the same dykes and canals which the ancients employed on the right bank of the river; but they are only makeshifts, and I have said so. The project for the control of the Tigris could not be completed by my engineers in the two and a-half years we were there, as the depression into which the excess floods were to be escaped was at that time debateable ground between the Shammâr and Dillêm Arabs, and we were never able to survey it properly. We were only able to learn that the tail of the Tarthar River is a salt pan 14 ft. below sea level and 200 ft. lower than the flood level of the Tigris 32 miles away. The size of the depression has still to be studied. Though the Arabs did not allow us to finish our surveys of the Tarthar depression, they allowed me to accompany them on two rides over country lying between the Euphrates and the Tigris. With the knowledge so gained, aided by borings in the gypsum and salted marl, an examination of the exposed bluffs on the Tigris, levels carried from the Tigris quite far enough on the level plain on its right bank, and a line of levels from the Euphrates to the Tarthar, I have been enabled to make a preliminary, though necessarily rough, estimate of the cost of the Tigris escape. The escape will leave the Tigris nearly opposite the old El-Gaim head of the Nahrwan canal, lead direct to the tail of the Tarthar, and from there proceed to the Euphrates down the wadi which opens on to the river opposite the ruined site of Trajan's throne. Here a barrage will be built across the Euphrates, and the Habbania escape will have its section trebled in order to take both the escape water of the Euphrates and the Tigris.

If the Tarthar depression, whose bottom is 200 ft. below the flood level of the Tigris at the head of the escape 32 miles away, is conveniently capacious, we should have a reservoir, in addition to that of Abu-Dibis, of very great value indeed; for it would feed the Euphrates above both the Feluja and Hindia barrages, and provide irrigation for the whole country from the latitude of Baghdad to that of Babylon. It would, moreover, allow of supplies being sent from the Euphrates down the Saklawia to the Tigris near Baghdad in low supply. I have often longed for the day when the war will be over and I shall be able to hurry to the Median Wall and wrest all its secrets from the mysterious Tarthar.

With the Euphrates and Tigris floods both really controlled, the delta of the two rivers would attain a fertility of which history has no record; and we should see men coming from the West as well as from the East, and making of the plain of Shinar a rival of the land of Egypt. The flaming swords of inundation and drought would have been taken out of the hands of the offended Seraphim, and the Garden of Eden would have again been planted.

In less poetical language we might say that the value of every acre in the joint delta of the two rivers would be immediately trebled before the irrigation works were carried out, and again increased many fold more the day the works were completed. Every town and hamlet in the valley from Baghdad and Busreh would find itself freed from the danger, expense and intolerable nuisance of flooding, and the resurrection of this ancient land would have become an accomplished fact. The Baghdad railway between Baghdad and the Persian Gulf would be taken through the middle of the cultivable land, now freed from the dread of Noah's floods; and not through hopeless deserts as at present. Imagine for a single instant the Cairo-Alexandria Railway, not passing through Tanta and Damanhour, but by the Pyramids, the Natron Lake, and the south-western shore of Lake Mareotis, because the Nile floods could not be faced!

For reclaiming the most conveniently situated sections of the millions of acres of fresh water swamp upstream of Busreh the proposed works will follow the lines of those executed by Marduk, the greatest of the Babylonian deities:—

> "Flowing wide like a sea was the river,
> When Yeh-ridu was made, when Yeh-Sagil was built,
> Yeh-Sagil, in the midst of the fresh water deep,
> Where the God of the glorious abode dwells.
> Marduk laid reeds in the face of the waters,
> He piled up earthen banks sheltered by the reeds,
> That he might cause the gods to dwell in the place of their hearts' desire.

Marduk achieved the reclamation of the swamps by dividing the lands under water into basins or compartments, surrounding them by dykes protected by reeds and rushwood, drying the enclosed areas, and then planting them with date palms and fruit trees. Such reclaimed areas are to-day veritable Gardens of Eden. It is worthy of remark that the only original reclamation work the Arabs carried out in the delta was an exact copy of this. In the days that Kufa, Wasit and Busreh were the capitals of the Moslem world, before the rise of Baghdad, the energetic Emir Hajjaj of Busreh reclaimed some 50,000 acres in the marshes between Kurnah and Busreh and converted them into one of the four earthly paradises of the Arabs. The ground was a green carpet of lucerne, out of which rose stately palm trees, sheltering the gardens from the fierce heat of summer and the severe cold of winter; while from date-palm to date-palm were festooned luxuriant vines from which hung purple grapes. It is proposed to divide the area to be reclaimed into compartments or basins of 12,000 acres apiece. With good drains and pumps we should be able to bring back the Gardens of Eden of the sons of Sumer and Akkad, by irrigating through the dykes surrounding the basins. This was the really primitive irrigation of the Euphrates valley. The inland sea, which covers an area of nearly three million acres in flood, is only 3 ft. deep, and less than 3 ft., over nearly its whole surface, and the water is absolutely fresh. The delta of the Karun River, which stretches eastwards from Busreh, and through which the overflow of the Tigris and Euphrates cuts its way by the Shat-el-Arab, excludes all sea water. The extent of the area which will be capable of being irrigated after it is dried will depend on the capacity of the reservoirs; but a beginning could be made immediately with 12,000 acres.

For the irrigation and drainage of the three million acres of land which are ready for development, two barrages have been proposed on the Euphrates and two on the Tigris, with canals, drains, escapes and subsidiary works. The Tigris and Euphrates floods are not gradual, like those on the Nile, but consist of a series of rapid rises and falls. The water during an abrupt rise is fully five times as turbid as that of the Nile when it is at its muddiest. To combat the turbidity of the rivers, regulating heads of a special design have been proposed, and provision has been made for keeping flood irrigation separate from that in summer. The escapes into the deserts have been designed not only to control the floods, but also to remove these rapid rises and falls and make the curves gradual like those on the Nile, so that the very muddy intervals might be eliminated and the regulating heads might be utilised for the purpose for which they were designed. With the aid of escapes and specially designed canal heads we hope to avoid excessive maintenance charges for silt clearances.

Alexander's historians give us an idea of the gigantic task of canal clearance in ancient Babylonia, and we know that both the Assyrian and Babylonian monarchs filled their country with captives from foreign lands, who had to spend their lives clearing silt from the waters of Babylon, by which they often sat down and wept. The success of our undertakings will depend in no small measure on the skill with which we keep our canals free of undue silt deposits.

For the Euphrates I designed two barrages, one at the head of the Hindia branch, which has been built, and the other downstream of Feluja. I am glad, indeed, that this latter work, the most important in Babylonia, has not yet been built, because, in studying the projects again and again during the last five years, I have, I think, found a far better site than the one proposed by me after the first two and a-half years' study. Upstream of Feluja, near the earthen dam which shuts off the Sakhlawia branch, is an outcrop of limestone (not gypsum) in the bed of the Euphrates. I say of limestone because it is visible at very low water like a diminutive cataract. This limestone will be of the same nature as the outcrop of limestone in the bed of the Sakhlawia branch, under the Tel Sefera ruins just opposite it; and on it should be built the Feluja barrage and the heads of the Sakhlawia branch and the left Euphrates canal It will be the only solid foundation I shall have seen in the whole of Babylonia. This is another site I shall carefully examine the day the war is at an end. Upstream of the Hindia barrage, I should throw back considerably the left bank of the Euphrates until the river was made to come straight on the barrage, at right angles. The pitching downstream of the work should also be lengthened by 150 ft. In designing this work I practised too much economy, passing even the limit imposed by the low state of the Turkish finances. With these two changes the other works proposed for the Euphrates might be carried out as designed, remembering that everything was designed for a really poor country and not for a rich, gouty country like Egypt.

On the Tigris, the Beled barrage should be moved up some four miles to allow of the proposed Tigris escape taking off from just above it. To obtain the extra height of water needed here I should redesign the work on the pattern of the Bow River dam at Bassano, in Canada. This design would suit admirably the shingle foundation on this reach of the Tigris, though I personally consider it unsuited to the Bow River at Bassano. The floor, however, should be made 10 ft.

* The first portion of this article appeared in THE NEAR EAST of September 29.—[ED.]

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thick and the belt of pitching be increased by 250 ft. At the site of the Kut barrage we were singularly unfortunate in finding stiff clay soil for a foundation. The Turkish trenches, which are reported to have been quite dry through the flood, show that good stiff soil is to be found in the neighbourhood down to the depth of the trenches. The day the resurrection of Babylonia is contemplated a continuous series of borings should be instituted at all the sites near Kut where a barrage could be built in the dry. To this work as designed should be added the extra floor added to the Hindia barrage and the extra pitching proposed.

I cannot leave the question of the works needed in Mesopotamia without mentioning the fact that so far we have made no bricks of the quality of the millions of bricks found everywhere stamped with the name of Nebuchadnezzar, son of Nabopalassar. The soil of Babylonia, as a rule, contains a fair proportion of salt, which causes a white efflorescence on the surface of the bricks and is a source of decay. Nebuchadnezzar's bricks have none of this efflorescence as a rule. Since leaving the country I have thought that in his time the soil must have been well washed by his brick makers and freed of its salt before the bricks were made, for all the salts in Babylonia are soluble in water. This might certainly be tried to-day before any further bricks are manufactured. In addition to the bricks there are local sources of lime, shingle and sand, but the expeditious reconstruction of this ancient country will be achieved in very great part by the essentially modern products of cement, iron pipes, dredgers, and steel piles.

The salts in the soil are all very readily soluble in water, and as there is an abundance of lime the work of washing out the salts and reclaiming the land will be easy indeed, as can be seen wherever reclamation works are attempted. The richest part of the country will lie between Baghdad, Ctesiphon, Feluja, and Mussaib. Ardeshir Babagan was the richest province in the days of the Sassanian kings, and will be so again. When the first three million acres are under cultivation they will be worth £150,000,000 as agricultural land, in addition to all the other wealth produced by human industry and enterprise. The later addition of a second three million acres will bring the value of the agricultural land to £300,000. The foundation on which will be raised all this wealth will be the construction of the escapes and reservoirs for the excess waters of the floods of the two rivers. I have estimated these as follows:—

The Tigris escape and reservoirs	£22,000,000
The Euphrates escape and reservoirs	2,000,000
Total.....	£24,000,000

If the Tarthar depression has a surface so extensive that it could suffice by itself as an escape for the Tigris, we should lose the Tigris reservoir, and the cost of the escape by itself would fall to £12,000,000. In which case the escapes of the Tigris and Euphrates and the Euphrates reservoir would cost £14,000,000. The Tigris water for reservoir purposes is, however, well worth £10,000,000.

No serious people really contemplating the resurrection of Babylonia would hesitate for a second to carry out both these works simultaneously. Given these two escapes in proper working order, every public work in the valley, be it a railway, a canal, a road, a building, or a garden, would be insured. Egypt could be insured against an inundation by works which would cost under £8,000,000, but inundations come seldom in the Nile valley, and the Government has, most unwisely, I think, refused so far to insure itself. In the Euphrates valley, however, inundations are the rule, and not the exception, as they are in Egypt, and any attempt at reclamation without insurance against floods would result in the country drifting some day into the seventh chapter of Genesis.

In my book on "The Irrigation of Mesopotamia" (E. and F. N. Spon, 57, Haymarket) the cost of the irrigation and agricultural works has been estimated at £5 and £4 per acre respectively. We can now estimate the cost of reclaiming three million and six million acres of land:—

Cost of reclaiming 3,000,000 acres—	
Escapes and reservoirs	£24,000,000
Irrigation works at £5.....	15,000,000
Agricultural works at £4	12,000,000
Total.....	£51,000,000

or £17 per acre.

Cost of reclaiming 6,000,000 acres—	
Escapes and reservoirs	£24,000,000
Irrigation works at £5	30,000,000
Agricultural works at £4	24,000,000
Total.....	£78,000,000

or £13 per acre.

Such land when reclaimed will be worth £50 per acre.

The power which undertakes the restoration of the delta of the Euphrates and Tigris must have absolute control of the Euphrates from Hitt, and the Tigris from Samarra, to the Persian Gulf; and to these must be added the lower course of the Tarthar depression lying between the two rivers up to the northern limit of a contour 200 ft. above the level of the sea. In addition, there should be some understanding with the owners of upper Mesopotamia as to the division of the low supplies of the two rivers between the two sections. As in ancient days, the fortified right bank of the Nahrwan canal, the wall of Semiramis, and the Median Wall protected Babylonia from surprise attacks of the Assyrians and Medians, so to-day a line of trenches running from Hitt to Samara, and carried well out into the deserts on the left bank of the Tigris and the right bank of the Euphrates, will afford similar protection. But more essential even than barbed wire and machine guns will be the construction of the works for controlling the floods and storing their waters for the burning months of July, August, and September, when the rivers will be at their lowest.

GREEKS IN BRITAIN.

SUPPORT FOR M. VENIZELOS.

Last Saturday afternoon members of the Greek community in London assembled in the crypt of the Greek Church, Bayswater, to consider the political situation in Greece. Delegates from the Greek colonies in Liverpool, Manchester, Cardiff, and other towns were present, and the meeting was marked by much enthusiasm.

The Chairman, M. N. Eumorfopoulos, said that the Greeks living in England were called together to consider what their attitude should be towards the situation created in Greece during these last few months, and what measures they should take to help to extricate the Mother Country from the ruin by which she is threatened. He recommended calmness and restraint to the speakers and avoidance of any personal attacks.

M. Alexander Pallis, the delegate from Liverpool, said that if the recommendation of the Chairman was to be literally followed there would be little scope for the assembly. The first words that M. Pallis uttered were defiant and full of patriotic ardour and revolutionary spirit. It was the duty of every Greek, he said, in circumstances like the present to be straightforward. Whatever was done, there should be no address to King Constantine, who betrayed the interests of Greece and who treated with contempt all addresses sent to him, no matter how loyal and respectful they were. The history of King Constantine during the last two years consisted of systematic opposition to all the wishes expressed by the majority of his subjects in regard to the best means of serving the national interests. When his loyal and patriotic subjects asked anything that did not suit him he pretended to be ill and to be unable to speak; but when his followers, who were betraying the interests of Greece, came forward he at once got well, and found time to receive them and to address them in very warm terms. When the proposal to acquire a great part of Asia Minor was put before him by M. Venizelos, he induced the General Staff to say that that was a Colonial question, unworthy of a war. He treated the millions of unredeemed Greeks in Asia Minor, who formed an indissoluble part of the nation, as if they were Hottentots. He delivered fortresses and war material, bought by the blood of the Greek people, to their worst enemy. He ordered a general mobilisation in order to tie the hands of the people and follow a policy that was agreeable to Germany and useful to Bulgaria and Turkey, but ruinous to Greece and harmful to the Entente Powers, which he always despised and insulted. He corrupted the Army by offering to the officers double pay, so as to make of them an easy tool. He gathered round him and put the Government of the country in the hands of politicians who were discredited, and were ruling by corruption and terror. Why was all this done? There must be either ignorance and imbecility or treason. The delivery of forts and ammunition in Macedonia had been practically a war indemnity to Bulgaria of about £8,000,000. Why had the King done this? It seemed as if the King at some time or other had engaged to help the Germans: his conduct could not otherwise be accounted for. He called around him all the discredited politicians of Greece to administer affairs and they had terrorized the country. They should not address the King at all! What they had to say should be addressed to M. Venizelos direct.

Mr. Casdagli, the Manchester delegate, approved the idea of not addressing the King; it would be much better to address M. Venizelos. If they addressed the King they would simply be called knaves by the German Press.

Dr. Pagonis, the Great Archimandrite of the Greek Church in London, said he put aside his priest's robes and spoke as a Greek patriot who had followed with a sore heart events in Greece during the past months. The policy followed by the different Governments appointed by the King was not a national policy; it had been dictated by hatred of M. Venizelos and short-sighted attempts to rule by force and terror. Unfortunately the King instead of putting himself at the head of his army, leading Greece to further glory and carrying out the aspirations of her people, had followed his own ideas and personal inclinations and had delivered Macedonia to the bitterest enemy of Greece. The King had given proofs that he was not guided by love of his country, and Greece was at a loss to understand his personal policy. The fact that patriots like M. Venizelos and Admiral Coundouriotis, who were universally loved and respected by the Greeks, had to leave Athens and put themselves at the head of the national movement in Macedonia proved that there was something radically wrong in the policy of the King, and this fact alone was sufficient to make every Greek think that there was no more room for hesitation as to who was wrong and who was right. He thought that there was no more time for words.

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but for deeds, and as financial means were indispensable for carrying out any action, he would recommend the immediate opening of a fund.

A resolution was submitted in the form of a telegram to M. Venizelos as follows:—"This meeting representing all sections of Greek colonists in Great Britain congratulates you and Admiral Coundouriotis upon the action you are taking to uphold the honour of Greece, to protect her territorial possessions, and to assure the future of Hellenism. It urges you to proceed towards your goal without reference to any other authority, and assures you of every support." The resolution was carried by acclamation with only two dissentients, and a committee of five was appointed to raise funds and enrol volunteers.

Colonel Mavromichalis, who has offered to lead the volunteers, has issued the following appeal:—

"Dear Compatriots,—Our country is in danger! Definite action is necessary if we are either to save the present or to safeguard the future. I have therefore decided to take the initiative and invite all Greeks able to fight to follow me. I will presently make the same appeal to other Greek communities so as to be able to put as large a force as possible at the disposal of the Provisional Government.

"I am leaving for Paris (21, rue Cambon) next Wednesday, and will wait in Paris for your arrival so that we may leave together. Those who are in a position to afford their own expenses should be provided with the necessary sum for this purpose.

K. P. Mavromichalis, Lt.-Col.

Regent Palace Hotel.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Roumanian Spirit—

Last Saturday's *Morning Post* contained an article, "Roumania and the Roumanians," written by Mme. Marie Jonescu, who begins by declaring that the Roumanians are proud to call themselves Latins, and that their claim to the title is justified by the whole history of their past. The habits and customs characteristic of the Roman Empire have, she says, been preserved in Roumania as in no other country.

The women in our villages still wail over their dead, and attach to the finger of the corpse a small coin to facilitate his passage across the Styx. Our National Dance, the Calusaré, is a reproduction of the Rape of the Sabines, while our country fêtes organised to invoke rain are identical with the Pagan festivals instituted in ancient Rome for the same purpose. Again, in many parts of Roumania, the peasants wear sandals of forged iron, which are exactly similar to those exhibited in the "Musée de Cluny" in Paris, and the Pipes of Pan, sculptured upon so many Roman and Gallo-Roman monuments, remain the favourite musical instrument of rustic Roumania. Our language, derived from the low Latin of the Imperial era, contains, according to many philologists, expressions and phrases reminiscent of that time, such as no other neo-Latin language possesses. Apart from these relics of our ancestral civilisation, the excavations undertaken in many parts of the country have furnished abundant and irrefutable proofs of our Latin origin.

—And the Roumanian Woman.

Turing to the Roumanian woman of to-day and her attitude towards the war, Mme. Jonescu says that it is she who has kept alight the fire of patriotism which animates her husband and her sons.

It is she who still wears the national costume of our people, woven and embroidered by her own deft hands. Three only she provides for her whole life's journey, the dress for her bridal, the dress for her wifehood, and the last dress of all, and packs them in her marriage chest of painted wood. They are gorgeous garments, each composed of a blouse glittering with sequins, a transparent veil such as the Roman matrons wore, and a petticoat differing in style and colour according to the district she inhabits, but invariably garnished with heavy embroidery in silver and gold.

Married at fifteen or sixteen, and frequently abducted by the man whose wife she is destined to become, the Roumanian peasant woman generally remains sincerely attached to her captor. She shares his work in the fields and joyfully bears him numerous children, for in Roumania only fruitful unions are blessed by God. In her old age her influence in the family is preponderating, besides which she enjoys the respect and confidence of the whole village. . . . In all and every season one may meet her working placidly by her husband's side, robust and graceful in the rich robe which she wears without a trace of coquetry. . . . After the day's work is over she will take out her simple loom, which still bears the name "rezboin," signifying war, and recites while she spins the simple prayer of an unassailable faith in divine protection. To-day she prays with more than usual fervour, for she is alone with her children waiting on the fortune of war. If their father returns, well, if not—it is also well, for she knows he will die for his country in 1916 as bravely as his grandfather died in 1879, of glorious memory.

Turks and "Frightfulness."

Sir Edwin Pears contributes to the current *Contemporary Review* a valuable article, "The Balkan States and Turkey." Lack of space prevents our quoting at any length from it this week, but we hope to return to it in our next number. Meanwhile, we would call the attention of some of our correspondents to the following passage, which lends strong support to views expressed in The Near East:—

In the disastrous Dardanelles Expedition, after some ugly experiences in which our Australian troops had to give a lesson to some of the Turkish officers, the Turks have been found what men in khaki call "clean fighters." I have spoken to at least a score of men who took part in that expedition and all tell the same tale. The "frightfulness" which characterises warfare by the Germans, and especially at the beginning of this contest, was not appreciated by the Turks, either in the Dardanelles or throughout the country, except in Armenia. In the latter country the stories are terrible of the slaughter of thousands of Armenians by Turks under German officers. It is a hideous statement to have to make, but it seems to be justified by the evidence, that the worst outrages in Armenia were committed under the leadership of so-called Christians. One must wait for further evidence before finally deciding on this matter, but the Turkish treatment of General Townshend and of the other officers who were captured in the Kut-el-Amara expedition points again to the fact that the Turks have shown themselves "clean fighters" there also. We have yet to hear how the rank and file in that expedition were treated.

Ugly stories come from Syria as to the treatment of the Christians, and even the European population, but none of them are worse than those of the treatment of British prisoners in Germany.

Our Bulgarian Opponents.

The following passage is taken from an article contributed to *The Times* on Monday by its Military Correspondent, and headed "Autumn War." The writer has just referred to the question of the number and quality of the reinforcements that may be sent to Mackensen. He continues:

This depends a good deal upon the attitude of the Main or Southern Bulgarian Army, which stands in a wide semi-circle round Sarrail's Army at Salonika. The Bulgars are an elementary people full of the spirit of acquisitiveness, and as they entered into the war mainly to regain Macedonia, so they are likely to cling to it and let strategy go hang. They have eight divisions in position on the Greek frontier, and the Bulgarian division is roughly double the strength of ours. They are concreted-in on every line of advance open to Sarrail, and on the side of Monastir they now have half their force. They have successive positions and plenty of barbed wire. They are well armed and know how to attack. Though considerably weaker than the strangely composed Allied Army in their front, they profit by the difficulties of the country, the absence of roads, and the poverty of the district—conditions which render the advance of the Allied Army, and its supply with food and ammunition, immensely difficult.

"The Curse of the Balkans."

In the course of an article, "The Distraction of Greece," the *Nation* (September 30) says:—

The hopeless division which has now overtaken Greek politics is not for this unlucky race a new experience. For nearly half a century after the creation of the little kingdom, its parties had for their dividing line the sympathy which each felt for one or other of the "protecting Powers." There was a Russian party, a British party, and a French party, and the three struggled and intrigued with little sense of the dignity of an independent kingdom. In some degree this has been the fate of all the Balkan States. Serbia, up to the extinction of the Obrenovitch dynasty, was torn between her Austrian and Russian factions. Bulgaria had always (and may even now still have) both her pro-Russian and her anti-Russian parties. The rivalry of the Powers has been a curse of the Balkans second only to its alternative, the ascendency of the Turks. It is natural that Greece, a poor country with an exposed coast, suffered from these factions even more severely than her fellows. The feud of pro-Germans and pro-Ententists which divides her to-day is partly a natural continuation of this habit and partly the result of a purely personal quarrel, in which all the little chieftains of groups and factions and parties who were jealous of M. Venizelos, united with a headstrong and self-willed king, to oppose him.

Later on we are told that "the cleanest solution would certainly be the proclamation of a republic."

That was what the Greek nation did when it had had too much of its mad Bavarian King Otho. On that occasion the "protecting Powers" persuaded it to adopt, as an alternative, constitutional monarchy, and its disappointment was soothed by the gift of Corfu. The experiment has been only moderately satisfactory, though no one can feel sure that a republic would have worked better. Certainly, if a republic could be attained simultaneously in Athens and Sofia, the hope of some eventual

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Balkan unity might revive. Its kings have been the curse of the peninsula—but one is tempted to use that expression of each evil in turn. It has had so many curses.

Statesman and Sovereign.

In an article headed "M. Venizelos and King Constantine," the *Spectator* (September 30) discusses the possible developments that may arise from the former's "memorable act in placing himself at the head of the Greek movement to secure the intervention of Greece on the side of the Allies." The hour has passed, says the writer, when Greece's action could make an appreciable difference to us one way or the other; but for Greece itself everything is at stake.

If she follows M. Venizelos now, she may be saved; if she tries to trick and flout her true friends among the Powers, it is impossible to say what penalties she may be bringing on herself through her own action and not through any desire on the part of the Allies to punish her.

After reviewing M. Venizelos' statement regarding his past action and his plans for the future, the *Spectator* turns to King Constantine:—

It is pitiful to reflect on the opportunities King Constantine has missed. One is almost inclined to believe the story that he promised his brother-in-law, the German Emperor, that the Greeks should never take up arms against the Central Powers. The story at all events fits in with the known facts and accounts for them. But if the King made any such promise he committed there and then a flagrantly unconstitutional act. The Treaty under which Greece was created an independent kingdom stipulates that the government of the country shall be Constitutional. The Greeks themselves had asked for a system like that of Britain. Even if M. Venizelos when in office had not invited the Allies to Salonika, the interference of the Protecting Powers of Greece—Britain, France, and Russia—would have been justified by the refusal of the King to govern constitutionally.

The writer then shows how—and why—at the beginning of the present war King Constantine was at the head of a devoted nation. He proceeds:—

The story of how that position has crumbled away under his own hands is also the story of M. Venizelos's revolt. The King had only to say to his arrogant brother-in-law: "I am by law a Constitutional monarch. I have no power and no duty but to carry out the will of my people. It would be hateful to me personally to fight against your troops. If I can use any influence to prevent my country going to war with you, I will do so. But if, in spite of all, my country insists on siding with the Entente, you must remember that I am only the head of a crowned republic." Neither the German Emperor nor the Entente Powers could have reasonably objected to such a policy as that. It would have been a bare statement of the facts. But the King preferred throughout to play with the Allies. His present Cabinet is largely composed of pro-Germans, and yet rumours, intended to mislead, are spread about that this Cabinet intends to intervene before long in the war against Germany. M. Venizelos knows the value of these hints, and means to be played with no longer. . . .

There is still one more opportunity which has been specially created for the King by M. Venizelos. The King could say with all truth and sincerity to the Kaiser: "I have tried to remain neutral—I have tried even at the cost of breaking the ancient pledges of my House to the Protecting Powers. I have resorted to every sort of temporizing expedient in the hope that you would make neutrality easier for me. Now you see the result. You cannot help me. On the contrary, your allies, the Bulgarians, have overrun Greek Macedonia. My provinces are being taken from me. My people are turning against me. I can continue your policy no longer. I shall send for M. Venizelos, who has saved both the country and the dynasty before and can save them again. But this time I shall act, without a thought of looking back, as a Sovereign whose decisions are formed for him by his Ministers." After all the follies of Greek policy it seems too good that this should happen. But M. Venizelos is attempting nothing less. We shall all watch his efforts for the sake of Greece with genuine concern and sympathy, and a devout wish that he may succeed.

"A Sedan Not Realised."

Commenting upon the fighting at Hermannstadt, the Military Correspondent of the *Morning Post* (October 3), in a paragraph headed as above, writes:—

The enemy naturally make the most of their success, and Berlin and Vienna greet Falkenhayn's *début* as an independent commander with quite a flourish of official trumpets. It may readily be credited that, in the conditions under which the engagement was fought, a considerable quantity of material was captured—in relation to the size of the Roumanian force which was engaged—but it is fairly evident that Falkenhayn hoped to reproduce a miniature Sedan by isolating and capturing the whole Roumanian force, and in this attempt he failed completely. Our Allies—so Bucharest tells us—repulsed the enemy's attack from the south and re-established their line of communication. The story told by Berlin and Vienna of their disordered flight into the mountains on both sides of the pass does not seem to agree very well with the later reports of renewed fighting in the neighbourhood of Tzainani, which lies five miles south of the frontier. It is also noticeable that Vienna, which usually issues a mere slavish repetition of the German *communiqués*, is not quite in agreement with the latter on this occasion; for, evidently with the object of making light of the fighting in this quarter, it refers to the Roumanian force as "detachments," while Berlin speaks of "strong Roumanian attacks."

More German Indiscretions.

Examining "The German Chancellor's Speech" in a leading article on Saturday, *The Times* observes:—

The extreme virulence of his denunciations against Roumania and against her Hohenzollern King is hardly politic. It is the measure of Germany's alarm at the accession of that State to the Alliance, and also, no doubt, of the efforts which she will make to crush so dangerous a foe. We may safely leave King Ferdinand and M. Bratiano to repel the Chancellor's charges, but we cannot refrain from expressing wonder at Herr von Bethmann Hollweg's indiscretion in enlarging upon the degradation of "the political conditions in which Ministerial words and Royal words have no value." Has he forgotten his own express assurances to Belgium in 1911, or those of Herr von Jagow in 1913, or those of the German Minister at Brussels only a few hours before the German troops, with Herr von Bethman Hollweg's approval, began to "hack their way through"? Has he forgotten his description of neutrality as "just a word" and of treaties to which his Government had sworn as "scraps of paper"? Has he forgotten that Germany is the Ally and patron of the double-dyed Royal traitor and perjurer Ferdinand of Bulgaria? The allegation that Roumania was always influenced by the military situation is another indiscretion. . . . These blunders proceed from anger, and Germany's anger should remind the Allies how urgent is the duty of succouring their new partner by all means in their power.

The Persian Climate.

We hear so little of Persia nowadays that almost any article on that country is sure to interest a large number of readers. The October *Blackwood* contains, among quite a number of articles on Near Eastern subjects, one entitled "On the Fringe of the World War," which describes in some detail the events that led to the departure of the British and Russian communities from Ispahan in May of last year, and the hardships our countrymen encountered on the tragic journey southwards. It would not be possible to give any idea of these adventures by quoting from the article, and the events that led up to them are familiar, in outline at least, to our readers. Here, however, is a pleasing note upon the Persian climate:—

So unvarying is the Persian climate that the native divides his year into a series of forty days, and prophesies the weather pretty accurately. The Chehilhum bozurg (or forty days of greatest heat) is followed by Chehilhum kurcheck, or forty days of lesser heat, when the thermometer descends slightly. Then the cool forty days come, when there is a notable change of temperature. This goes on until the descent to the winter solstice, when the Chehilhum bozurg of greatest cold sets in.

Rain and snow, too, are timed to fall at a certain date, which is seldom far out, and even the winds seem to obey a regular behest. The gentle rushing sound which can be heard in the distance, as one treads the path in the still garden at springtime, is the voice of the zephyr which will presently sway every branch, whispering to each bud that it is time to awake. A marvellous change indeed follows as the buds respond to the wooing. Almond, peach, plum, and cherry, apricot and pear, clothe themselves in gaudy array ready for their bridal. "The wind that opens the bud" has indeed accomplished its work with splendour?

Articles to Note.

"The Mohammedan Law Courts of Egypt: A Recent Chapter in Egyptian History," by Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, K.C.M.G., in the *Nineteenth Century* (October).

"The New Situation," by Dr. E. J. Dillon; "Roumania and the Eastern Question," by Politicus; and "The Awakening of Asia," by H. M. Hyndman, in the *Fortnightly Review* (October).

"The Balkan States and Turkey," by Sir Edwin Pears; "Pan-Slavism," by R. W. Seton-Watson, D.Litt.; and "The 'Slava' of a Serbian Regiment," by Major Claude Askew, in the *Contemporary Review* (October).

"By the Waters of Babylon," by "Light Infantry"; "Sunk," by R.N.V.; "On the Fringe of the World War"; and "The Scene of War," by Odysseus, in *Blackwood's Magazine* (October).

"The Roumanians at Home and at War," by Oliver Bainbridge; and "Pan-Slavism and Yougo-Slavism," by V. R. Savitch, in the *Asiatic Review* (October 2).

"The Position of Greece," in the *Saturday Review* (September 30).

"A Clean Slate for Greece," in the *New Statesman* (September 30).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The Banque Franco-Serbe will open its London branch to-morrow. I was able to forecast this important development in Balkan financial interests in London three or four weeks ago; the newcomer into our banking circles will receive a warm welcome in the City, for sympathetic no less than for political and commercial considerations. A special article dealing with Serbia will appear next week.

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The correspondent of THE NEAR EAST in Cairo calls attention once more to the crisis caused in Egypt by the shortage of fuel. The price of coal is prohibitive, owing to the difficulty in obtaining ships and the consequent freight problem. The matter has been dealt with in this journal so frequently that there is little more to be said. Meanwhile, experiments are being made in other directions—my reference to the suggested use of certain agricultural products will be recalled—and the result of these will be awaited with interest.

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At the industrial exhibition held recently in Alexandria—the receipt of an interesting little history of which I have to acknowledge, by the way—there were shown some briquettes made from waste, or practically waste, agricultural products, and the claim was made that this fuel could be made to take the place of coal. The claims were based upon the results of certain experiments, and I cannot imagine that the go-ahead and careful people who organised the exhibition would allow themselves to be led astray in so important a matter. Meanwhile, the authorities are taking the matter up, and I understand that not a little hope is entertained that a sound substitute will be found for the fuel the supply of which has been reduced so severely.

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I wish I had the time and the space to devote to the British Chamber of Commerce in Egypt in proportion to its merit; unfortunately, I have not, but I am able to invite attention to the work the Chamber is doing in assisting British firms in Egypt to avail themselves of the many openings of trade resulting from the exclusion of enemy traders. The Chamber has formed special committees in Cairo and Alexandria, and in the September issue of the *Journal* is set out a great mass of information which I should advise British houses to make themselves familiar with. The most valuable details are given regarding imports into the country of textiles, hosiery, machinery, iron, and steel, hardware of all kinds, glass, and, indeed, everything else in which there is a market. It is obvious that the greatest care has been taken to make the list complete and useful, and I can say no more than that success has been fully achieved.

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Another section deals with the vexed question of the appointment of agents, the advantage of personal visits, the character of travellers who are sent to look for trade, the facilities which these are likely to be afforded, and so on. Still another section refers to the extent to which the parcels post may be used by traders, the cash-on-delivery system, banking facilities, etc. Altogether, the September issue of the *Journal* is a *vade mecum* for British business men who aspire to an extension of trade interests. Another point is that membership of the Chamber carries the privilege and benefit of being able to draw upon its considerable stock of confidential information, which may not be obtained elsewhere.

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A Cairo friend writes to point out, in reference to the question of trade openings in Egypt, that it would be possible for several firms, representing different trade interests, to combine in the appointment of a special commissioner. This gentleman, who would presumably have a previous knowledge of the country to assist him, would go out upon a tour of investigation, spending several months studying the conditions of trade in general and of his principals' markets in particular. When the cost of his journey is divided the contributing firms ought to be able to secure a good deal of valuable information at a very reasonable cost, and I have pleasure in passing the suggestion on. The Chamber of Commerce would, I have no doubt, be happy to co-operate in such a mission.

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Some interest attaches to the advertisement inviting offers for the purchase of the large plot of land at Port Said facing the public gardens and the harbour, which belonged to the Deutsches Kohlen-Depôt G.M.B.H., now, of course, in liquidation. This firm before the war supplied coal to German ships passing through the Canal.

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Relations between Bulgaria and her "protectors"—"proprietors" would be the more appropriate term—seem to be growing more strained day by day. The Sofia paper *Mir*, which but a few months ago was simply so many columns of praise and eulogy of the Austro-Hungarians and Germans, now denounces the rapacity of Bulgaria's allies and the shameful exploitation of the country by their agents. The paper makes a fervid demand that measures against such arbitrary treatment should be taken.

***

The immediate trouble appears to be concerned with transport and food questions, and the *Mir* speaks with no uncertain voice. "It is some months now since we drew attention in very serious tones to the commercial relations between ourselves and our allies, and especially as regards the question of the transport of goods," says the paper. Apparently its complaints were left to go unheeded, for the writer continues petulantly:—"We trust and hope that the question will be taken in hand, and that an acceptable solution will be found for it. Unfortunately, up till now we see with regret that everything remains as it did in the past." It seems that the cost of transporting goods has been greatly enhanced "by levying all manner of taxes, damages, and differences of exchange." Well, the Bulgars have to thank only themselves for the plight in which they find themselves. I am sorry for the unfortunate people, who, after all, are the victims of the mal-administration, the oppression, and the dishonesty of those who ought to have led them victoriously on the side of the Allies in the fight for the final uplift of the whole Balkan people.

It is interesting to learn from a cable to *The Times* from its correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula that a congress of representatives of Russian industry and commerce has drawn up a memorandum proposing a commercial rapprochement between Russia and Roumania. It is proposed to afford greater facilities for passenger and goods traffic, to simplify passport and Customs formalities, to establish a Russian Bank in Roumania, and to despatch a Russian mission for the purpose of studying Roumanian commercial requirements. This is an ambitious programme, and one which cannot be accomplished in a moment. When it has been put through, however, we should see an immediate result in an increased volume of trade, while political relations will, or ought, also to benefit.

***

Turkey and Germany appear to anticipate a long partnership of evil. Statements have appeared recently in the German Press to the effect that the negotiations for the regulation of economic relations between the two countries will soon be concluded. Turkey as we know her, however, will not be in existence when the time comes for Germany to begin the reconstruction of her foreign trade, and the Turkey that will be—the creation of the Entente—will not be keen upon a continuation of the partnership. No country in Europe has suffered from the German connection so much as Turkey has done; and it will be one of the duties of Britain and her Allies to straighten things out.

***

I am glad to hear that, through the kindly ministrations of the Imperial Merchant Service Guild, the lot of British merchant seamen who are interned at various places in Turkey has much improved recently. A correspondent of the *Journal of Commerce* stated recently that the men "have laboured under all the greater privations, owing to the fact that parcels of food and other comforts addressed to them from this country have usually never reached their destination, despite urgent representations which have been repeatedly made by the Imperial Merchant Service Guild. According to information they received only quite lately from the Foreign Office, the staple diet of these captives consists of horse beans." It is certainly a relief to know that these hateful conditions have been terminated, and that the men are now living, if not in comfort, certainly more tolerably than was formerly the case.

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Elsewhere in this issue of THE NEAR EAST are printed extracts from the report of the Lieutenant-Governor of Malta upon the Blue Book for the year 1915-16. It is satisfactory to observe that the island has enjoyed a period of fair prosperity, that there has not been a serious falling-off in revenue, and that a material improvement has been achieved in the direction of reducing expenditure. The net result is a substantial surplus. Malta has its own war problems, of course; provisions, fuel, and other articles of daily necessity have increased in price, and labour, according to some accounts, has been affected. That there are compensations as well is fairly obvious, and the Government of the island have earned congratulations upon their successful year's work.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Proposed British Trade Bank.

Position of Manufacturers and Producers of Raw Materials.

(By a Near Eastern Correspondent.)

The establishment of an institution such as that proposed in the report of Lord Farringdon's Committee has been advocated long and frequently in The Near East, and, so far as it goes, the proposal must be regarded as satisfactory. At least it is a step in the right direction.

As a dweller in the Near East for many years, where competition is probably of the keenest, and the experience most varied, and where one is in daily contact with different races, characters, and principles, one or two points strike me as requiring attention.

First of all there is the position of our manufacturers. It is stated that "the British banks afford liberal accommodation for the home producer." In the past, however, there has been great disappointment and complaint that the manufacturer will not adapt his plant to the production of the article required by the foreign buyer, and consequently this trade is lost to our country, which means so much loss in both imports and exports, and, most important of all, to our workmen.

Self-Satisfied.

The manufacturer in most cases is quite satisfied with the article he produces; he will not listen to proposals which entail changes, and the last thing he contemplates is the scrapping of his plant when a new invention comes forward, and which incidentally places his competitor in a more advantageous position. It is essential that the markets of the world be scoured in order that everything, no matter of what industrial nature and however much despised at present by our manufacturers, be turned to profitable account; existing factories be enlarged, new industries be created, both kept up to date, and our productions be increased and extended to their utmost.

If the functions of the proposed bank embrace the creation of syndicates for the manufacture of such articles as present manufacturers refuse to undertake, and stimulate latent and hesitating enterprise, it will do a great deal towards our regaining lost ground.

The question of foreign representation is of the utmost importance. The British foreign banks are excellent institutions, but I venture to point out that the resident British trader abroad is more practical. The latter can deal effectively and immediately with the trade as it comes forward, and use initiative, whilst the former deals with it in report. The proposed bank should, therefore, have branches in many foreign countries, in accordance with the laws of those countries; the capital should be partly British and partly foreign; the board should be partly composed of British and foreign subjects, having the advantage of the local standing, influence, knowledge, and experience; and the executive should be in the hands of the board and manager on the spot. It would thus be in the best and strongest position to deal with business as it comes along.

The Anglo-Foreign Bank, which would be under the ægis of the parent institution, would be controlled by the latter in so far as its general policy is concerned and the amount of credit given as circumstances require. The appointment of the board and manager would also be subject to the approval of the parent bank. Invitations might be extended to existing British-foreign banks, either to convert their present branches into such foreign constituted establishments or form separate establishments, such as I have indicated, in order to be on an equal footing with other banking establishments in the foreign country.

Industrial Connections.

In connection with the Anglo-Foreign Bank and under its control should be formed a commercial institution, divided into sections embracing the most important British industries, as also the products of the foreign countries, with a capable and experienced manager at the head of each section. Each manager would conduct his department in the same manner as any established firm or company, and would be under the control of the bank in respect of the extent of credit to be given to customers, as regards selling and of obligations as regards buying.

Well known established British firms of good repute in the country should be invited to co-operate, and in any case should be placed on a friendly footing so far as banking facilities are concerned.

In such an institution the British manufacturer or trader would be in close contact with his foreign buyer, which is not the case under present conditions, except in the few instances where he has established his own house abroad, and the result has too often been unsatisfactory. The consequence is distrust in dealing with the buyer domiciled abroad and limitation of business.

What is required is the establishment of confidence as between the manufacturer or trader and the foreign buyer, and I venture to assert that the formation of the Commercial Institution I have indicated would fulfil the requirements mentioned in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the committee's report, and would have the advantage of being self-supporting. Furthermore, it would assist in a practical way in the "obtaining of orders abroad," and its doors would be open to British youth, who would be initiated into the peculiarities, customs, and conditions of trade in foreign countries.

The Near East.

These remarks, of course, refer to trade in the Near East, where such institutions could be profitably and advantageously established. Each country has its own peculiarities, customs, and laws, which require to be taken into consideration; but possibly my suggestions might be adopted with modifications and meet the requirements of trade with other countries.

As the Near East is a most important part of the world in connection with the safety of our Empire, it behoves us to cultivate intimate relations with it in respect of political, financial, and commercial interests, and its geographical proximity to Germany demands careful and energetic handling and all facilities for the pushing of British trade.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

"Certificates of Interest for Exported Goods."

The Secretary for Foreign Affairs desires to bring to the notice of all concerned that, with a view to preventing breaches of the Trading with the Enemy Acts and Proclamations, particularly the Trading with the Enemy (Extension of Powers) Act, 1915, all goods now exported from the countries marked (A) below to the United Kingdom, Australia, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Union of South Africa, all colonies not possessing responsible Governments and Protectorates, as well as India, must be accompanied by certificates of interest. These certificates will be issued by His Majesty's Consular Officers, who will require documentary evidence that no enemy or person with whom trade is for the time being prohibited (*e.g.*, persons on the statutory list) has any interest in the goods.

(A) Abyssinia, Argentina, Azores, Bolivia, Brazil, Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Danish West Indies, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Liberia, Madeira, Mexico, Morocco, Muscat, Netherland East and West Indies, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Persia, Peru, Philippine Islands, Portuguese East and West Africa, San Salvador, Spain, Spanish West Africa, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

In the case of exports from the countries marked (B) below, where certificates of origin have hitherto been required, certificates of origin and interest will be required for goods exported on and after October 1 on the same conditions, except that the additional evidence required for a certificate of interest will have to be produced to the Consular Officer to whom application is made for the issue of the combined certificate.

(B) Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, and Switzerland.

In the case of these five countries goods for which certificates of origin are not at present required will not have to be accompanied by the new form of certificate of origin and interest.

All goods exported on and after October 10 from the five countries marked (B) above to Canada must be accompanied by a certificate of origin and interest. In other cases certificates are not compulsory, but many traders, and particularly British shipowners and masters, will no doubt require, for their own protection against possible breaches of the Trading with the Enemy Acts, to be furnished with certificates for goods consigned to any destination whatsoever. His Majesty's Consular Officers have accordingly been instructed to furnish certificates in such circumstances on application. The period of validity shown on certificates of interest and certificates of origin and interest will in no case exceed two months. It is required that shipment shall have been effected from the country of origin within the period of validity stated on the certificate, and it is not necessary that the goods shall have arrived at their ultimate destination within that period. The onus of proving that the goods were shipped within the period required will, if necessary, rest in cases of doubt with the importer of the goods.

EGYPT'S COTTON IMPORTS.

List of Revised Tariff Valuations.

The Egyptian *Journal Officiel* of September 11 contains a list of revised Tariff Valuations (No. 1) for use in assessing duties on cotton manufactures imported into Egypt, with effect from September 4 to December 3, 1916, or until denunciation, as follows:—

	Milliemes.*
White longcloths (soft or hard finish)	105
Victoria lawns, common qualities	ad valorem
Doriahs (hard finish)	"
Grey T and longcloths, domestic and cabot	112
Grey shirtings; grey twills, grey cambrics, and grey tanjibs	145
Arabian stripes and cotton scrims	ad valorem
Fine Victoria lawns	"
Fine mulls	"
White tanjibs, soft finish; white doriahs, soft finish; white cambrics, soft finish; grey mulls, white mulls; grey doriahs	191
Crapes, dice checks, herring bones, sateen stripes, bleached or grey, all common qualities	172
White shirtings; white croydons; white twills [fine light shirtings (batiste) are excluded]	165
Prints for dressing	237
Tanjibs (hard finish)	ad valorem
Fancy cloth, red, coloured, or sateen stripes (Bazin)	191
Sheetings	214
Grey dhooties	164
White dhooties	219
Plain dyed cloths, sateens, black drills Turkey red common brocades (excluding printed sateens, mercerised sateens, jaconettes, linings, and fine brocades)	
Prints, "satiné," for furniture	ad valorem
Cambrics (hard finish)	110
Swiss checks, bleached or grey	152
Drills, grand drills and cetaries	122
Cotton flannelettes and printed flannelettes	204
Oxfords, current qualities	180
Nainsook and similar cloths, white, coloured or black	ad valorem
Cambrics, y. 12 and y. 24	"
Zephyrs	"
Jaconettes, crimps, crepons, heavy lappets, heavy lenos, common punjees, and light prints, plain, coloured or printed	"
Fine brocades, plain, figured or printed	"
Plain cotton crepon, white, black or coloured	"
Embroidery cambrics	"

Note.—The tare allowance for bales is fixed at 3 per cent. Duty is leviable on the valuations shown at the rate of 8 per cent.

FREDC. OTT & Co.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(An Anglo-Swiss Firm.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: Ottfried.

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MALTA IN WAR TIME.

Satisfactory Revenue and Trade Conditions in 1915-16.

For one reason and the other the commercial affairs of Malta do not attract a great deal of attention in this country, although the trade figures quoted in the report for 1915-16 issued recently by the Government of the island indicate that British manufacturers could with advantage watch the trading possibilities of the island.

In the Blue-book, upon which the report is based, there is a comparative statement which shows how, since the year 1910-11, revenue has advanced steadily until it caught up with expenditure. In the year mentioned the figures were :—Revenue, £441,444; expenditure, £467,373; deficit, £25,929. In the year under review they were :—Revenue, £463,002; expenditure, £410,389, the surplus therefore being £52,613. The total amount received for duty on articles imported for his Majesty's naval and military services, and subsequently refunded to the Imperial Government in the form of drawback, was £24,945. The actual revenue for the year was, therefore, £438,057, and the actual expenditure £385,444.

After carrying to depreciation fund a sum of £70,928 to cover further depreciation on securities, the net surplus on March 31, 1916, stood at £45,378, as against £63,693 on the corresponding date of the previous year.

The revenue and expenditure for the five preceding years were as follows :—

Year.	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £
1910-11	441,444	467,373
1911-12	448,114	467,783
1912-13	442,035	427,581
1913-14	423,108	402,521
1914-15	410,725	386,283

Revenue.

The revenue collected in 1915-16 exceeded that of 1914-15 by £52,277. The only important decreases were under harbour and quarantine dues (£1,474), interest (£1,112), and land sales (£1,437), while there were appreciable increases under: Customs (£38,433), due to increased consumption of dutiable articles, attributable to an increase in population caused by the establishment of temporary military hospitals, etc; Post Office (£4,330), due to an increase in the sale of postage stamps; railway (£2,374), due to increased traffic; water service (£2,809), due to increased consumption of water in the naval and military establishments and to an increase in the rate for water supplied to shipping; electric lighting (£2,325), due to increased consumption of current by the public and in war department buildings; rents (£1,268), due mainly to payment of arrears of previous years.

Expenditure.

The expenditure amounted to £410,389, comprising personal emoluments, £162,395; other charges, £145,258; interest and burthens, £20,446; pensions, £26,163; miscellaneous services, £4,373; water and electric lighting works, £3,922; public works, £47,832.

As compared with that of 1914-15, the total expenditure for 1915-16 shows an increase of £24,106. The principal increases were :—Customs and Port Department (£10,230), due to an increase in the amount refunded in the form of drawback owing to increased importation of dutiable articles for the Imperial Service; to an increase in the amount refunded for revenue overpaid, and to the employment of more Revenue Guards owing to war conditions. Railway Department (£1,651), due principally to higher price of coal and of other materials. Prisons (£890), due to high price of provisions, fuel, etc. Charitable institutions (£4,923), due to high price of provisions, fuel, bedding, clothing and other materials. Miscellaneous services (£3,837), chiefly due to payment of Colonial allowance to officers of Maltese Corps on service with the British Expeditionary Forces during the war, maintenance expenses of interned persons of enemy nationality who were domiciled in Malta, and payment of war bonus to certain public servants, etc. Waterworks and Electric Lighting Department (£6,245), due to high price of coal and materials generally. Waterworks and Electric Lighting Extraordinary (£3,405), due to the purchase of a new generating set for the electric lighting station. Public Works annually recurrent (£5,201), due chiefly to expenditure on drainage maintenance hitherto charged to "Public Works Department."

Savings.

The chief decreases were :—Interest and burthens (£781), due to less interest paid to the savings bank on investments, owing to increase in the rate of income tax, and to less interest paid to the savings bank on moneys advanced by it to the Monte di Pieta. Post Office (£3,990), due to the suspension of the mail contract and to the fact that certain amounts due for international transit rates and expenses of International Bureau were not paid during the year. Public Works Department (£5,788), due chiefly to the transfer of expenditure on drainage maintenance to "public works annually recurrent." Public Works extraordinary (£1,573), due to postponement of certain works. The assets and liabilities of the Government at the close of 1915-16, as compared with those of 1914-15, are shown in the following table :—

Year.	Assets. £	Liabilities. £	Surplus. £
1914-15.....	770,949	707,256	63,693
1915-16.....	862,988	817,610	45,378
Increase.....	92,039	110,354	—
Decrease	—	—	18,315

The value of securities forming part of the assets on March 31st, 1916, has been calculated, as to Consols and Annuities at 65 per cent. and as to Colonials at the market price on that date.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of the imports of merchandise, including the value of goods entered by parcel-post and excluding bullion and goods imported for transhipment, was £3,213,890, as compared with £2,069,817 in 1914-15, showing an increase of £1,144,073.

The value of imports during the year was £815,451 above the average for the past three years. There is still an all-round increase in the value of imports, due, in the majority of instances, to increased importations and to the enhanced value of all goods. The only exceptions are under the headings "yarns" and "wood and timber," which show respectively a decrease of £2,655 and £6,897.

The value of exports amounted to £558,749, as against £662,412 in 1914-15, showing a decrease of £103,663 in the year under review. Food, drink and tobacco account for £164,494 of the total, raw materials for £344,496, manufactured articles for £24,706, and miscellaneous exports for the rest.

ENEMY PROPERTY IN EGYPT.

The Public Custodian of enemy property in Egypt calls attention to the provisions of the Proclamation of July 31, 1916, published as a supplement to the *Official Journal* of August 7, 1916, and states that he possesses and continues to receive information from various sources which shows that many persons have not made the various declarations concerning enemy property required by the Proclamation.

As the necessity of making these declarations may have escaped the attention of certain sections of the public, the Public Custodian desires to make it known that he would continue to receive declarations until the end of September, although the 7th was the last day allowed under the Proclamation.

THE NILE FLOOD.

Mr. A. P. Tottenham, Inspector-General of Irrigation in Egypt, has returned to Cairo after having inspected the Nile districts in Upper Egypt and examined in person the measures adopted for protection from flood. In an interview with a representative of a Cairo paper, he assured him that there was no danger this year from the flood if those who are entrusted with the watching of the banks carry out their duties properly. He did not expect the Nile to rise at Rodah more than 8cm. above the present level, for during his visit to Sohag and Assiout he had diverted to the canals and basins there a considerable amount of water which would otherwise have come down to Rodah.

TRADE NOTES.

Liquidation.

The firm of Escher, Jesumann, and Co., Alexandria. Receiver: Mr. H. B. Carver, Alexandria.

Openings.

H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier reports that, according to a notice recently published in the *Boletin Oficial* of the Spanish zone in Morocco, tenders will be received up to October 4 at the Secretariat of the "Junta de Servicios Locales," Tetuan, or in the Morocco Section of the Ministry of State at Madrid, for the construction of a general provision market in Tetuan. The specification, plans, etc., may be inspected at either of the above-mentioned offices.

Failures

The following suspensions of payment are reported :—

Yanni Bichay, Morkos Bichay and the late Kyriacos, corn merchants, Mellaoui, (Assiout);

Abdel Fattah Abdel Hamid Hussein, mechanical constructor, Damanhour; and

Morgan Saleh, coal merchant, Alexandria.

Accepted Tenders.

The supply of photographic material to the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior and the Identification Service for 1916-1917, advertised in the *Official Journal*, has been adjudicated to the undermentioned tenderers :—

	Total Cost. LE. M.M
Société Anonyme des Drogueries d'Egypte ..	228 770
The Imperial Dry Plate Co., Ltd.....	138 265

GERMANISED BRITISH INDUSTRY.

At the City (London) Local Tribunal on Wednesday application for the exemption from military service of five employees was made by Messrs. S. Toye and Co., bristle and horse-hair merchants.

Mr. G. W. H. Jones said that at the outbreak of the war there were only six of these businesses in existence in England, of which the applicants' was the largest, and probably the second largest in the world. Four of the firms were German and two were about to be closed down by the Board of Trade. The whole of the bristles originally went from Russia to Germany, and up to February, 1915, the firm had licences to buy direct from Germany. Since that time they had bought direct from Russia. The trade had now so increased that the firm had to deal with a turnover which was almost double. The skilled men formerly with the German firms were Germans, and the applicants could not employ them.

Two appeals were dismissed, one was withdrawn, and two men were given exemption till January.

NOTICE.

Société Anonyme pour la Fabrication des Cigarettes Egyptiennes marque HADJES NESSIM en liquidation.

Offers for the purchase of the following items of Stock and House Property will be received in the name of EDWARD D. JOYCE, P.O.B. 206, Alexandria (Egypt), Receiver of the above Company, up till 8 a.m. on the 15th of NOVEMBER, 1916 :—

(a) The TRADE MARK belonging to the Company, together with all the Stock of Tin Boxes, Labels, Cigarette Paper, etc., on which the Trade Mark is printed.

(b) The BUILDING situated No. 12-14, Rue Abou El Dardar, Alexandria (Egypt), belonging to the Company.

Details of the above can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, 12-14, Rue Abou El Dardar, Alexandria, between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon, on any day except Sundays, from this date to the 13th of NOVEMBER, 1916.

Offers must be made in writing, under registered cover, to the above mentioned P.O. address, and must be accompanied by a deposit in Cash of 10 per cent. of the amount offered.

Offers may be made for items A and B separately.

The Receiver is not bound to accept the best or any offer made.

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PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, Sept. 5.

Currants.

The first arrivals have met with a very good reception, sales taking place at full prices. The quality of all growths seems to be quite satisfactory, although some of the fruit, mostly provincial, brought in bags by the first steamer, was damaged by water, and its condition was not attractive. Provincial is quoted 63s. to 66s.; Amalias, 67s. to 70s.; Patras, 70s. to 75s.; Gulf, 77s. to 80s.; Vostizza, 80s. to 82s.; and smalls, 67s. to 76s. per cwt. In the above prices the duty of 2s. per cwt., for currants, is not included.

Sultanas.

Good business continues, principally in Afghanistan and Australian fruit, and prices have further advanced.

Figs.

Owing to the new import regulations, business is restricted, and buyers are mostly interested in the coming new fruit. Spanish and Portuguese quoted at 32s. to 40s.; while new Calamata are quoted 42s. to 44s.

Dates.

The demand is very moderate, Persians being quoted at 32s. to 34s. The efforts of the Imperial Institute for finding a market in England for dates from the Sudan have apparently been successful, and according to reports in the market the Institute suggested to the Sudan Government that consignments of these dates should be sent this season to London for sale. A small sample consignment of dates from the Halfa Province was much liked, and quickly disposed of recently at a good price in this market, and this fact evidently encouraged the Imperial Institute to act as referred to above.

Seeds.

Linseed is dearer, London-Calcutta spot being quoted at 81s. 6d., afloat 81s. 6d., Oct.-Nov. 82s. 6d.; while Bombay ordinary, Oct.-Nov. is quoted 84s. 6d., and small grain ditto 82s. 9d. Rapeseed is firm, but quiet; Toria Oct.-Nov. 71s., and brown Cawnpore ditto 68s. 6d. Cottonseed is firmer; London Egyptian Oct. is offered at £13, Nov. £13, and Sakelarides Oct. £12 12s. 6d. per ton. Rangoon beans are very steady, with business done on spot at £26 10s., and Dec.-Jan. at £28 c.i.f.

Oils.

Linseed oil is firmer; spot pipes landed offered at £39 10s., barrels ditto £40 10s. Rape oil is firm for ordinary brown, naked, spot at £43; English refined barrels £48 to £50. Cotton oil is firm; crude, spot pipes £35; refined, pipes, pale £40; barrels £41, and sweet barrels £48 to £51 10s., as to make.

Oilcakes.

Cottoncakes: Of Egyptian the market is almost bare of stocks, and what remains is firmly held at £10 10s. to £10 12s. 6d.; while English makes are quoted £10 12s. 6d. to £10 15s. Linseed cakes remain firm, although only small transactions are taking place at prices quoted in last week's report.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The memorandum and articles of association of the newly-formed Russo-British Chamber of Commerce in the United Kingdom have been approved by the Board of Trade, and it is expected that a certificate of incorporation will be issued shortly by Somerset House. About 240 firms in this country have already joined, and contributions amounting in the aggregate to £1,000 have been made by British concerns towards the installation fund of the Chamber. The first general meeting of members will be held at the beginning of November. Although the Chamber is not yet in working order it is prepared to answer any inquiries concerning Russo-British trade addressed to it at International Buildings, Kingsway, London.

Prominent Industries of India

The Announcements below are published to acquaint our readers with the opportunity India affords the keen purchaser.

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Power Diminution in Hot Climates.

The following is extracted from an article dealing with "Power Diminution in Hot Climates," in the *Motor Ship and Motor Boat*:—"One of the small but important points often lost sight of by manufacturers in this country, and sometimes by buyers abroad, is the difference in the power which an internal-combustion engine will develop in Europe as compared with the output it is possible to attain in countries where the mean temperature is much higher. Generally speaking, in fairly hot climates it is not possible to maintain continuously a load of more than 80 to 85 per cent. of the European rating with any degree of safety. It is somewhat difficult to understand why there should be this comparatively large difference, and it must be pointed out that it varies at different places with corresponding temperatures, even though their altitude be the same, dependent perhaps on the humidity of the atmosphere. There seems to be no explanation other than that the air is more rarefied in hot climates, and that the same weight of mixture in correct proportion for efficient combustion cannot be received into the cylinder at each revolution. It would be thought that all manufacturers would be aware of this loss of power, and would make allowance for it, either by lowering their rated output when selling to hot climates or warning their customers that they will have to make a certain allowance. This is, however, seldom done, mainly because manufacturers are unaware in each particular part of the world how much deduction has to be made, and also perhaps because they are usually selling their engines in competition with other manufacturers who are quoting their motors at their European rating. After a time, of course, buyers learn for themselves, and make their own allowance by specifying a motor that has 15 to 20 per cent. larger rated output than would normally be required, but it would be much more satisfactory if all the internal-combustion engine-builders would make a point of ascertaining what power their motors will develop in hot countries as compared with England, and placing the facts of the case before actual and prospective buyers. That the policy would pay the writer is convinced from the bitter complaints he has heard and received from buyers in the East, particularly when they are unable to obtain that power from their engine which the makers say they guarantee."

Future of the Danube.

M. Henri Lorin, in the course of a lecture delivered before French and foreign journalists in Paris last week, on "The Question of the Danube," said that Greater Roumania would possess wealth in cereals, timber, minerals, cattle, etc., and that, consequently, improved arrangements in connection with navigation on the Danube would permit of more extensive exploitation than is the case to-day. If this is to be achieved, it will be necessary to equip the Danube with warehouses specially reserved for Roumanian merchandise for export. When peace negotiations take place it will be necessary to secure freedom of movement for craft ascending the Danube from the Black Sea—that is to say, throughout the entire length of the waterway, including extensions to the German northern rivers, which will involve the abolition of artificial obstacles, such as Customs, tolls, etc. The engineers and financiers of the Entente will find in this work, in direct agreement with local Roumanian organisations, excellent scope for their activities.

Suggested Under-sea Oil Pipe.

Those engaged in oil engineering in the Near East will be interested in a scheme for a submarine pipeline to convey oil which is proposed by Mr. S. J. Murphy, the general manager of the Tonlode Manufacturing Company, Drogheda, Ireland. The flexible pipe he has designed for the purpose is constructed of mild steel ribbon on the helical tube principle, the helices being packed with asbestos twine. The steel ribbon is coated with a protective metallic alloy, and is of such a thickness as to render the completed pipe capable of withstanding an internal pressure of 2,000lb., and an external pressure of 10,000lb. per square inch. Finally, a cotton casing is woven over the outside of the pipe and coated with preservative compound. To give longitudinal strength a stranded steel cable or hawser is put inside the pipe. Mr. Murphy considers that a pipeline between this country and America could be laid in three or four months. The course would be divided into 20 sections, and as many laying ships would be employed, so that each would have about 130 miles to lay. The ships would be provided with sufficient steel ribbon on reels, with cotton, cable, and other requirements, to complete their allotted distance, and each would carry a tube-forming and sleeve-weaving apparatus. The former consists of a cross frame carrying reels of ribbon and asbestos, and the forming and bending rollers, the whole being rotated round a steel mandril. As the frame rotates the rollers press the steel ribbon to the required shape, enclosing the asbestos and interlocking the edges of the ribbon, and, finally, the cotton casing is woven on, the preservative compound being applied at the same time.

16 Feet of Pipe per Minute.

The operations take place round the steel cable by means of which the pipe would be fed into the water. The apparatus is designed to produce at least 16ft. of pipe a minute. When beginning work each ship would attach its pipe cable to an anchored buoy. The cable would be wound on a drum having its rotation controlled frictionally, and when a pre-determined amount of cable had been produced the drum would be allowed to unwind a proportionate length of cable, on which the whole strain of laying would rest. Subsequently the sections would be joined together, the pipe by means of bronze couplings, cotton covered and preserved, and the internal cable by similar couplings of steel. Mr. Murphy calculates that a single Anglo-American pipeline, 3,000 miles long and 18in. in diameter, would deliver about 700 gallons a minute, or about 6,000,000 gallons a week, with a pump pressure of 2,000lb. per square inch. The capital outlay he puts at £10,000,000, and the annual working and maintenance costs, exclusive of clerical and directorship costs, at £50,000, power (at ¼d. per unit) accounting for £13,500, wages and salaries for £4,000, repairs and renewals to plant for £500, and a repair ship always in commission for £32,000, including repair materials. On this basis he estimates the cost per 1,000 gallons per 1,000 miles at 2s., as compared with £12 with tank steamers.

Automatic Electric Plant.

According to the Merchant Shipping Act every ship which is fitted with a radio-telegraph installation must also carry an emergency equipment. The drawback to the efficiency of wireless installations is that where they depend for their working on the main electrical supply of the ship they, obviously, are put out of action if the main generating sets fail. This difficulty can be surmounted now by the employment of a new automatic electric generating plant, of entirely British design and construction. The essential features of the system are that this auxiliary plant starts immediately the main supply fails. It is self-regulating and self-testing, and it stops immediately the main supply is resumed. The value of such a plant in the event of accident to a ship can easily be imagined, for in many cases it would enable the wireless installation to be used, and light to be obtained, for a considerable period after the main electric supply failed. On smaller vessels, where no wireless is installed, this new system affords a means of providing energy for lighting or for wireless purposes, for it is simple and reliable and does not occupy much space. The plant will particularly interest shipowners abroad, who, having adopted certain wireless installations of foreign origin, find that the system fails to act, as a rule, at the most critical moment.

GERMAN OIL INTERESTS.

War Situation in the Roumanian Fields.

The production of petroleum in Roumania has decreased materially during the war, the figures for the three years 1913-15 being 1,890,000 tons, 1,770,000 tons, and 1,670,000 tons (says *Engineering*). The export trade in the products which were allowed to be exported has, on the whole, been done at very remunerative figures, but the export has receded considerably in the matter of quantity. The aggregate export of petroleum and by-products was, for the three years, 1,036,444 tons, 684,024 tons, and 429,087 tons. The exports to Germany and Austria-Hungary were :—

	Germany. Tons.	Austria-Hungary. Tons.
1913	126,295	77,184
1914	99,165	84,253
1915	154,688	225,699

To England, France, and Italy no export whatever has taken place during last year, and the export to Russia only amounted to 578 tons.

German Interests.

Germany is much interested in the Roumanian industry, in which it has invested much capital and skill during the last twenty years. Of late years the Roumanian Government and capitalists have been endeavouring to nationalise this important industry, and of the £4,400,000 of assets shown in the balance-sheet of the Steaua Romana at the end of last year, between £2,400,000 and £2,000,000 certainly lay in Roumania, £1,720,000 representing installations, £360,000 oilfields, and the balance means of transport and stock. The £1,720,000 of assets and debtors were probably outside Roumania.

It remains to be seen how these two sections—the Roumanian and the one outside Roumania—will be able to work during the war. A substantial sum out of the profits for the first seven months of the present year is no doubt available for the board. The last business year (seven and a-half months), after writing off £260,000, yielded £200,000.

A German Concern.

As regards the German Petroleum Company, the position seems more favourable. At the end of 1915 the Roumanian portion of the shares amounted to 6,820,000 marks, besides 2,170,000 marks of other Roumanian items, and in addition to advances to Roumanian affiliated concerns. As regards the latter, the Vega Refinery Company and the Petroliter Transport Company, however, are said to be creditors of, and not debtors to, the German Petroleum Company, and the Concordia concern has, of late years, been able to reduce its liabilities.

The trade with Roumania in petroleum products has been of importance as regards lubricating oils, petroleum for lighting, and gas oil, whilst the export of petrol to Germany and Austria has been very limited. Lately, permission for export of petrol has certainly been granted, but there were several obstacles in the way. It is claimed for Germany that the stoppage of the Roumanian supplies will cause no trouble. What is called the statistical position as regards lighting oil, fuel, and petrol is secure for a long time to come. Besides, Galicia delivers promptly the quantities contracted for, and although the recently-opened oil traffic on the Danube, viâ Orsova, has again been stopped, it is stated that this does not matter much.

Proceedings have been instituted in the Prize Court at Gibraltar in respect of certain cargo *ex* the vessels Castor and Hector. The date of appearance in both cases is given as September 27.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system)
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Telg.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 738.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY.
P. O. B. 1095. Telg.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2066.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
to of Egypt and the Sudan, to
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

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BRITISH CONSULAR SERVICE.

The Case for Prompt and Radical Reform.

We are glad to observe that the campaign in which THE NEAR EAST has been engaged prominently in favour of the prompt and radical reform of our Consular Service is being taken up elsewhere in a definite manner. Additional interest has been attracted to this important question by certain statements made by Mr. Vassar-Smith, chairman of Lloyd's Bank, in an interview published recently in the *Daily Telegraph*. The question is intimately bound up with the success of the proposed British trade bank or with any other scheme for enabling British trade to hold its own after the war. The Civil Service correspondent of that paper now writes, in the course of an informing article: The principal complaints against the Consular Service which have been made time and again by the chambers of commerce and individual firms are that the Service is starved, and that it is recruited from men without any commercial experience.

But as Sir Algernon Firth, President of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, told the Royal Commission, the universal complaint and the chief criticism directed against the Consular Service is that it is recruited from men without any commercial training or experience.

Ignored Remedies.

The most important recommendation of the Walrond Committee of 1903, of which Mr. Bonar Law was a member, was a proposal to remedy this defect, but, true to its traditional indifference to trade, it has never been carried out by the Foreign Office. Of the eleven successful candidates at the 1913 examination for the general Consular Service, not one had any previous commercial training, and a survey of the antecedents of the successful candidates at all the examinations held as far back as 1905 reveals the same fatal drawback.

In France, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, and Holland, special training colleges have existed for the Consular Service; we rely on a mixed literary and technical competitive examination, and of quite a low standard at that. Arithmetic, for instance, goes no higher than vulgar and decimal fractions. The technical subjects can be crammed in a few weeks from any text book. This is an age above all of specialisation, and, where technical knowledge is required, no worse system of selection could well be devised than that of a Civil Service competitive examination. The one advantage possessed by open competition is that it excludes favouritism, but we may pay too high a price for it, and, in shutting the door to one evil, we may open it for others of more serious consequence.

The First Step.

The first step towards any practical reform of the Consular Service is to hand it over altogether to the Board of Trade, and let the selection of candidates be made by the Advisory Committee of the Commercial Intelligence Branch, the possession of commercial knowledge, instead of being as now the last, being made the first consideration. As Sir Algernon Firth, who is a member of this Advisory Committee, has pointed out, when it is desired to select a man for a commercial mission they do not set him to write on all these subjects, but they adopt the more simple and effective method of going into the question of his business experience. Why should not the same method of recruitment be adopted for the Consular Service? So long as the selection is vested not in one man, but in a committee, there is little fear of nepotism.

It is a constant complaint in the commercial world that, while the consuls of Germany, France, and America, for instance, do everything possible to help their nationals, very little assistance is derived from the British Consul. The competition is an unfair one. The British merchant finds himself competing, not with the German, but with the German backed by all the resources of his Government. If our British Embassies and Consulates did their duty, there would be no need for the Information Department proposed by Lord Faringdon's Committee as an important feature of the trade bank scheme.

Begin Now.

With the existing Consular staff it may not be possible to introduce any great scheme of reform in time to be effective when peace comes, but preparations might be set on foot now so that a commercial expert should be attached to each of the principal Consulates.

The Consular Service is divided into three branches—the General Consular Service, the Levant Service, and the Far East Service. The two latter services differ from the General Consular Service in being quasi-diplomatic as well as commercial, but the complaints by British traders apply to all three branches, inasmuch as they are not supported as they should be, and as their foreign rivals are, by their Consuls.

The fact that the Levant and Far Eastern services deal with diplomatic or political questions may appear to present some difficulty in detaching the Consular Service from the Foreign Office and handing it over to the Board of Trade, but such a proposal, to say the least, is far less objectionable than the present arrangement, which gives the Foreign Office control of a service, immeasurably more important on the commercial than on the diplomatic side. The point is that the Foreign Office by its tradition and training is not the proper department to which our Consular Services should belong. It is surely the natural adjunct of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, and the Foreign Office would very likely welcome the change.

PETROLEUM IN 1915.

The *Iron Age* (New York) of August 24 publishes the following statistics of the world's production of petroleum in 1915, taken from a return compiled by the United States Geological Survey:—

The total quantity of crude petroleum entering the world's markets in 1915, which amounted to 426,892,673 barrels of 42 gallons (the United States gallon = .833 of an Imperial gallon, or 6 United States gallons = 5 Imperial gallons) exceeds the record output of 1914 by 28,194,307 barrels. The bulk of the increase came from the United States and Mexico, although the output in Russia, Japan, and Argentina increased considerably. The following table shows the volume of the output of petroleum in the countries named:—

	Barrels of 42 Gallons.
United States	281,104,104*
Russia	68,548,062
Mexico	32,910,508
Dutch East Indies and British Borneo	12,386,808
Roumania	12,029,913
British India	7,400,000‡
Galicia	4,158,899
Japan and Formosa	3,118,464
Peru	2,487,251
Germany	995,764
Trinidad	750,000‡
Argentina	516,120
Egypt	221,768
Canada	215,464
Italy	39,548‡
Other countries	10,000‡
Total	426,892,673

* Market production. ‡ Estimated.

From New York comes the statement that much closer relations have been established between the Hamburg-Amerika and the North German Lloyd steamship lines, with a view to the extension of German trade after peace. Each company is reorganising its directorate with the desire of strengthening its financial backing. Each new board will, it is stated, include coal and electric interests of prominence. Herr Arthur von Gwinner, managing director of the Deutsche Bank, will, it is reported, be given a position on the board of the Hamburg-American line. The bank already is represented on the board of the North German Lloyd Company by Herr Paul Mankiewitz. It has been reported, also, that German shipowners have organised a strong association to which the support of the Government has been extended.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

An Order in Council affecting imports and exports which was published in London on Tuesday removes the prohibition of the importation of oranges. The additions to the list of prohibited imports include cotton hosiery, bone, horn, ivory, and celluloid goods, live birds other than poultry and game, and aluminium powder. Additions to the list of articles to be treated as absolute contraband include insulating materials, fatty acids, cadmium, and albumen. Yeast is declared conditional contraband.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of a copy of a Beylical Decree, dated August 23, and published in the *Journal Officiel Tunisien* for September 6, which prohibits the exportation and re-exportation from Tunis of tobacco of all kinds.

The Chief Collector of Customs and Excise at Larnaca reports that the 1916 crop of locust beans in the Island would have been much better than that of last year but for the hot winds which prevailed during May and June; these winds dried up the carobs and had a most adverse effect on the crop, both as regards quality and quantity. As a result, the 1916 crop is estimated to be about the same as that of last year.

The French Vice-Consul at Bender-Bouchir (Persia) has requested the Governor-General of Indo-China to draw the attention of growers of tea to the Persian market. Persia does not produce tea, but consumes considerable quantities of the leaf, which is supplied by numerous Asiatic countries.

It is pointed out that those merchants who would like to do business with Persia in tea would only have to send their samples to the Consulate with their prices c.i.f. Bouchir, or at least c.i.f. Bombay. Formerly Indo-China had commercial relations with Persia on a small scale, but these transactions suddenly ceased, and the present moment is described as exceptionally favourable for their resumption.

According to the Caucasian papers, the production of karakul in Russia this season exceeded 3,000,000 skins, an increase of 500,000 over the production of last year. Notwithstanding this plentiful supply, the demand is very great and the prices high—14 or 15 roubles per skin. The high prices may be due to the expected prohibition by the Russian Government of the production of karakul, which involves the wanton destruction of the sheep and their young.

Discussions in principle on the Serbian extraordinary war credits were concluded by the Skuptschina to-day, says a Corfu message dated September 27. One hundred and six members voted. Eight were opposed to the credits. All the Parliamentary parties voted for them, with the exception of the Nationalists. The Bill embodying the credits will be definitely adopted within the legal period of five days.

The Austro-Hungarian Government contemplate the construction of a new bridge across the Danube in addition to that on the lesser Danube at Hevi-Sad. The proposal is that the bridge should be built at Orsora, so that a direct road, Budapest-Bazjas-Serbia, would be established.

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IMPERIAL RESEARCH.

Skinless Barley from Cyprus: Water-melon Seed from the Sudan.

If there is needed any testimony to the value of the research work carried out by the Imperial Institute it can be found in the quarterly *Bulletins* issued as a record of the progress achieved in connection with tropical agriculture and industries. A copy of the *Bulletin* for April-June has just reached us, and we observe that it contains three excellent notes on Near Eastern agricultural interests.

The first of these deals with Naked, or Skinless, Barley from Cyprus, a sample of which was received at the Institute in October last year.

The grains varied in size, were of a light-brown colour and had a dull translucent appearance, we are told. Although a small percentage of the grains showed a brown discolouration in places, the sample was clean and in good condition. The fracture was translucent. No gluten was present in the grain. The germinating power was 96 per cent. within five days.

The barley was analysed at the Imperial Institute with the result that, as compared with English and Azof barleys, it showed 106 per cent. in food units against 92 and 102, respectively.

Naked barleys cannot be employed for malting for ordinary brewing purposes, though a malting expert, who was consulted by the Institute, thought that the present sample might be used by distillers (who only require a partially malted barley) if it could be offered at from 4s. to 5s. per quarter below the price of good malting barley, which in February last was quoted at about 63s. per quarter of 448 lb.

If on trial this use of the barley proved impossible, it would still rank as a good class feeding barley. For a valuation from this point of view the barley was, therefore, submitted to importers in London, who valued the sample at 50s. per 400 lb. landed in London, and stated that its value would always be about that of feeding barley.

The sample was also submitted to a firm manufacturing barley foods, who stated that it was difficult to estimate the commercial value of the grain, but that, regarded from a "food value" point of view, it should be worth 50s. to 52s. 6d. per 480 lb. c.i.f. London (March, 1916). They submitted a sample of the barley to a large firm of millers, who stated that the grain was quite new to them, but valued it for blending with other feeding stuffs at from £12 to £14 per ton.

In view of these reports there seems no reason why this skinless barley should not be exported to this country from Cyprus at a profit, if it can be produced in commercial quantities.

Sudan Water-melon Seeds.

A sample of water-melon seeds was forwarded to the Imperial Institute from the Sudan in March, 1915. It was stated that the water melon is cultivated on a considerable scale in Kordofan Province, and it was consequently desired to ascertain whether the seeds would be likely to find a market in London. The sample consisted of small flat seeds, varying in colour from pale yellowish-brown to very dark brown.

The seeds contained 7.4 per cent. of moisture and yielded 23.6 per cent. of a brownish-yellow oil, equivalent to a yield of 25.5 per cent. from the dry seeds.

The oil yielded by these seeds appears to be very similar to that of "Senat" seed from the Sudan, previously examined at the Imperial Institute, and to other oils derived from cucurbitaceous seeds; but the amount of oil in the seeds is somewhat lower.

The residual meal left after the extraction of the oil was a brownish-white material with a pleasant taste. It contained no alkaloids or cyanogenetic gulcosides. The residual meal has a low food value, and contains a high percentage of fibre.

Samples of the seeds were submitted for valuation to two firms of oil-seed crushers, who reported on them as follows:—

(1) One firm stated that the value of the seeds would be determined largely by the use which could be made of the oil. In their opinion the properties of the oil are very similar to those of maize and soya bean oils, for which there is a comparatively limited market; whilst the residual meal is of relatively low feeding value, and would therefore realise only a low price. In view of these facts and the low yield of oil, the firm were doubtful whether these seeds could be sold in the United Kingdom under present conditions at more than £7 per ton (September, 1915).

(2) The second firm stated that the oil from these seeds comes within the group of oils similar to cotton-seed oil, and would be very suitable for soap-making. They were of opinion that experiments with various methods of refining would probably result in rendering the oil suitable for edible purposes, and in that case it would of course command a much higher price than if it could only be used in soap-making.

The firm did not consider, however, that under present conditions the oil would be worth more than about £28 per ton (October, 1915). The residual cake was regarded as practically valueless, the percentage of fibre being so high as to make it inadvisable to use it for feeding purposes, except possibly as a constituent in a mixture. The percentage of nitrogen is also low, and the value of the cake as a manure would probably not be more than 30s. per ton. In these circumstances the firm valued the seed at only about £5 10s. per ton delivered in England (October, 1915), and added that at the high rates for freight now ruling the export of the seeds from the Sudan did not seem likely to be remunerative. They asked, however, to be informed as to the prospects of obtaining the seeds in future in commercial quantities, and the Sudan authorities, therefore, have been requested to supply such particulars to the Imperial Institute.

Colocynth Pulp.

Colocynth is the name given to the peeled, dried fruits of *Citrullus Colocynthis*, the material freed from seeds constituting the drug known in the British Pharmacopœia as colocynth pulp. Colocynth is a drastic cathartic, and is usually administered in admixture with other drugs. Before the outbreak of war colocynth was largely obtained from Turkey and Austria. Fairly considerable quantities of the pulp have been exported recently from the Sudan, and early in the present year a sample of the Sudan product was received at the Imperial Institute for examination.

It consisted of pulp free from seeds, and in good condition, but slightly brown in parts and containing some yellowish dust. It was submitted to two firms of merchants in London.

One firm considered the sample to be very satisfactory except for the slight colouration referred to above, and stated that there is a good market in London for colocynth pulp in fairly large quantities. The firm pointed out that for a parcel of Sudan colocynth 3s. 3d. per lb. had been asked recently in London, but that buyers were not prepared to pay more than about half that price.

The second firm also described the sample as of good quality, but added that if the fine dust were removed it would be still better. They valued it at about 1s. 3d. per lb. c.i.f. London. They further stated that they had recently purchased several tons of colocynth pulp from the Sudan at as much as 1s. 6d. per lb., the pulp in question being of extra fine quality, free from dust and discoloured portions.

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COMPANY NOTES.

Oil Outputs.

British Maikop.—Week ended September 23, 2,556 poods.

Cheleken Oilfields.—Fortnight ended September 23, 487 tons.

European Oilfields.—Week ended September 24, 82,800 poods.

Dividends, etc.

The numbers are announced of bonds of the Ottoman 3½ per Cent. Loan of 1894, which have been drawn for payment on October 15 next.

Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co. announce that they have now received the necessary funds for the payment of the coupons and drawn bonds of the Royal Roumanian Government Four and a-Half per Cent. Gold Loan, 1913, due on October 1, 1916. Coupons and bonds can now be lodged at their counting house between the hours of 11 and 2 o'clock, and must be left for examination three clear days before application is made for payment.

The half-yearly coupon for interest due on October 10 on Ottoman 4 per Cent. Loan of the Egyptian Tribute will be paid on or after that date at the banking house of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., 67, Lombard-street.

ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, E.C.

Business has again been on a very small scale this week. National Banks have lost ¼ at 13 on the sale of some couple of hundred shares, and at the moment they are easier to buy than to sell. A trifling business has again been done in Agriculturals between 4 9-16 and 4¾. Delta Light are again firmer at 5⅜ on some persistent demand at about this price, but sellers are scarce. Some Delta Land changed hands again at 9s. 6d. Khedivial Mail are rather quieter at 27s. 6d. A few hundred Wadi Kom Ombo have been done in the neighbourhood of 4. Markets are wanted at 1 9-32, but no business has resulted owing to the absence of sellers.

In Greek stocks the market has been weak, and prices have generally experienced a fresh set-back. The 1881 loan is offered at 55½ in a small way; the 1884 loan is nominally quoted at about 54. There has been a little business done in Monopoly round 49, and Rentes, after a fair business at 43¾, finish a dull spot at 41/43. For Larissa there is some demand at about 52.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation on August 31, 1916.

Prêts Existants:	1915. £E.		1916. £E.
Prêts à court terme	8,027	..	6,651
Catégorie "B"	5,434,070	..	4,934,542
Total	5,442,097	..	4,941,193
Echéances:			
Dues	77,276	..	58,232
A échoir	928,097	..	762,062
Total	1,005,373	..	820,294
Perceptions:	1915. £E.		1916. £E.
Arriérés au 31 janvier	1,394,546	..	1,209,187
Restant	1,215,965	..	1,051,858
Perçu	178,581	..	157,329
Echéances:			
Perçu	37,894	..	34,996
Total perçu sur annuités échues	216,475	..	192,325

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C

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STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price. July 27, 1915.	Price Sept. 29.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	78	78
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	62½	62½
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	71⅜	71⅜
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	80⅜	79½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	71	70
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	67	67
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	57	55
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	56	55
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	50	49
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43⅜	42
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	53	52½
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50½	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	67	67
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	74½	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	55	55
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	77¼	77¼
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	xd	xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	85	85
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	78	78
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	52	52
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65⅛	37½	37½
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	4 11/16	4 11/16
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	6⅝	6⅝
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	69	67½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	71	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12	12
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	2	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	6 5/16	6 5/16
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6⅝	6⅝
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	3⅜xd	3⅜xd
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5	5
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	13⅜	12⅝
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	5	5
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	5½	5⅜
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	88½	88½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	10	10
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	11½	11⅛
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	59½	59½
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	55	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10 1/16	10 1/16
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	55xd	55xd
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	15/-	15/-
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	91	91
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	¼	¼
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2¼	2¼
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	6½	6½
Do. Pref.	4⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Invcs.	9/-	9 4½	9/6
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	87	87
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	¼	¼
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	¼	¼
" " Founders	¼	¼	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	96	96
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	9/-	8/9
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	⅛	¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	⅞	1
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-/9	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11⅜	11⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	12/6	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	1 1/16	26/-	26/-
Egyptian Markets Ord.	99½	95	95
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	1⅛	18/3	18/3
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	96	95	95
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	⅜	27/6	27/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜xd
Do. do. Prefs.	90	89	89
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	£179½	81/6	81/6
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	2½	1½	1½
Upper Egypt Hotels			

OIL.	Price on Sept. 27.	Oct. 5.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	10/6	10/3
Anglo-Persian	21/9	20/9
European Oilfields	4/-	4/-
Roumanian	17/6	16/9

PARIS BOURSE.

	Sept. 20.	Oct. 5.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	466
Canal de Suez	4550	4720
Credit Foncier Egyptien	664	663
Turkish Unified 4%	63.25	61.0
Egyptian Unified 4%	90.10	90.25
Serbian, 1895	64.50	64.50

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON SEPTEMBER 19.

National Bank of Egypt	£	12¼	to A.
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	86	ex coupn
Alexandria Water Co.	£	12	,, —
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5½	,, —
,, priv.	L.E.	3⅜	,, —
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	129	,, —
Bons de Panama	Frs.	92	,, 93
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	60	,, —
,, Privilégiée	Frs.	95	,, —
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	75	,, —
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2⅛	,, —
Comptoir Financier et Commercial	£	⅛	,, —
Building Lands of Egypt	£	⅜	,, —
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	½	,, —
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	4	,, —
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	4 1/16	,, —
Unifiée	L.E.	83⅜	,, —
Privilégiée		72	,, —
Land Bank of Egypt	£	5	,, —
,, Fondateur	£	23	,, —
Pressage et dépôts	£	28⅛	,, —
Nungovich Hotels	£	2⅛	,, —
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	4 1/16	,, —
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅜	,, —
,, Ord.		20/9	,, —
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3⅜	,, —
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£	5⅜	,, —
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	104	,, —
,, Jouissance	Frs.	155	,, —
Egyptian Markets		23/9	,, —
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	201	,, —
,, Div.	Frs.	140	,, —
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	125	,, —
Egyptian Salt and Soda		18/3	,, —
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	590	,, —
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	305½	,, —
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	246	,, —
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	254½	,, —
Delta Lands		⅜	,, —
Port Said Salt		33/6	,, A.
Cotton Ginners		⅜	,, —
New Egyptian Co.		7/6	,, 7/7½
United Lands	P.T.	4	,, —
Levant S.S. Co.		26/6	,, —
,, Deferred	£	105/-	,, —

THE GREEK DEBT.

The revenues assigned for the service of the Greek Debt under the law of control have been coming in well in the current year. Thus the actual receipts from monopolies for the seven months to July 31st last, though they fall short of those for the corresponding period of 1915 by 1,069,000 drachmas, they exceed the estimate by 3,299,000 drachmas. On the other hand, the Piræus Customs receipts show a more than compensating improvement, amounting to 16,422,000 drachmas, as against 14,348,000 drachmas in 1915.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to July 31, 1916 (new style January 14th to August 13th, 1916) :—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, July,	1916	3,140,949	2,538,000
Do. do. do	1915	2,815,126	1,848,000
Estimated Receipts for 7 months (Law of Control)		16,858,333	6,241,666
Actual do. do.	1916	20,158,119	16,422,000
Do. do. do.	1915	21,227,502	14,348,837
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 7 months	1916	+ 3,299,786	+10,180,333
	1915	+ 4,369,168	+ 8,107,220

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended Sept. 30.		1916. Week ended Sept. 28.
Cattle markets	598	..	702
General markets	364	..	358
Cattle markets closed	3	..	2
Receipts (£)	962	..	1,060
Total from commencement of year (£)	37,745	..	39,529

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Receipts for ten days ended September 10, 1916.

	1915. £E.		1916. £E.
Aug. 31–Sept. 10	4,201	..	4,968
April 1–Sept. 10	63,407	..	77,11

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 284.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

For the time being General von Falkenhayn is master of the situation in the Carpathians. A relaxation of Russia's efforts, which may only mean the necessary pause before a fresh move is undertaken, has enabled the Germans and Austrians to concentrate in force against the Roumanians, with the result that the latter have been compelled to fall back along the whole front. In so doing they appear to have been successful in avoiding heavy losses. They have been able to gauge betimes von Falkenhayn's capacity for a vigorous offensive, and have wisely withdrawn their forces before he has been able to launch any formidable attack.

Roumanian strategy has been rather difficult to follow. With a view to securing a definite decision as a result of her entry into the war, the Roumanian General Staff might have been expected to devote its main efforts, in co-operation with the Salonika force, to the overwhelming of Bulgaria and her elimination from the Central European alliance. It would have been in keeping with such a policy to make a first move in the Carpathians, and undoubtedly the sudden capture of the passes was a dramatic *coup*. This initial success, however, appears to have drawn the Roumanians into a Carpathian campaign on a grand scale, to the comparative neglect of the Danube theatre of the war. At the time this course seemed, as was pointed out in these columns, an unsatisfactory one. Progress in the Carpathians could lead to no definite objective, while it might be the means of giving the Bulgarians further respite until next spring. The course of events has revealed Roumania hovering between two strategical ideas, with von Mackensen and von Falkenhayn taking advantage in turn of her vacillation.

If, as we may hope, the thrust into Transylvania was merely the natural outcome of a desire to profit by the unexpected weakness of Austria-Hungary at this point, then the swaying of the battle line in this region may have no serious results. The original defensive positions of the Roumanians will remain intact and in such a terrain should stand them in good stead against the enemy. It is known that there is more man-power available in Roumania than the General Staff has been able to make use of for the present with the Colours. The surplus, until it can be properly armed, should be useful in strengthening the defences of the country. One consolation will not be lost to our new Allies. General von Falkenhayn's attack may prove formidable; but, when once it has been fully launched, it will represent, as in the case of von Mackensen's thrust in the Dobruja, his maximum effort. There can be few reserves for the Austro-Germans to rely upon, and they will try to achieve their end with the momentum acquired in the initial attack. If, therefore, the Roumanians can hold up the onset in the Carpathians for a little time, they can count on their strength growing as that of the enemy diminishes.

The main pressure of the Austro-German armies in the Carpathians is making itself felt in the neighbourhood of Kronstadt (Brasso). At the western end of the range the Roumanians appear to be holding their own for the time being. But they have evacuated Brasso, and now, with the exception of their northern army, which is still some miles within Hungarian territory, they have fallen back upon the frontier line. The enemy is following, but some days may elapse before von Falkenhayn reaches the Roumanian positions in sufficient strength for his purposes. It is probably not a coincidence that the point chosen for the chief attack should be the one nearest to the Roumanian oilfields. In no direction has Roumania's entry into the war dealt Germany a severer blow than in regard to the stoppage of her oil supplies. Her own harvest may make up to some extent for the loss of Roumanian cereals; but she cannot obtain any substitute for Roumanian oil. It will be worth a great effort on the part of the Central Powers to recover this source of supply of a product which is essential to the manufacture of munitions.

The need of the Central Powers, therefore, is likely to be the measure of their effort to overwhelm Roumania. This point will not be lost sight of by the Allies. It is understood that the object of the offensive begun by General Brusiloff on September 30 in Volhynia and Galicia was to relieve the pressure on Roumania. Russia's step must be supplemented by vigorous action in Macedonia and the Dobruja. But the support thus given will react slowly on the situation in the Carpathians, and the Roumanians will have to rely for some weeks on their own strength. General Averescu, who was appointed to take command of the Danube front when the position in the Dobruja looked threatening, has been sent back to the Carpathians. Roumania is undoubtedly experiencing anxious moments; but there seems to be no reason why she should not emerge from the ordeal, as Great Britain has done, stronger than when she entered it.

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The reasons impelling Germany to make a supreme effort to crush Roumania are clearly set forth in a letter to *The Times* by Professor N. Basilesco. They are, he points out, at once military, political, and economic. A victorious Roumania would mean the cutting of the communications between the Austro-Germans and their Turco-Bulgarian allies. Her defeat would mean the consolidation of German mastery from the North Sea to the Persian Gulf. But the economic interests which urge Germany to a fresh effort are probably more pressing still. By the conquest of Roumania she would secure immense stores of corn, petroleum, benzine, mineral oils, salt, and timber; a good military system, and the Danube as means of transport, besides all the crops which the fertile soil of Roumania can produce. To avert the menace which threatens Roumania, and through her the Allied Powers, must needs be a prime consideration for the Allied General Staffs on every front.

In the Dobruja there have been no striking developments during the past week. The Russo-Roumanian forces have consolidated the positions previously wrested from the enemy, and have not attempted any further advance. Any hopes based on the crossing of the Danube by Roumanian troops have been belied, as the force was shortly afterwards withdrawn. When the Bulgarians reported that little or no artillery had been sent across, it was obvious that the move could only be in the nature of a feint. As such it probably achieved a double object in relaxing temporarily Bulgarian pressure in the Dobruja and in enabling the Roumanians to perfect their arrangements for an ultimate invasion in force of Bulgaria. The enemy's claim to have routed the Roumanian troops at Riahova does not ring true; but it is not to be supposed that the movement was carried out without some losses. A less satisfactory feature in the situation is the presence of Austrian monitors on the Danube, which have enabled German troops to occupy, as a result of a surprise attack, an island north-west of Sistova, capturing, according to the German account, 150 men and six guns. The occupation of Orsova was expected to place the Roumanians in a position to close the river to Austrian craft and to deal with any that happened to be in the lower waters. But so far our Allies have not been able to make themselves supreme on the Danube.

If anything were needed to spur the whole Roumanian nation to a supreme effort in this struggle it will have been supplied by Germany's methods of warfare. Her air policy, as has already been noted in these columns, has been carried out with a frightfulness as useless as it is studied. Aeroplanes and Zeppelins have dropped bombs in the crowded streets of Bucharest without any pretence of achieving a military purpose. Even hospitals and asylums have been attacked. But the coping-stone on Roumanian indignation has been placed by the discovery of numerous cases of trinitrotoluol and flagons containing glanders germs buried in the garden of the German Legation at Bucharest. As a representative of the United States Legation is said to have witnessed the discovery, the German Government will not be in a position to refute the charge by a mere denial; but it will have to be very plausible to remove the conviction that Germans by a thousand and one acts, as well as by their whole attitude towards war, have placed themselves outside the pale of civilized nations.

The Allied troops are making steady progress in Macedonia. On the left wing they are within eight miles of Monastir. The enemy occupies a strong position before the town; but as the whole Allied line is advanced the Bulgarian hold on Monastir must gradually be loosened. It is unfortunate that on the right wing the British troops should be facing east instead of north, and that so great an effort has to be put forth to free Greek soil of the invader before Bulgaria itself can be entered. In the meantime, however, a heavy toll is being taken of the Bulgarians, whose man-power is strictly limited. Prosenik, on the railway line above Seres, has been occupied. Once astride of this railway, the British may count upon making more rapid progress in breaking up the enemy's resistance. Their advance near Seres has already reacted on the situation further north, for the enemy in this region finds his communications threatened, and is falling back on Demirhissar.

If the Germanophil Greeks have not yet formed a club they should lose no time in doing so, as the members will presently be able to claim the unique record of having all occupied a ministerial office. In his quest for Premiers and Cabinets of the right complexion King Constantine has now had to raid the University and scour the ranks of the Civil Service. His new Premier is Professor Lambros, who occupies the chair of History in the University of Athens, and who took a prominent part in the revival of the Olympic Games. In both capacities he has served his country well; but whether he will enhance his reputation by accepting office under the King at the present juncture is an open question. His colleagues are described as politically colourless, with the exception of one who is a cousin of M. Gounaris and acted as Prefect of Attica under all the anti-Venizelist Cabinets of the last eighteen months.

The appointment of any Greek Ministry at this stage is necessarily a farce, and King Constantine is probably as well aware of the fact as the Allied Governments. Circumstances have shifted Greece's centre of gravity from Athens to Salonika, or, perhaps it should be said, to Mytilene, the official headquarters of the National Defence movement. Three Cabinets have held office since M. Skouloudis resigned the Premiership, but the only Government the people have known has been in the hands of the King and the Reservists' Leagues. A patriotic attempt was made by M. Zaimis to bring the country back to constitutional lines, but when he found that his efforts must needs be in vain he was too conscientious to remain in office. His successors have merely served to emphasize King Constantine's determination to flout the Allies and to betray the country's interests. Provided the former pastime could be entirely robbed of its sting, the Allies would have shown little inclination to interfere with it. The country as a whole, however, takes a very different view of its own betrayal. King Constantine is rapidly becoming as insignificant a factor in Greek current history as the puppets to whom he allots the Premiership and other ministerial ranks. A new power is being formed in the islands and at Salonika, and if it accepts the Mytilenean watchword, "Down with the King," not only the present ruler of Greece but his whole dynasty as well will be involved in the catastrophe.

To those who imagined that King Constantine would content himself by playing the German game without deliberately endangering his own skin with the Allies, the latest move of the Entente Powers has come as a rude awakening. The latter have felt constrained to summon the Greek Government, as a measure of security for the Allied forces on land and sea, to surrender to the French Admiral in command of the Allied Fleet the whole of the Greek fleet. Certain coast batteries are to be disarmed as well; the mails and the Piræus-Larissa railway are to be placed under the control of the Allies. These demands, it is stated, are dictated by "a disposition of the Fleet that menaces the Allied squadron and by a concentration of Greek troops in the interior that constitutes a danger to the Allied army of the East." A more ominous charge could hardly be brought against Greece, or rather against the King and his pro-German advisers. Few people would have felt tempted to bracket King Constantine with King Ferdinand of Bulgaria in the same moral category; but the charge places him on the horns of a dilemma. He must either accept responsibility for the dispositions of his fleet and troops and stand convicted of treachery to Greece, or he must admit that his actions have destroyed the power of constitutional

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government in the country and made a few German agents the real rulers of the Greek people.

The Provisional Government of M. Venizelos, Admiral Condouriotis and General Danglis is feeling its way. M. Venizelos, after an enthusiastic welcome at Mytilene, went with his colleagues to Salonika, where they would be in touch with the originators of the National Defence movement. Here, too, they met General Sarrail, and from him would learn some of the practical considerations which must guide their action in the matter of participation in the war. The problem presents difficulties, and we trust that no heritage of trouble and complications will be laid up for the future by a failure to tackle it candidly in all its aspects now. To what extent General Sarrail has been placed *au fait* with the Allies' plans for the political future of the Near East we have no means of knowing; but it is at least open to suspicion that such plans have not yet been formulated by the Governments concerned. If they have not been decided upon, the Provisional Government may ultimately find its position an embarrassing one, and it would be well advised to leave foreign affairs alone for the moment and devote itself to the settlement of Greece's domestic troubles.

The two powers in Greece cannot exist side by side indefinitely. Questions of finance will become even more urgent for the Provisional Government than they are now for the Athens Administration. It is reasonable to suppose, therefore, that sooner or later a time limit will be set within which King Constantine will have to make up his mind whether he will govern constitutionally or will cease to govern at all. A large number of Greeks are understood to have decided the question already for him. They feel that the lost ground which the country will have to make up in order to take any place at all in the Councils of Europe entails a task beyond the scope of the man who deliberately watched the ground being lost and made no effort to retrieve the situation. They realize that the conditions that have determined King Constantine's policy in the past must remain to a large extent in the future, and will prevent him from giving whole-hearted support to the national aspirations. For these reasons they are anxious to eliminate him from an anomalous position, and are prepared with a substitute who will be free from King Constantine's disabilities, while providing an equally powerful rallying point for the Hellenic world.

There's many a slip, however 'twixt cup and lip. The Provisional Government does well, therefore, to proceed cautiously and to continue to emphasize the single-mindedness of its purpose, which is to free Greece of her hereditary enemy. An indication of the forces it has to contend against was given by the attempt of a German submarine to capture the vessel on which M. Venizelos had arranged to leave Crete for Samos. M. Venizelos was not on board, having changed his plans at the last moment. But the submarine commander had been well-informed. Again, the Greek Army is divided in its sympathies, and if the two factions are at all matched in strength, they will be unwilling to risk conclusions with one another. King Constantine's policy will be to try to starve the secessionists into submission, for Athens is the distributing centre for the islands. The steps taken by the Provisional Government to cope with the situation in Greece will be watched with great interest.

The rigour with which the censorship is exercised in Turkey is shown by the absence of any definite information regarding the plot for the assassination of the Turkish Cabinet. There is reason to suppose, however, that the conspiracy, which was discovered on August 23, had somewhat wide ramifications, involving a number of Old Turks and Hojas. It is reported that Enver Pasha's personal aide-de-camp was implicated; but there would seem to be no means of knowing what part he played in it. Presumably the conspirators were betrayed, and many suffered the extreme penalty. The dismissal of the Fetva Emini, or Judge of the Supreme Religious Court, is understood to be in some way connected with the plot; but another version has it that he has been dismissed because he would not agree to the sentence of death passed by the Committee of Union and Progress on the Grand Shereef of Mecca. In addition to its other troubles the Turkish Government will now have to cope with an increasing shortage of food as a result of Roumania's entry into the war.

Another interesting item of news which reaches us from Turkey is to the effect that the Tripolis-Homs railway line, which belonged to a French company, has been torn up, and that the material has been used for the construction of a line from Ras-el-Ain in the direction of Diarbekir. If this be the case, the branch line, which is said to have been begun in June, is a testimony to Turkish appreciation of the Russian menace in Armenia. The original intention, we believe, was to connect Diarbekir with the Baghdad Railway at a point some twenty miles west of Nisibin, itself eighty miles east of Ras-el-Ain. Nisibin is believed to be the present railhead, and it may be that the new line actually branches off at the nearest point to Mardin, bearing slightly west of north to Diarbekir. If the railway has not yet reached Nisibin, it would be still more significant that the Turks should feel compelled to divert construction in the direction of Diarbekir instead of pressing on with the main line to Mosul and Baghdad.

In a letter to the *Westminster Gazette* a Cypriote Moslem refers to "the proposed internment" of Turkish prisoners of war at Famagusta, and states that the Cypriote Moslem community would be "seriously grieved," if the proposal were carried into effect. The subject is one to engage the attention of the authorities concerned, who will, no doubt, make the necessary inquiries before taking a step which might possibly be calculated to grieve seriously any body of loyal subjects of the Crown. If the correspondent accurately represents the views of the Cypriote Moslem community his protest is worthy of consideration. At the same time that community is liable to fall in the esteem of its fellow-subjects throughout the British Empire. Presumably it is aware that the Empire is at war with the Turks and that both sides have taken prisoners, who have to be accommodated somewhere. It would have been thought that, if they held any views at all on the subject, the Cypriote Moslems would prefer to have their co-religionists, who have to be detained within the Empire, interned in their midst, in order that the consideration which the British authorities show to all prisoners might in their case be supplemented by such religious facilities and attentions as it may be in the power of and legitimate for the Cypriote Moslems to offer them. As other considerations weigh with them, it is a pity that the correspondent did not explain them more clearly.

While on the subject of Cyprus we may call attention to a brief reference made to the subject of the Tribute in the House of Commons on July 20. Mr. Annan Bryce asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, when the offer of the cession of Cyprus was made to Greece it was made a condition that the burden of the Tribute was to be transferred to that country. Lord Robert Cecil's reply was: "The answer is in the negative." These words mean, we conclude, that when the British Government proposed to discard Cyprus in favour of Greece, no reference was made to the subject of the Tribute. The proposal, as is known, was summarily rejected—the one service rendered by King Constantine to the British Empire—and consequently there was no occasion to raise the Tribute question. In some circles, we believe, there has been a misconception of what was said in the House of Commons. Lord Robert Cecil did not state that the Tribute was not to have been transferred to Greece, if the proposal had been accepted. He merely pointed out that it had not been made a condition of the cession of the island; probably because the details of the proposed cession fortunately never came up for discussion.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 27.

The Departure of the "Mahmal."

The final ceremony in connection with the departure of the Holy Carpet for Mecca took place on Thursday amid unwonted pomp and circumstance. H.H. the Sultan came up specially from Alexandria in order to preside over the ceremony; General Sir Archibald Murray was present with his staff; Moslem Indian troops assisted the Egyptian Army to line the route; and Indian officers were among the guests who watched the ceremony from the steps of the Mastaba. All these features, added to the peculiar circumstances under which the Mecca Pilgrimage is taking place this year, combined to give to the occasion an importance and an interest that have not attached to it for very many years. The scene in the square, which, together with the approaches, was thronged with crowds of Egyptians, Europeans, and a great number of khaki-clad spectators, was most picturesque; and everything passed off without a hitch and in a most dignified manner. The "Mahmal" and its attendants left by special train the next morning for Suez, where it embarked on the steamer chartered by the Egyptian Government. By this time it must have reached Jeddah, whence it has to proceed overland to Mecca. It is due to arrive there in time to permit the pilgrims to perform the various religious duties which have to precede the celebration of the feast of Kourban Bairam, which starts on October 7. Many more pilgrims than were at first expected are making the pilgrimage this year. Well over 1,000 Egyptians have left for Jeddah, whilst a convoy of about 700 Algerians and Moroccans has just passed through the Canal on its way to Jeddah. The latter are accompanied by a "French Mission," consisting of prominent chiefs and officers specially selected by the French Government.

On the day after the ceremony H.H. the Sultan performed the customary Friday prayer at the famous Sultan Hassan Mosque. Great importance was evidently attached to this visit by the religious leaders, all of whom were present. At the conclusion of the service his Highness received an ovation from the *ulema*, and before his departure he addressed a few words to them, and also shook hands with the Indian officers, many of whom had been invited to attend.

The Sultan was accompanied to the Mahmal ceremony by Ismail Sirry Pasha, the Minister of Public Works and War, and not, as is usual on such occasions, by the Prime Minister, who, as it happened, was not present. The reason is that Rushdi Pasha is laid up, and has had to undergo a slight operation. He is making slow progress, and it is not thought that his illness will have any serious consequences, but it is considered imperative that he should have complete rest for some little time. Rushdi Pasha, who was Prime Minister under the old régime, and has continued in that post since the proclamation of the Protectorate, has rendered invaluable services to the British authorities—I have on more than one occasion paid a tribute in this correspondence to his loyal and intelligent co-operation—and all who know him and have had an opportunity for appreciating his sterling qualities join in wishing him a speedy return to duty.

The Nile Flood.

Since I last referred to the Nile flood the situation has undergone a considerable change, and is now giving cause for a certain amount of anxiety. The river has continued to rise, and reached, early last week at Rodah, the level of 20 metres, which is the point at which the flood is considered "dangerous," and at which the decree of September 9, 1837, empowers the Government to call out every able-bodied Egyptian for work on the banks. Parts of the low-lying districts of Cairo are under water, and the river presents an extraordinary spectacle as it rushes under the bridges, with the spans of which it is almost flush.

To allay public alarm and explain the situation Mr. P. M. Tottenham, Acting Under-Secretary of State for Public Works, has just issued a highly interesting note. It opens by declaring that the present flood is the highest recorded since 1894, and then proceeds to state that the question of whether a high flood is dangerous or not depends on the relation between the various stages of its progress, and the three stages of basin irrigation in Upper Egypt, which are: (1) the filling of the basins, which takes place from August 15 to September 25, and tends to reduce the river levels and to allow a very high flood to pass safely from the Sudan through Egypt to the sea; (2) the period from September 25 to October 10, when the basins are full and withdraw no more water from the main river, and just before which a fall in levels usually takes place and counterbalances the stoppage of withdrawal by the basins; and (3) the emptying of the basins, which starts on October 10, and is the period constituting, when the flood is long drawn out, the season of greatest danger owing to the prejudice that is found to be caused to the basin crops if the discharging of the basins is delayed, and to the additions which that discharging if not delayed inevitably contributes to the already swollen main river.

Mr. Tottenham confirms what I wrote in my letter of the 24th ult. (Near East of September 8), viz., that the record flood that was registered in the Blue Nile and Atbara reached Assuan and Cairo at the time when the basins were taking water copiously from the main river, and so did not raise the levels to any alarming extent. The fall in levels in the Sudan, which, as stated, usually precedes and accompanies the second stage, was, however, unduly delayed, and as the basins were full and could not relieve the pressure, the main river rose steadily until the level at Cairo on the 24th reached 24 pics 7 kirats. The Sudan levels are now falling, and it is expected that their effect will begin to be felt in Egypt at about the time when the emptying of the basins starts. Nevertheless, the levels in Egypt will certainly remain very high during the greater part of October, and as a result the strain on the river banks will be not only severe, but also protracted.

Everything possible is being done to assist the passing of the huge flood to the sea, to repair any damage to the banks, and to strengthen them wherever any weakness appears. There is without a doubt very great danger of the banks breaching, a danger which will increase as the levels fall. The reason for this is that in Lower Egypt the river surface is from two to six metres above the level of the surrounding country, and that the banks are by now eroded, sodden, and liable to slip, the falling away of the water making them more liable than ever to give way. This danger will last until the river has dropped again to the level of the land on either side.

The situation is undeniably critical, and the greatest care and energy will be required to keep it in hand. We have, however, Mr. Tottenham's word for it that, provided vigilance is maintained without any relaxation to the end, the country may make practically certain of safety. That is a reassuring statement, and we need not hesitate for one moment to rely upon the necessary strict vigilance being maintained. The history of the Egyptian Irrigation Service is one long series of triumphs over the vagaries of Father Nile. In time of drought and in time of flood the staff has never failed to rise to the occasion, and there is no reason to fear that this year it will not maintain its traditions, and that it will not succeed in preventing Egypt from losing by inundation the great benefits which this high flood will certainly confer on all her land as it passes down.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Athens, September 28.

The Anti-Venizelist Campaign.

The combined opponents of M. Venizelos continue to work against him in every possible way. Knowing perfectly well that even if they should be successful at the elections, the hostility of the Entente Powers would be an obstacle to their return to power, M. Gounaris and his colleagues have recourse to every imaginable expedient in the hope of stirring up muddy waters and getting rid of their difficulty. In the first place they maintained that the Entente Powers, having by their Note of June 21 demanded that the Greek people should declare freely by whom they wish to be governed, would have no right to refuse to recognize the Government resulting from the elections, whatever it might be—evidently they expect that it will be Gounarist—the more so as the head of the Government, according to the *Nea Himera*, will not be foolish enough to betray Greek interests by governing the country in a manner hostile to the Entente. The principal organ of M. Gounaris thus admits indirectly that he was foolish all the time he was in power, since he exercised that power in such a fashion that the Entente Powers had to ask for his dismissal from office.

Certainly it may be argued that the Entente Powers, acting in the quality of Greece's protectors, would not have the right to demand the dismissal of a Government chosen by the majority of the electors. Their Governments have, however, other rights and duties towards their own countries. As soon as they perceived that the Greeks had returned to power those who had been qualified as enemies of the Entente, they could only give up the rôle of Greece's protectors and advisers, and take up an attitude of hostility towards her. What the consequences would be for Greece it is easy to imagine! It would be for her a question of life and death. What would be the fate of her mercantile marine, of her principal products—particularly the dried currants, which are almost all shipped to England—and where would she obtain the loan of which she will shortly stand in such urgent need? These are some of the consequences that would follow on such an aberration, and there would be also considerable territorial losses that she would risk having to bear. For it must not be forgotten that Greece would never have had either Crete or the other islands without the consent of the Entente Powers, especially Great Britain, who in securing them for her believed they were handing them over to a State inseparably united in friendship with themselves.

The Neo-Ententists.

Perceiving that their sophisms cannot alter established facts, M. Gounaris and his friends now declare themselves converted into ardent Ententists! They declare themselves ready to accept the Ententist policy, and even to consider abandoning neutrality—but on one condition, that the Entente shall sacrifice M. Venizelos as a kind of peace-offering. It goes without saying that this latest disguise—or attempt at a disguise—would be cast aside the moment that M. Venizelos was disposed of; for that is the one object of the schemers, and to secure it they would, without any scruple, sacrifice the country's interests, as they have done already, when they were in power. One hardly knows what to admire most about their attempt to dupe the Powers: their artlessness or their lack of honour. For, while endeavouring to make the Powers believe that they are ready to participate in the war, they are quite aware that the Greek Army—whose strength, they said, they wished to conserve, by means of their policy of neutrality, so that it might be available at the moment of need—has been so treated, morally and materially, during the nine months' useless mobilization that it will be unfit for a long time to embark on any campaign.

Exploitation of the Clergy.

In the past, even during the most corrupt times in Greece, the clergy have always been respected by political parties, which never sought to make use of them in their electoral campaigns. Now, however, the party that arrogates to itself the title of "Nationalist," after having exploited the name of the King and poisoned the patriotism of the reservists, has not hesitated to exercise its pernicious influence over the clergy. As a result, some priests have permitted themselves, in offering up prayers for the King at Mass, or in their sermons, to indulge in anti-Venizelist declarations. The Metropolitan Primate of Athens has instituted a strict inquiry into these circumstances, and one priest, who had alluded to the fire at Tatoi as being the work of Venizelists, has been suspended from the exercise of his duties for a month.

The French Press and the King.

The articles in *Le Temps* on the situation in Greece and the references to King Constantine, and the possibility of his deposition, have produced a great show of indignation on the part of those who wish to be regarded as champions of the Crown. However, as the *Messager d'Athènes* and the *Hestia* explain very frankly, if King Constantine has a very bad Press, not only in Paris, but also in London, and more especially in Petrograd, the fault lies with those who are now making such a fuss. For it is they who have always represented his Majesty—who by the Constitution should not be responsible in such matters—as prescribing and directing the policy which they have followed, thus exposing him to all these criticisms and attacks. It is they who have inspired the King to make ill-advised declarations to the foreign Press, and who, always claiming to carry out the King's policy, published articles threatening the Entente Powers, and qualifying as "traitors" those who followed an Ententist policy. According to them, the Gounarist Cabinet was "the Government of the King." M. Skouloudis did not hesitate to declare squarely in the Chamber that he "carried out the policy of the King." The Leagues of Reservists declared, as advised by their superiors, that they were at the disposal of the King. As I have already reported, on the Fête Day of the King adherents of the party raised cries of "Success to Germany," and another day some Gounarist demonstrators passing before the French Legation shouted, "Roi, roi!"—that is to say "not Venizelos," thus setting the latter in opposition to the Sovereign, as if the King were a party leader. These are the things that account for the attitude of the Entente Powers, and of their Press, towards King Constantine. And the same state of affairs still prevails. Their catchword for the elections is "The King or Venizelos." Again, the other day the famous *Embros*, commenting on the situation brought about by the attitude of the Entente Powers, suggested that the King ought to decide either to abandon the policy of neutrality, or, in accord with his people, to take the necessary steps to defend himself against any fresh attempt—meaning on the part of the Powers. Thus these champions of the Crown aim at making the King an absolutist monarch, who need neither consider the verdict of the elections nor follow the policy indicated by the popular will.

PERSONAL ORNAMENTS OF THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS.

Speaking last week at University College, London, of ancient Egyptian necklaces and similar objects, Professor Flinders Petrie said that even in the pre-historic period the Egyptians had learned the art of making the most of their gold. To make a gold bead they made a core of plaster or lapstone, and over this beat out and burnished a plate of gold extremely thin. Survivals of that time were very rare, most of the gold now found in Egyptian tombs dating from the Græco-Roman period. In ancient as in modern times, neck ornaments were often made by stringing silver coins together. Thus a hole would be punched in a Greek drachma and a link of copper wire passed through this; a copper wire through the links compelled the necklace. Other silver necklaces were made of beads so massive that the entire necklace would sometimes weigh nearly a troy pound. It was one method of storing bullion. The lecture was accompanied by lantern-slides, which enabled the audience to follow the development of this kind of art in ancient Egypt from the beautiful work of the early dynasties down to the debased work done for Norman and other mercenaries quartered in Egypt in later Roman times.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nicosia, September 26.

The Legislative Council.

October 4 has been fixed for the election (nomination) of candidates. The Council has been dissolved. Several of the leading Greeks are not seeking re-election. Among them is M. I. Ekonomides, manager of the Greek Bank of Cyprus, who has served for many years in the Council, and who is regarded as one of the strongest and most zealous representatives of Greek sentiment. Several candidates have published electoral addresses, and some have been touring and speaking in the districts. In one case at least a candidate is standing for two electoral divisions. In all districts the number of candidates will exceed the number of vacancies. Dates for the polling will be fixed by the Commissioners, who are returning officers for the three linked electoral divisions.

As regards the election of the Greek Archbishop, there is a delay, the date of the election of the sixty-six electors-general having been postponed till October 22. The Bishop of Papho, who is acting as Archbishop, is attending the Festival of the Cross at Omodhos, in the Limassol district, which is held on September 27, and is the occasion of a large annual fair and horse market.

Wheat Shortage Feared.

The order of the Egyptian Government prohibiting the export of wheat has caused anxiety in Cyprus, as the island harvest has not been sufficient to meet local needs. A shortage is feared if the supply from Egypt is cut off. The papers express the hope that the authorities will use their influence in order that the prohibition may be removed as regards the island. There are strong reasons, it is urged, for this favour, since Cyprus has continued to furnish Egypt with cattle, sheep, potatoes, and other articles of consumption.

Another batch of Greek interpreters has been recruited for Salonika in the districts of Nicosia and Larnaca.

The motor service between Nicosia and Kyrenia is suspended for the winter months from October 1. It will be replaced by a daily carriage service each way.

It is stated that, on account of the approaching participation of Greece in the war, the stream of emigration to America and France has been checked, and that a number of youths who were preparing to embark are now awaiting the call to arms in Greece, and will follow the example of other Nationalists.

A correspondent writes to the *Evening Standard*:—Is anything going to be done to improve the means of communication between here and Mesopotamia? At present it is deplorable. Three weeks ago I sent three cables, with replies paid, to relatives who were in hospital, but up to now I have had no answer to them, and I hear the same complaint from others who have cabled out there, although replies have been paid. . . . Surely during the twenty-four hours some time could be allotted for cables to and from the troops, and letters should not take more than four weeks, otherwise the management must be rotten.

BUCHAREST IN WAR TIME.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, September 2.

The Bucharest of to-day is not the Bucharest of a week ago. Save for the numbers of flags that decorate them—among which are many Union Jacks and well-meant attempts at Union Jacks—the streets and buildings are, of course, much the same, and will probably remain so, unless the air attacks become much more numerous and the aim of the enemy airmen much more accurate. But the citizens, men and women alike, have taken on a serious air—the air of a people at war; and, save in the evening, when for a short time, just before dusk, everybody flocks into the Calea Victoriei, no one seems to be abroad unless he or she be on some war work. Nearly every vehicle, horse or motor, has been requisitioned, and the only civilian wheeled things you see are a few cabs drawn by animals obviously "unfit for military service." There are very many Red Cross cars and carriages, most up-to-date; and in this respect especially Roumania seems to be particularly well provided. The number of Red Cross flags flying on buildings of importance shows also how many hospitals have been and are being organised. The ladies of Bucharest have taken very seriously to nursing.

Another point that strikes you is that practically everyone you meet is unmistakably Roumanian. Gone are the numerous Austrians and Germans. Only the men were interned, but their women-folk do not care to show themselves; though, did they do so, no offensive word or gesture would be forthcoming, I am sure. It is doubtless just a feeling of chagrin that makes them voluntary prisoners. They know that Austro-German money has been poured out like water to corrupt this country; and they are shamed—by the failure of their men to achieve their purpose, not by the attempt!

Anyone belonging to the Allied nations is the observed of all observers, whether it be the British Military Attaché, the Russian Minister, or one of the ladies of the four Legations that boast such; or it may be a young Serbian officer in his smart uniform, who limps along—he has lost a limb on his country's battlefields. All heads are turned to gaze after these passers-by, and it is almost a disgrace not to know each and all of them by name.

Suddenly, perhaps, a signal is passed up the street, and everyone, rich and poor, soldier and civilian alike, stops to raise his hat and cheer as King Ferdinand—King of the Great Roumania that is to be—drives past in his car. A month ago he would have passed almost unnoticed save by the military and members of the upper class. The war has wrought a change here, too.

Next, two or three motor-cars come along at a more sober pace, carrying officers of General Zajouchovski's staff, who are in Bucharest to discuss with their Roumanian colleagues the plan of campaign in the Dobruja, and who are now being shown the sights of the capital. In marked contrast to them, but attracting even more attention, there tramp by some Russian soldiers, recognisable, as far as uniform goes, only by one in ten of their number. They are men who were captured by the Germans, sent into Bulgaria to work on road-making, and escaped thence into friendly Roumania, whence they will be forwarded on to Russia again.

One must not forget, in describing Bucharest of to-day, to mention the Boy Scouts. They are much in evidence, rushing hither and thither on their bicycles, bearing messages and performing endless commissions. It is they, too, who go round at night to see that all lights are out at nine o'clock. For the lighting order is strict indeed, and Bucharest by night is truly a very different city from Bucharest of pre-war times. Then, till one and two in the morning, motors and carriages thronged the streets; cafés and restaurants were open till one o'clock and later, and there were more people abroad in the streets at midnight than at midday. Now the streets are desolate and deserted; not a light is to be seen save here and there from a street lamp, painted black excepting one small blue square; nobody is about except the police; and those whom dire necessity compels to face the darkness must have a special permit. To those who know Bucharest well this last change seems incredible. Yet the change was wrought in twenty-four hours. Roumania's capital has accomplished the seemingly impossible.

Thousands of Christmas "billies" and boxes of comforts are now being prepared in Australia to be sent forward to the troops in France, Egypt, and Great Britain.

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GERMAN AND BULGARIAN ATROCITIES.

ROUMANIA'S PROTEST.

The following is a translation of a protest which the Roumanian Government has sent to Neutral States regarding the bombardment by German aeroplanes of several towns of Roumania in violation of Articles 25, 26, and 27 of the Regulations annexed to the 40th Convention of The Hague:—

Since the day when Roumania declared war on Austria-Hungary the Bulgarian troops, after having attacked us without a declaration of war, have continued, with the assistance of the armies allied with Bulgaria, their attacks on Roumania, violating in succession all the laws of civilized warfare. Leaving aside for the moment the horrible atrocities committed against the Roumanian soldiery and civilian population of the Dobruja, as well as the employment of methods of destruction forbidden by international agreements, and speaking only of the manner in which the enemy conducts aerial warfare against us, we address the neutral States, who are bound in honour and duty under the existing circumstances to raise their voices in favour of the principles of justice and humanity which should guide civilized peoples, in time of peace as in time of war, and we bring the following to their notice.

German aviators have been throwing bombs incessantly, night and day, on the city of Bucharest without attaining any other result than making 250 innocent victims, killed and wounded, among them more than 200 women and children and several sick and infirm persons, for more than fifty-eight bombs have been thrown on hospitals and asylums. The same thing is happening almost daily in the other open towns of the country. The representatives of the foreign Powers residing in the capital of the kingdom have been in a position to note the facts, and have doubtless informed their Governments of them, and called their attention to these repeated violations of the laws of war.

The Roumanian Government considers that it has the right to hold Germany directly responsible. The aeroplanes which fly over our towns are, in fact, German. It is under the orders of German commanders that the enemy armies are fighting against us on both fronts. Now, as Germany is one of the Powers which signed the Hague Convention she cannot escape the responsibility she has incurred through this contempt for the laws of justice, as set forth by International Conferences with a view to reducing to a minimum the evils of war, the objects of those conferences being to prevent unfair methods of warfare, to limit offensive operations to the belligerent forces, and to shield the helpless civil population, as well as institutions of culture and benevolence and artistic monuments, which are the fruit of peaceful effort and civilization, from destruction, a destruction of no use whatever from the point of view of the results of the war.

We conceive that it is for the common interest, as well as for that of the neutral States, that this method of warfare should be denounced by all who have a regard for justice and respect for treaties. That is why the Roumanian Government protests with the utmost energy against the reprehensible acts to which it draws attention, and which apart from, and because of, their abomination, are calculated to give rise to dangerous reprisals and to inspire in the people sentiments of hatred and vengeance of evil omen for the welfare of humanity.

PORUMBARU,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Roumania.

Under date of October 8, Reuter's Bucharest Correspondent reports that the following semi-official statement has been issued there: —

Germany through her wireless station at Nauen is disseminating through the world assertions made by German journalists that the Roumanian troops committed atrocities in the Dobruja on the Bulgarian population. After careful investigation, it may be stated that the Roumanian troops in the Dobruja, as well as in Transylvania, have respected the civil population in spite of the latter's attacks on them. For example, in the Dobruja the population threw petroleum into the Roumanian trenches. Concealed in houses, they fired on the troops, and they mutilated and finished off the wounded. Women of Bulgarian extraction threw boiling water upon wounded Roumanians and gouged out their eyes.

Obviously some Bulgarian villages in the fighting area were damaged, but, on the other hand, the Roumanian villages in the Dobruja have been pillaged and destroyed by the German and Bulgarian troops. In Transylvania the Hungarians in their fight carried off the population and systematically set fire to the Roumanian villages, according to the formal declarations of members of the clergy.

It is easy to understand why the Nauen station disseminated such baseless charges, while many witnesses have given evidence of atrocities and acts of incendiarism and pillage committed by the Austro-Bulgarian troops.

A mobilization order has been issued by the Russian Diplomatic Agency at Cairo providing that all Russians in Egypt who are eligible for military service shall be incorporated in the British Army in Egypt.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

WHY "HORSE" BEANS?

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—We are informed, disparagingly and with commiseration, that the staple food of British merchant seamen interned in Turkey consists of horse beans. I imagine that the public, on reading this news, will probably be much concerned as to how human beings can have teeth to crush, and stomachs to digest, this hard vegetable, which is never utilised here, except uncooked for horse feeding.

I venture, therefore, to reassure the seamen's friends on this subject, and to inform them that the Eastern way of cooking these beans makes them as soft as green peas, and after such preparation they become most palatable and of higher nutritive value than meat.

I may add that these beans are never, in the East, given to animals, and their market value there is generally higher than wheat. The Egyptian "Fulemdammas"—*i.e.*, baked beans—is a dish which, if popularised here, would be likely, in my opinion, to confer a greater benefit on the people than a free gift of meat. Besides, we are at war, and in comparison with the Germans the Turks are, as fighters, perfect gentlemen.—I am, etc.,

London, October 7, 1916. A. S.

THE CENTRAL ISLAMIC SOCIETY.

A very successful meeting of the Central Islamic Society was held at the Eustace Miles Restaurant last Friday. Among those present were Prince Abdul Karim of Sachchin (President); Kamal-uddin, in the chair; Lord Headley, Mr. Pickthall, Hon. Mr. Abbas Ali Baig, Mr. Yusuf Ali, Princess Ourouseff, Syed Ehsan el-Bakry (Egypt), Mr. Kaderbhoy, and Mr. Irfan Ali. Letters of regret at being unable to attend were received from the Earl of Clarendon and others

In opening the meeting, Mr. Kidwai said that the Society was founded in 1886; it had several objects, but the one in furtherance of which social functions were held and lectures delivered was to remove misconceptions with regard to Islam and Moslems. The Society was Islamic, but not exclusive, and persons of all religions could join it as associates.

Lord Headley, the lecturer, confined himself to pointing out the points of difference and of similarity between Christianity and Islam. But Khwaja Kamal-uddin very convincingly explained that Islam recognised all the Prophets, whether Krishna, Buddha, Confucius, Moses or Jesus, and thus every religion was a sister to Islam. Islam proclaimed that every nation and every country has received Prophets and revelations, and all religions contained noble principles. The claim of Islam was only this: that while other revealed books have been corrupted by the advance of time, the book of Islam was intact, and summed up all the truths of all the religions; so that it could be said that of all the sister religions Islam only had succeeded in preserving her features and character.

Mr. Yusuf Ali, who was received with cheers, pointed out that the three characteristics of Islam were:—(1) The destruction of idolatry, by which he meant all the emblems of superstition, conceit, falsehood, passion, etc.; (2) the destruction of privileges and vested interests, as that of priesthood and sex superiority; (3) the destruction of colour and race prejudices.

Dr. Abbas Ali Baig, in a forcible speech, showed how Christianity had been influenced by Pagan ideas, and how Islam was misrepresented with regard to polygamy, thus making it difficult for the people of the two sister religions to come near to one another.

In a message dated October 3 the Cairo correspondent of *The Times* reports:—The Holy Carpet has arrived at Mecca after an uneventful journey from Jeddah, where British warships rendered the fullest honours. The naval pageant greatly impressed the Arabs.

An Admiralty communiqué dated October 7 deals with naval aeroplanes operating against the Bulgarian coast between September 13 and 22, in which period the headquarters of the Bulgarian 10th Division were twice successfully bombarded, and considerable damage was done to troops, transports, and stores at and about Drama.

Statements having recently been made in the Press to the effect that the German parcel post service to Turkey had been stopped, and that the suspension also applied to Switzerland, the Imperial Merchant Service Guild, who are looking after the interests of the whole of the interned merchant captains and officers in Germany and Turkey, addressed inquiries to the Comité Internationale de la Croix-Rouge, Agence Internationale des Prisonniers de Guerre, at Geneva, asking for information as regards the forwarding of parcels to the interned merchant captains and officers in Turkey. They now learn from the Red Cross Society at Geneva that the Swiss Post Office still forwards parcels to Turkey and Asia Minor, care of the Ottoman Red Crescent Society at Constantinople, and so recently as the 3rd instant they have been assured that there is no alteration in the matter.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A letter received from a Roumanian correspondent gives some picturesque details of Tutrakan, the town of which we heard so much in the German and Bulgarian *communiqués* a few weeks ago. It has (says my correspondent) often been the scene of stiff fighting. Founded by Constantine the Great at the same time as Daphne (now Oltenitza), on the other bank, it was destroyed by the Barbarians and reconstructed by the Emperor Justinian. It was twice destroyed by Michael the Brave, in 1594 and 1595, as the Turks made it one of their chief centres from which they directed incursions across the Danube. In the Russo-Turkish wars of 1773, 1809, 1829, and 1854 it was again the scene of conflict.

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The Tutrakan of to-day is a most picturesque town of very Oriental appearance—unless the Bulgaro-German guns have battered it to bits—with streets running steeply downhill towards the Danube, and being in some instances connected with one another by steps. Many old trees grace its roads, and its mosques and fountains give it a delightful old-world air. Yet it boasts—or boasted—a "Gladstone Street" and a "Boulevard Suvaroff," the latter twenty-five metres long! At the time of the Roumanian occupation, in 1913, its inhabitants were: 3,000 Turks, the same number of Bulgarians, and between 6,000 and 7,000 Roumanians. The number of the Roumanians had increased considerably during the past two years; but the majority of them are reported to have been ruthlessly massacred by the Bulgarian and German soldiery.

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Salonika, having done its best to emulate the great days of eight years ago, when it overthrew a sovereign and ended a *régime*, is now realising that, if its Greeks are ready to fight the Bulgar, its Jews are far too busy fleecing the Allies to think of war except as highly profitable to the *tertius gaudens*. In fact, when invited to participate in the Revolutionary ardour of their new Fatherland, they pointed out a clause in the Treaty of Athens by which they were not to be liable for Greek military service for some time to come. The Government of National Defence—who so law-abiding as a Rebel?—at once decided to be bound by the Treaty; and the Jewish youths recruited in defiance of its provisions were at once discharged. On leaving the barracks these sons of Kish cried "Zeto Basileus," which so incensed the bystanders that they fell upon the noisy ones and beat them full sore for uttering seditious cries. This drastic action produced an almost immediate change of opinions, and the Hebrews, converted almost *en masse* to the cause of the Revolution, shouted lustily, "Zeto Venizelos." This, however, failed in its object of pacifying the crowd, which again assailed the demonstrators, who felt that they were, erroneously, being treated as sons of Ishmael, not of Israel. They were beaten, kicked, and rolled in fresh mounds of dust—this time for daring to "pollute" the honoured name of the Cretan patriot by pronouncing it with lips so recently disfigured by the utterance of the "Basileus."

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A long time ago I referred, I think, to the case of a French consul in Baghdad who, suffering badly from "Baghdad boils," used to spend much of his time sitting in the river. He had—so the story goes, and I believe it was little, if at all, exaggerated—a seat and table fixed up in the water, with a shade over them, of course; and there, when the hot weather made his boils more troublesome than usual, he pursued his studies and carried on his official duties. How he received callers I never heard. They may have waded out to him; they may have gone off to his river throne in *gouphas;* or they may have boldly donned bathing costume for official visits. All I am sure of is that if they wanted to see the much-plagued consul they were almost certain to find him "partially submerged."

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This Frenchman had a very good excuse for his unorthodox behaviour; for a single Baghdad boil is no joke, as I can vouch from personal experience, and a lot of them must be maddening indeed. But another consul—not French—in the same city could hardly plead as much in extenuation of his eccentricity. *His* theory was that the higher you go the cooler you become, and therefore he had his chair hoisted well off the floor, his table similarly treated, and a kind of infant lift provided to haul up food, books, and so forth. At least that is the story as it was told to me a few days ago by one in whose veracity I place implicit trust; and though I never heard of this particular consular eccentric during my residence in Baghdad, that proves nothing at all. For, as I may have remarked before, Baghdad, ever since its foundation by Al Mausur, has been a city of strange happenings, and no one can expect to have heard of *all* the marvellous things that have occurred there. So let us accept the tale of the Levitated Consul without unworthy scepticism.

Some time ago the *Basrah Times* published a poem entitled "Chorus of Flies: Summoned to Plague Egypt." If not entirely pleasant, it was clever; and the poet (one "H. D.") concluded by exhorting the flies:—

From Uz to Ormuz
Flies busily buzz!
Flies busily buzz! Make a droning wind with your wings!

Very soon after there appeared "The Reply of the Flies," signed "A Fly." This effort I make bold to reproduce—with apologies to "A Fly."

Who tells us to buzz
From Uz to Ormuz
In his polished-up rhymes
Of the *Basrah Times*?
Why the —— should we buzz
From Uz to Ormuz?

We shall hold our debates
Where your rag circulates—
In the stores, in the stables,
In half-empty crates,
On officers' tables,
On unwashen plates.

From jam-pots we rise,
And if some bold warrior slumbering lies
We shall crawl up his nose,
We shall walk o'er his eyes.
And what can it jolly well matter to you
If we take a hot bath in somebody's stew
Or commit suicide (a beautiful death!)
By getting too near to a bellamchi's breath.

Why the —— should we buzz
From Uz to Ormuz?
It would give us great pain to be misunderstood—
We have plenty to do in this neighbourhood.

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Anyone who is interested in the relations existing between Turkey and Germany must have read with peculiar interest some extracts from two articles in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* that were published in *The Times* recently. The writer of the articles referred to is amazingly frank. He thinks that "the sense of independence which comes with a sense of increased strength" has encouraged in Turkey a disposition towards "Oriental exclusiveness" which may lead up to "the Stambulization of Byzantium." This is truly a horrible idea for a German to contemplate, after the desperate efforts that have been made for the Germanization of the devoted city. And the writer is pained to observe that the German element in Constantinople is not spared by the movement which he detects; it is, in fact, "sometimes harder hit by these sentiments than it was before—and harder even than Germany's enemies are at present." Truly, he must find it an ungrateful world when even the Turkish Ally gives such plain proof of not entirely welcoming Teutonic *Kultur*.

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As he warms to his subject, the writer becomes even more frank. He would like, apparently, to see Germany following the "normal" way, and "conquering" Turkey; but he realises that there are certain difficulties in the way; so he finally advises that the Fatherland shall borrow a hint from —the British Empire!

> "Former illusions about the collapse of the world Empire built by the British upon the Dominions have proved erroneous. Canada and Australia might make themselves "free," but they do not want to. Perhaps one can learn from this peculiar process. We will not and cannot conquer Turkey in order to control her as a subject land, but we must have with Turkey the same political life as Old England has with Australia, whose regiments fight for England's cause, and whose yards built ships for the English rule of the seas. We will not touch Stambul, but Pera and Galata must be the habitation of the Turco-German alliance, and the great bridge between them and Stambul must be the stairway into our house."

He appears to forget that Germany has, in spite of her efforts, hardly sent as many colonists to Turkey as Great Britain has to Australia, and that in Australia the "sense of independence" has not encouraged a disposition to "exclusiveness," such as he regrets in the case of Turkey. But his remarkable article makes enjoyable reading, and I sincerely hope it will be widely read by the Turks.

CORSAIR.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE GALLIPOLI WITHDRAWAL.*

"The Truth About the Dardanelles" is, and must necessarily be, a somewhat disappointing book. The author is a courageous man to claim for his work the elusive title of Truth. Mr. Moseley writes, and writes well, of what he genuinely believes to be the truth, as far as he was able to judge it from his own experience as a spectator, or from the experience of those with whom he has been in contact. The absolute truth, however, cannot yet be known, even if it is ever fully revealed, to the public. Moreover, the truth, as the author regards it, may be, and doubtless is, regarded in exactly the opposite light by many people who may be as well qualified to state their opinions as is Mr. Moseley.

The volume is divided into three parts, the first dealing with "Peninsula Incidents," most of which have been by now made familiar to the general public either by articles in the Press or by friends and relations who took an actual part in that great enterprise. Part 2 deals with the "Aftermath," telling of the wounded and their experiences in Egypt and England, and the author has a good word to say for the R.A.M.C. Part 3 concerns the evacuation, and is the most interesting, because of the criticism it passes on that operation and the strong line Mr. Moseley takes up as well as the forceful manner in which he expresses himself. The seven short chapters which form this section of the book are very interesting reading.

In Chapter 1 of this part, which the author calls "Some Criticisms Criticised," he breaks a lance with Mr. Ashmead Bartlett, who comes in for some strong condemnation for his attitude on the Dardanelles operations as a whole. Mr. Moseley is a thoroughgoing believer that the evacuation was a great mistake. He maintains that the Government were "bluffed" out of the Peninsula, and that the Turks were on the point of collapse, and that another vigorous attack would have seen us through "the few miles which separated us from victory." He is an advocate of the policy of "rush," and there is little doubt but that the element of surprise gave the best chance at Suvla and Anzac. But with the failure of the surprise all the virtue was gone out of it, and the operations resolved themselves into trench warfare, which the Turks, being near their base and with more elbow room, were able to carry on with a tenacity almost equal to that of our own troops.

The book is frankly controversial, and the author hits out with energy at croakers and pessimists, and has some interesting things to say about the leakage of valuable information. His views certainly are interesting, but whether anything is to be gained now by a somewhat bitter discussion of the operations is another question; and while strongly supported opinions are put forward, they are still but opinions, and the book, as a whole, does not add greatly to the sum total of known facts concerning this phase of the war.

Mr. Moseley refers to the prevalence of stomach trouble on the Peninsula, and residents of the Levant will remember that all newcomers to that part of the world are liable to this ailment in a more or less severe form during the first year of their residence there, even under the most favourable circumstances.

Several amusing stories are told, and there is one of an officer who, by clapping his hands and calling out "Ta'ala henna," was able to fetch a Turk or two out of their trenches. He was lucky to have Arab troops opposite him; for a Turk would no more have understood these words than he would their English equivalent of "come here."

The book is very free from typographical errors, though "Erenquei" is not a usual form of Erenkeui, and the author, who has visited Constantinople, has so far forgotten his geography that, in describing the panic that reigned there in the early days of the attack on the Straits, he says: "Those were the days when the islands in the neighbourhood of the Sweet Waters of Asia were patronised by the quaking Turks. . . ." It must have been a serious convulsion of nature, too, that shifted the Prince's Islands from the Gulf of Ismid to the narrowest part of the Bosphorus!

* "The Truth about the Dardanelles." By Sydney A. Moseley. (Cassell. 5s.)

Any Books mentioned on this page, or any other Publication, can be obtained at the published price, plus 3d. postage in the United Kingdom, or 6d. abroad, from

THE NEAR EAST (Book Department),
16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

BOOK NOTES.

A first glance at Mr. Algernon Blackwood's latest book, "The War: An Egyptian Aftermath," a copy of which we have received from Messrs. Macmillan and Co., shows that it is delightfully written. Mr. Blackwood, indeed, always writes with distinction, and we look forward to a rare treat in our reading of "The War."

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have just published "With the Springboks in Egypt," by "Captain," and "The Black Hole of the Desert: Being the Diary of a Yeoman-Signaller, one of the Survivors of H.M.S. 'Tara.'" Both books are published at 1s. net.

Messrs. Hutchinson have published "The Lure of the Desert," by Kathlyn Rhodes, a novel, of which the hero is an Englishman with Arab blood in his veins.

Messrs. Mills and Boon have published this week "Experiences of a Woman Doctor in Serbia," by Dr. Caroline Matthews. The price of the book is 5s. net.

The latest publication of the Anglo-Hellenic League is the "Speech of M. E. Venizelos to the People: Delivered in Athens on Sunday, August 27, 1916." The booklet contains the Greek text and an English translation, and we congratulate the League upon its appearance. Copies can be obtained at the offices of the League (43, Aldwych) at the price of 3d. each, or 2s. a dozen.

SALONIKA.

A very interesting paper by Mr. H. C. Woods treating of Salonika chiefly from the geographical standpoint was read by Mr. Henry Trotter at the meeting of the Central Asian Society last Wednesday. Salonika was described as occupying a fine site at the head of a bay opening out of a gulf. The latter has deep water throughout, but parts of the bay are blocked by mud brought down by the rivers. The depth of water is always changing, and the present harbour is a modern structure. The town has 125,000 inhabitants, of whom 75,000 are Jews—descendants of those expelled from Spain by Ferdinand and Isabella. They control the business of the city and surpass the Greeks in commercial ability. Besides the Jews there are about 15,000 *Dounmehs*. The Greeks number 25,000, and there are, besides, 5,000 Turks, 4,000 Bulgars, and a small colony of people from Western Europe. But all these only exist by sufferance of the Jews, who dominate everything.

Of the military situation Mr. Woods said that the fighting must be entirely unlike anything else in Europe, and would be far more arduous. With the exception of the plain lying west of Salonika, which is already in our hands, almost the whole area in which fighting may take place is made up of rocky hills and mountains. Motor vehicles, transport wagons, and big guns are practically useless; special transport and mountain guns must be provided.

SERBIA'S LOSSES.

In a letter addressed to an Englishwoman, pleading the claims of Serbia upon the Allies, Madame Christitch, wife of a former Serbian Minister, writes:—

"Knowing that these words will find an echo in your heart, I plead for those who are expressing their suffering by fighting against an enemy, superior in numbers, with a dash and bravery unequalled in all history. Do we not read every day in the newspapers articles full of admiration for the Serbian troops? . . . But, while admiring them, do people think enough of the fact that these troops are the last that remain of that fine Serbian Army?

"My heart bleeds at the thought that if things continue in this way our race, that valiant, courageous race, will have no more strength to continue itself. It will be doomed either to disappear or else to undergo a mixing which would deprive it of the qualities which are our pride and the admiration of the whole world. It seems that people do not any longer remember that the Serbs have been under arms since October 1, 1912—that is to say, they are now entering upon the fifth year of superhuman struggle.

"A country which has under three millions of inhabitants finds itself at grips with three Empires and one Kingdom, after having waged three successive wars. In addition, there are the different epidemics that make themselves the accomplice of the enemy and mow down thousands of these brave ones. That also is not enough to break the spirit of this heroic people. They must then endure the retreat through Albania, die on the way of fatigue, of hunger; be attacked by Albanian bands. Those who are left after this hell land at Corfu, but they are not men, they are phantoms. There, again, die in masses those who were upheld during the retreat by their energy and their will to live.

"But a miracle! Those phantoms who are left, after a few months of rest and care, behold them fighting, like the bravest of the brave, against the traitor enemy, the invader of their sacred country. Is it human, is it brotherly, on the part of the Allies to let the Serbs be killed to the last man in their eagerness to reconquer their Motherland? . . .

"I ask you to be the interpreter between us Serbian women and your compatriots, in order to prevent them from making another mistake where we are concerned. The mistake committed in the year 1915, to the profit of those traitors and perjurers the Bulgars, can still be repaired, but this other mistake would be irreparable."

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916.	1916.		1334.	5677.
Oct.	Sept.		Julhijja	Tishri
13	30	Friday	15	16
	Oct.			
14	1	Saturday.....	16	17
15	2	Sunday	17	18
16	3	Monday	18	19
17	4	Tuesday	19	20
18	5	Wednesday	20	21
19	6	Thursday	21	22

Monday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Carol of Roumania, the Prince Royal, who was born at Castle Pelesh, Sinaia, in 1893.

Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne arrived at their residence in Cavendish Place on Wednesday morning from Castle Macgarrett, County Mayo.

Madame Misu, the wife of the Roumanian Minister, and Mlle. Margaret Misu, her daughter, who have been spending the summer at Eastbourne, have returned to the Legation.

M. Mathias Boshkovitch, formerly Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James, has arrived in Paris from London.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. T. O'Connor, C.I.E., H.M. Consul at Shiraz, returned to England lately, and is now in London. It will be remembered that he was treacherously made prisoner some time ago, when the Swedish gendarmerie at Shiraz suddenly surrounded the Consulate and seized all the British residents. He was only recently released.

M. Alexis Catargi, son of the late Roumanian Minister to the Court of St. James, and Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in Paris, and Madame Catargi, who have been spending the summer at Weybridge, are leaving London for the Continent.

On Saturday Major Guy Pears, R.E., had the honour of being received at Buckingham Palace by the King, when his Majesty conferred upon him the Military Cross.

Prince Cantacuzene has arranged to leave shortly for Bucharest to rejoin his regiment.

M. Levitch, Secretary-General of the Serbian Finance Department, left London on Tuesday for Paris on a special mission. He will afterwards proceed to Corfu.

On October 4, at Holy Trinity Church, Orton Longueville, Peterborough, the marriage was solemnized of Second-Lieutenant Derek Cox, R.F.C., only son of Colonel Sir Percy Zacariah Cox, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., with Ethel, second daughter of Mr. W. H. Ellington, of Orton Waterville, Peterborough.

On Monday afternoon a wedding was solemnised at St. Nicholas Church, Hintlesham, between Lieutenant Clennell Anstruther Wilkinson, of the Middlesex Regiment, formerly of the *Egyptian Gazette*, and Miss Kathleen Mona Martin. The bridegroom, who is now at home on sick leave, having been wounded in the recent fighting on the Somme, is the eldest son of the Rev. A. Anstruther Wilkinson, rector of Hintlesham; whilst the bride is the eldest daughter of Mr. Walter D. Martin, of Travancore, South India. The wedding was a very quiet one, no invitations being issued, and only a few friends being present. The bride, who was given away by Mr. W. Knight (in the absence of her father), wore a travelling coat and skirt of brown cloth, with hat to match, and carried a bouquet of bronze chrysanthemums and maidenhair fern. The offices of best man were fulfilled by the Rev. Charles Hodges. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. A. Anstruther Wilkinson, and the service was choral, the hymns being: "O, Perfect Love" and "The King of Love my Shepherd is," the Rev. A. H. Stevens, Mus. Bac., vicar of Chattisham, presiding at the organ. The bride and bridegroom were the recipients of a large number of beautiful wedding presents, among these being a handsome travelling clock, presented to the bridegroom by the inhabitants of Hintlesham.

On October 2, at 9, Atlantic Road, Newquay, Cornwall, the wife of the Rev. H. C. Robins, of Khartoum, gave birth to a daughter, who did not survive her birth.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes that Captain Orr, Chief Secretary, who is accompanied by Mrs. Orr, has left for England on leave on account of his health.

Captain A. Stanley Wilson, M.P., who, it will be remembered, was taken prisoner by an Austrian submarine while travelling in a Greek vessel in the Mediterranean, and who is a prisoner of war in Austria, in a letter to a friend in Yorkshire, writes: "I am well, though eight months' captivity is enough. In spite of the monotony I keep fairly cheerful and am very hopeful that the war will not last very much longer. I had hoped that I might get home in exchange, but my hopes are shattered."

Among the officers who attended one of the recent investitures by H.M. the King at Buckingham Palace, was Lieut.-Colonel Henry MacGeorge, of the Indian Army. Colonel MacGeorge was in command of a battalion of Mahrattas on the outbreak of war, and when the Mesopotamian campaign was decided upon his regiment was one of the first to be ordered to the Persian Gulf. He took part in every fight right up to the final investment of Kut, and was invalided down from that town only a few days before General Townshend was finally shut in. At Busreh Colonel MacGeorge recovered sufficiently to be able to take up a Staff appointment there. But his recovery was only temporary, as it turned out, and he finally was ordered to Bombay, where he was granted six months' leave in England, none too long a time after nineteen months on end in Mesopotamia. Colonel MacGeorge, who saw his first service with the 7th Dragoon Guards in the first Sudan campaign, and who is a brother of Mrs. Sydney Merton, of Cairo, has been mentioned in each of the Mesopotamian dispatches issued so far, and for his services he was awarded the Companionship of the Bath, with which he was invested at the recent investiture by the King, with whom he subsequently lunched and had a long private interview.

Mr. Platon Drakoulis, who said some very plain things to King Constantine in an audience the other day, is well known at Oxford, where for some years he edited a Greek paper, *Ereyna*. He is a Socialist by conviction, and a pioneer among his countrymen in the labour movement. says the *Manchester Guardian*. He belongs to an old and distinguished family of Ithaca, several of whose members occupied positions under the British Government during our fifty years' occupation of the Ionian Islands.

A correspondent writes: "Flag days are to be held in Manchester and Salford on Friday and Saturday, October 13 and 14, on behalf of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund. This fund came into being soon after the commencement of the war and is greatly in need of support. Thanks to facilities provided by the Russian Government it is in close touch with the relief authorities in the Caucasus. Many thousands of homeless Armenian refugees there are looking to this fund to help them through the rigours of the coming winter. The address of the fund is 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W."

Of the second and third convoys of motor ambulances (50 in each) which the British Farmers' Red Cross Fund has agreed to send to the front, twenty ambulances have this week been despatched to Salonika for the use of our Army there. All these bear inscriptions that they have been given by this fund. Up to October 6 the fund had collected £391,516 4s. 6d. Subscriptions are urgently needed, and all offers of help should be sent to the Secretary, Room 5, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Shad Thames, Bermondsey, S.E.

The Id-uz-Zoha prayer was held on October 8 at 86, Ladbroke Road, W., in the Khan-Kap, the headquarters of the Sufi Order, under the auspices of the Islamic Society, of which Dr. Majid is the president. The prayer was well attended, and representatives of various parts of the Moslem world were present.

We regret that by a printer's error the address of the Sufi Order was given in our last week's issue as 86, Ladbroke Grove, instead of 86, Ladbroke Road.

Viscountess Templetown (130, Ashley Gardens, London) appeals for money to buy wool for her knitters, who are making socks for the troops at Salonika, where the cold is already making itself felt severely.

An announcement was made in error in our last issue to the effect that Dr. Seton-Watson had delivered the previous day the first of his series of lectures at King's College on Serbia and Bulgaria. It had been arranged that he should deliver the lecture, but illness prevented it.

From October 16th the office of the Jugoslav Committee will be transferred to 54, Chepstow Villas, Bayswater, W., where also Dr. Hinkovic will stay, replacing the absent President, and Dr. Jedlowski, the Secretary. All letters for the committee or the above mentioned members may be sent to this address.

The Hon. Marjorie Hicks-Beach, commonly called Viscountess Quenington, of The Mill House, Coln St. Aldwyn, Glos., who died in Cairo on March 4 last, wife of Lieutenant Viscount Quenington (who died in April last, leaving estate of the value of £131,509), left unsettled estate valued at £988.

Sir Victor Alexander Haden Horsley, C.B., F.R.S., F.R.C.S., captain of the 3rd London General Hospital, R.A.M.C., since 1897 a member of the General Medical Council, of 25, Cavendish Square, W., who died on July 16 from heat-stroke while serving as a consultant with the Forces in Mesopotamia, aged 59, has left property of the value of £35,595, the net personalty being £30,214. Probate of the will, dated April 17, 1895, is granted to Lady Horsley.

Mr. Benjamin Lewis Mosely, LL.B., of Brick Court, Temple, E.C., barrister, late Judge in the Native Tribunals at Cairo, who died on July 13 last at Monte Carlo, left estate in the United Kingdom of the gross value of £43,054, of which £42,274 is net personalty. Among his bequests were: An annuity of £60 to William Whittington, formerly in his service, and on his death to his wife, should she survive him, and £500 to his clerk, John Samuel Good. The residue of his estate Mr. Mosely left to his wife, but in the event of her predecease to the Khedive of Egypt for charitable purposes in Egypt and elsewhere, as he may determine.

Miss Sarah Broom Macnaughtan, of Norfolk Street, Hyde Park, the well-known novelist, who died on July 24 last, left unsettled estate of the gross value of £12,112.

SEC.-LIEUT. GEOFFREY N. P. D'ERF WHEELER, Dorset Regiment, missing, September 26-30. Any information will be most thankfully received by his mother, Mrs. d'Erf Wheeler, 97, Comeragh Road, West Kensington.

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Lieutenant Frank Fox, Royal Field Artillery, who has been wounded a second time, is a member of the *Morning Post* staff, and represented that paper in the Balkans during the two Balkan wars. He is the author of "The Balkans" and other works on the Near East.

Mrs. Theodore Ralli and Miss Ralli have given up the lease of 12, Belgrave Place, and will be at the Berkeley Hotel until they sail in November to spend the winter in New York.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Last Saturday, at Buckingham Palace, H.E. Monsieur Yovan Yovanovitch had an audience of the King, and presented his letter of credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for the Kingdom of Serbia. Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, was present.

It is officially announced that Sir Ronald Graham will be succeeded as Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior by Mr. J. Haines, Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture.

Mr. John Langley, of the State Domains Administration, will succeed Mr. Haines at the Ministry of Agriculture.

The *Daily Malta Chronicle* of September 29 contains the announcement that Vice-Admiral Limpus, K.C.M.G., C.B., has left Malta for England, and that Rear-Admiral George Alexander Ballard, C.B., has taken over the duties of Senior Naval Officer in Charge at Malta.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death of Admiral Sir William Robert Kennedy, which took place on Monday at Falconer's Hill, Daventry. The second son of John Kennedy, Chargé d'Affaires at Naples, he was born on March 4, 1838. His grandfather was the son of the eleventh Earl of Cassilis and brother of Archibald, first Marquess of Ailsa. After some early schooling at Cheam and Brighton, William Kennedy entered the Navy in December, 1851. As a midshipman of the line of battleship Rodney, he was in the Black Sea during the Crimean War, being present at the bombardment of Sebastopol, and serving in the trenches before that fortress; he was also present in the Sphinx at the bombardment of Kinburu, and received the Crimean and Turkish medals with clasp for Sebastopol. Next he served on the East Indies and China Station, on Sir Michael Seymour's flagship. Thereafter his service was in the West rather than the East; but in 1865 he was first lieutenant of H.M.S. Victoria, flagship of the Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean; and in 1892 he was appointed Commander-in-Chief on the East Indies Station. He became Admiral in June, 1901, and retired in December of the same year. He distinguished himself on several occasions, and was also one of the most popular officers in the Navy. He was a keen sportsman, and a writer of no little charm, his best known book being "Hurrah, for the Life of a Sailor." Sir William Kennedy married in 1868 Edith Louisa, daughter of the late Captain E. Stopford, R.N.

Lieut.-Colonel Charles Edward Fishbourne, Northumberland Fusiliers, of Ashfield Hall, Ballickmoyler, Queen's County, who has died of wounds, was the only surviving son of Joseph Fishbourne, and was born in February, 1869. He was educated at Oakham School, and entered the Northumberland Fusiliers in April, 1892. He had promotion in 1895, and was captain in February, 1900; in the following November he was given his brevet of major, and this rank was made substantive in September, 1909. In August, 1914, he received the rank of temporary lieut.-colonel for the command of a Service battalion of his regiment. He was adjutant of the Northumberland Fusiliers from October, 1899, to September, 1903. Colonel Fishbourne had fought with distinction in the present war. Before this he had seen distinguished service. He took part in the Nile Expedition of 1898, including the battle of Omdurman, and had the Egyptian medal with clasp and the Nile Medal. He also served throughout the South African War of 1899-1902. Colonel Fishbourne married in 1908 Elizabeth Leslie, second daughter of the late Robert Russell.

The death occurred on Saturday, at Buriton House, Buriton, Petersfield, of Sibella Charlotte, the wife of Henry Bonham-Carter, of 5, Hyde Park Square, London, and elder daughter of the late George Warde Norman, of Bromley Common, Kent, in her eightieth year, after a short illness. Mrs. Bonham-Carter was the mother of Mr. E. Bonham-Carter, C.M.G., Legal Secretary, Sudan Government, with whom sincere sympathy will be felt by a very large circle of friends.

We have to announce the death at Torquay, on the 8th inst., of Lieutenant-Colonel F. West, late 48th Foot, aged 92. Lieutenant-Colonel West was a Crimean veteran, and was a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour and also had the Order of the Mejidieh and the English and Turkish medals for the Crimea. He was the youngest son of the late Admiral Sir John West, G.C.B., and lost his only son, Lieutenant A. V. West, Royal Berkshire Regiment, in the Boer War.

It is now announced that Lieutenant Richard Nicholas Dilberoglue, Coldstream Guards, was killed on September 15. Aged 20 years and 10 months, he was the youngest son of Judge Dilberoglue, former President of the Court of Assizes, Cairo, and Mme. Dilberoglue, of the Lodge, Eastbourne. He was educated at Eton, and rowed in the Eton eight of 1914. He was captain of his house, and a first-rate all-round athlete. On the outbreak of the war he left Eton and went to Sandhurst, where he soon became a sergeant. He obtained his commission in the Coldstream Guards in February, 1915, and on May 1, 1915, he joined his regiment at the front. He was acting captain, and led his company into action on September 15. A brother officer wrote lately to Lieutenant Dilberoglue's mother:—"I was with him, as you know, for a year out there, and I know no one of whom I got so fond, and whom I admired more. He was splendid in everything he did, and whatever it was it was always done well. You have the satisfaction of knowing that in the regiment he was looked upon as the best soldier of the young officers." Both his brothers are serving in France.

Lieutenant Allan George Condi, who was killed in action on October 1, was the only son of Mrs. Condi, of Mulcaster Crescent, Stanwix, Carlisle, and the late Frederick Condi, of Corfu, Greece. He was 20 years old.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND.

The following is a list of subscriptions to the above fund received between September 26 and 30. Further subscriptions will be gladly received by the Hon. Treasurers (Mr. A. Baker and Mr. W. G. Middleton Edwards) at 5, Giltspur Street, London, E.C.

	£	s.	d.
Miss Monk	2	2	0
Miss E. Stumbles	1	0	0
James Steel, Esq.	5	0	0
Arthur V. Pease, Esq.	10	0	0
James Munford, Esq., F.R.C.I., M.R.S.A.	0	10	6
John H. Osborne, Esq.	3	0	0
The Rev. Wm. Spicer Wood	1	1	0

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATH.

LAWRENCE.—Killed in action, on August 16, 1916, Joseph Reginald Mark, Second Lieutenant, East Surrey Regiment, dearly loved youngest son of the late Rev. Thomas Ranger Lawrence and of Mrs. Lawrence Dawson, Sailors' and Soldiers' Institute, Alexandria, Egypt, aged 21.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1916.

KING CONSTANTINE IN THE BALANCE.

The National Defence movement in Greece is still careful to proclaim that its action is aimed solely at freeing the country of the hereditary enemy. But when cries of "Down with the King!" are raised at Mitylene after a speech by M. Venizelos, it is not difficult to see the point to which the movement must inevitably tend, if King Constantine maintains his present attitude of passive resistance. Sooner or later the restraint now imposed on their followers by M. Venizelos and his colleagues in the Provisional Government must find an outlet in the force of the reaction which will accompany a definite trial of strength between Greek patriotism and German vassalage. Hitherto we have clung to the hope that, as soon as there could be no mistake regarding the trend of the national will, King Constantine would range himself once more on the side of the Constitution, and absolve himself from any personal pledges given at a time when he could not foresee the course of future events. But the national will has stood revealed for a long time now, and, although the King has appeared repeatedly to be on the verge of a surrender, he has found reasons for changing his mind. The difficulties of Roumania in the face of von Falkenhayn's concentrated attack in the Carpathians will have supplied the latest excuse for fresh vacillation. In the expectation that a few days or weeks will see the Roumanians well on the way to sharing the fate of the Serbians, King Constantine may hug to himself a belief in his own infallibility, and continue to trifle alike with the Allies and with Greek interests by appointing dummy Cabinets until steps are taken to put an end to the farce. How near that stage is approaching may be inferred from the new demand made by the Allies upon Greece, that she should surrender her fleet, as a precaution against the adoption by her of measures calculated to endanger the safety of the Allied armies of the East.

The National Defence movement has become too big to be ignored even by the strongest of autocrats. It has already absorbed the foremost men of the country, with the exception of a number of army officers, and the Athens Administration is now left without a navy. The personal popularity of King Constantine was calculated to carry him a long way even in a conflict with M. Venizelos, who has never been without enemies in the political world. But the logic of facts has been too strong for the King's negative policy. Earlier in the war M. Venizelos recommended that Greece should hand over Kavalla to Bulgaria and compensate herself, at the suggestion of the Allies, with a large extent of territory in Asia Minor. King Constantine vetoed this suggestion on the ground that Greece would never relax her hold of territory which she had gained at the point of the sword and at the cost of Greek lives. But to-day the Greek people have been called upon to witness not only the surrender, without compensation, of the whole Kavalla region, but also the sacrifice of millions of pounds' worth of war material. To this must be added the humiliation entailed by the kidnapping of some thousands of Greek soldiers and their internment in Germany. King Constantine may count on having his soldiers returned to him by the German Government, and he may place implicit confidence in the German Emperor's promise to restore the territory which his allies have felt constrained to occupy. But he can never hope to persuade the Greek people that the Bulgarians will of their own volition evacuate the coveted district of Kavalla. The value of German promises to the Greek mind is shown by the fact that the undertaking given that Greek territory should not be violated has been broken, and what object, it is argued, will Germany have after a victorious war in antagonizing merely for the *beaux yeux* of Greece the Bulgarians, whose place in the Central European Alliance is essential for the realization of German schemes? On the other hand, the Greeks may ask themselves, if the Entente Powers are victorious, what object will they hope to serve by penalizing Bulgaria for the benefit of a country whose Government has been consistently hostile during the greater part of the war? To-day the Bulgarians are the enemies of the Entente, and Anglo-French troops may require to expel them from the Kavalla district; but it would be folly to overlook, as King Constantine has evidently overlooked, the fact that the Allies aim at a permanent settlement in the Balkans. The Greeks know well that there is a school of political thought which holds that the occupation of Kavalla by Bulgaria is practically essential to such a settlement, and that it would welcome any excuse for leaving it in her hands. What is to prevent the natural exasperation of the Entente Powers against Greece from taking advantage of a situation which will make them sole arbiters of the fate of the town and district, in order to place them once and for all in Bulgarian possession?

These considerations, we are confident, are prompting the National Defence movement no less than the instinctive dislike of seeing Bulgarians in occupation of Greek soil. Greece, as M. Venizelos has continually urged, is at a critical stage in her history. Her hold on Kavalla challenged the principle of nationality, and, so long as Bulgaria remained strong, must always have prevented a permanent settlement of the Balkan question. She was given the opportunity of emerging from a false position with great advantage to herself, in the form of territorial expansion. King Constantine caused the offer to be rejected. The entry of Bulgaria into the war against the Allied Powers went far towards cancelling the claim of the Bulgarians to Kavalla in favour of the Greeks, and would probably have been held to have done so entirely, if Greece had retained the sympathy of the Entente. This she has deliberately sacrificed, and it would be foolish, the supporters of the National Defence movement reflect, to count on the Allies going out of their way to benefit Greece. Hence the anxiety of the Provisional Government to have a hand in the ejection of the Bulgarians from Eastern Macedonia, so that, as the enemy falls back, there may be a recognized Greek authority on the spot to resume the administration of the territory. A clear appreciation of the position can only range every true Greek against King Constantine, who has wilfully betrayed Greek interests. In Macedonia, the Islands, and in Crete he has already been weighed in the balance and found wanting. Unless he can make very sudden and complete atonement for the wrong he has done the country, it is difficult to see how either he or the Crown Prince, who has inherited the Hohenzollern instincts of his German mother, can be tolerated on the throne. In such circumstances the Allied Powers have a duty to perform to the Greek people, to let it know how it stands. One thing is certain, the co-operation of the Greek army, now divided into hostile camps, would not be worth the expenditure of money and munitions required to convert it into a fighting machine. At the same time the Allies have no right to accept the services of even a handful of Greek volunteers, or to give the least encouragement to the Provisional Government, if there is any chance of the Balkan question finding its ultimate solution in the retention of Kavalla by the Bulgarians.

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THE NILE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Although the achievements of modern engineering science have secured Egypt from the menace of famine consequent upon a low Nile, the moods of the great river are still incomparably the most important thing in all the land. While far away among the distant mountains of Central Africa her floods are gathering, Egypt waits breathlessly for news. A huge flood will mean the certainty of agricultural plenty; a low Nile, an increased burden of care and anxiety to the dwellers in the valleys. This year, when Egypt is still an armed camp, and when the anxieties of war—albeit greatly lessened during recent months—are still with us, the magnitude of the flood is even more than ordinarily gratifying. There are thousands of extra mouths to be fed in the country now, and every grain of corn, every ounce of sugar, every edible morsel grown on Egyptian soil is helping to sustain the British Army along the road to victory; while the cotton of Egypt is a direct munition of war. A good Nile, therefore, meaning as it does a maximum yield of produce, is at the present time an event of world-wide importance. And the Nile has risen to the occasion. It would be hard to estimate the exact figure of her contribution to the war-chest, but it must be very great indeed. The strip of green which for centuries has bordered the Nile in Egypt has broadened considerably within the last decade, and the generous flood of this year means nothing less than that every inch of cultivable land will receive all the water necessary to the production of record crops.

It is small wonder that the ancients looked upon the Nile, from which apparently all favours flowed, as an object worthy of their devotion and worship. Year by year they saw their cultivable land crack and harden under the merciless rays of the semi-tropical sun, year by year came the same relief as the Nile waters tumbled northwards from the unknown region far beyond the ken of their civilization. Their former idols might prove deaf to their incantations, but the Nile flowed on, a beneficent and unfailing friend to their country. Even at the present time there are dwellers upon the banks of the Nile who continue to listen for the voices of the river spirit at nightfall. The writer was once fortunate enough to meet an aged Fellah to whom this Nile Spirit was one of the realest things in life. Night by night he made his unchanging way to a bend in the river above Assuan, where he would squat for hours in true Oriental indifference to time until the Spirit deigned to speak. Then, according to the letter of the message which he had received, he would return home sad or happy, exultant or with a load of depression in his heart. He was regarded as a seer in his district, and there was certainly something uncanny in the manner in which he foretold disaster to human life on the waters of the Nile.

This is not an isolated case; the worship of the Nile Spirit is latent in the hearts of thousands in Egypt to-day, although they seldom speak of it unless they are very sure of their audience. There were many who deeply resented the caging of the Nile waters at Assuan, fearful that calamity might follow at the instigation of outraged spirits robbed of their freedom. But prosperity has gone far to destroy this feeling, and the erection of further barrages will probably be accomplished without even the latent opposition of the people. The fact that this year the Nile should have given of her best will have a greater effect upon Egyptian public opinion than most people imagine. The great river has marked the Allies down for especial favour, and all is well in Egypt.

LOCUSTS IN THE SUDAN.

(By Our Khartoum Correspondent.)

The plagues of Egypt had few claims to virtue, but they had at least the virtue of variety. The more modern examples are repeated with an iteration that makes opposition seem almost hopeless. So especially it is with locusts. Every year the locusts reappear, vast swarms flying across the sky, looking like a thunder-cloud in the distance, to sink gradually lower, till fatigue compels them to settle. Then they eat everything in front of them, until they are strong enough to fly again. If, as must often happen, the descent is made upon the bare desert, the whole swarm is killed by starvation, and it is doubtful if such swarms ever lay eggs. But nature has provided against that contingency by the enormous number of young which can hatch out from one female. One of the most miraculous sights that can be seen is the sudden birth of myriads of "hoppers," which all start to come out of the ground at approximately the same moment; and where at one time was bare earth there may be a few minutes later a crawling mass of baby hoppers. It is the hopper that does the serious damage, for he cannot fly, and he eats everything he meets, laying waste the land before him till he grows bigger and bigger, and gradually flies a few feet at a time, then a few yards, until suddenly the whole swarm will be scattered and the bulk of it flying, flying, flying till it drops, leaving only the weaklings to be caught and fried in butter and eaten, and thus make up in some small way for the damage they have done.

As the hopper is most destructive, so is he the easier to deal with in the early stages. He eats his way forward. So it is only necessary to put down some lightly poisoned "dura" stalks, chopped up small, in his way, and whole swarms are blotted out in this fashion. This is the approved method, as recommended by the Sudan Government, which sends quantities of poison to all provinces ready for emergency. Often the natives find adequate the simpler fashion of digging a ditch and driving the hoppers into it, and then stamping or beating the hoppers in.

The great thing is to get early news and co-operation. This by slow degrees has been brought home to the natives, and the appearance of hoppers leads to immediate action, whilst the passage of flying locusts is telegraphed on, so that preparations may be made for their descent. For the tired locust can be destroyed almost like a hopper. Above all, steps are taken to ascertain where they breed, and literally millions have been destroyed in the egg form. The female drives her tail into a hole in the ground and deposits the eggs at the bottom, so that the breeding ground is noticeable by the vast number of small holes in the ground. The soil is hoed up, and the eggs destroyed. These breeding grounds may be anywhere, and it is stated that the eggs will remain unhatched for a very long period, until the conditions of atmosphere happen to be suitable, so that the young hoppers may come out to find plenty to eat, at any rate, at first.

With the flying locusts the method of inoculation is occasionally used—that is, a certain number of locusts are caught and infected with a coccus, and liberated. The others become infected, and ultimately die. But this method is a temporary one only, as the locusts after a year or so breed a kind immune to this treatment. This year, with its exceptional rains, is also the opportunity of the locusts. They cannot live in the south, where the rains are too frequent for them, wet their wings, and prevent them flying. But in the north they have been widely reported, chiefly in Berber and the Red Sea Provinces. Partly, no doubt, this is due to a realization by the natives that locusts must be

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN
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reported; partly, probably, the exceptional rains have allowed exceptional numbers to hatch out. The damage reported so far is insignificant, and where the swarms have been caught in the hopper stage they have been utterly destroyed. Flying locusts have been reported, too. But there have been violent storms in most parts, and it is improbable that many of them survive. Possibly they may have survived long enough to deposit eggs and thus cause more trouble in the future.

Even supposing the eggs throughout the Sudan were destroyed, the country would not be immune, for it is stated that locusts can fly as much as 2,000 miles. Still the work of destruction is continuing in all parts of Africa, and it may be that in years to come the locust will exist only in rare and bottled specimens.

BULGARIA AND THE SAINTS.

(From a Correspondent.)

The extent of Bulgarian barbarity can be judged to some extent by their treatment of churches and saints. We have heard of their conduct regarding Sofia Cathedral. This church, erected years ago in memory of Bulgaria's liberation by Russia, was named "St. Alexander Nevski," after the patron saint of Tsar Alexander II., the Tsar-Liberator. It was built with Russian contributions, designed by Russian architects, decorated by Russian artists; and yet, last March, on the Government's proposal, the Bulgarian Sobranje passed a resolution changing its name on the representation of the Prime Minister, M. Radoslavoff, that "We do not want bloodthirsty Russian saints." (See the Budapest paper, *Az Est*, April 20.)

The Bulgarians are now giving us a further example of sacrilege. One of the greatest Serbian kings of the Middle Ages, Milutin (1282-1321), was canonised after his death, owing to the services he had rendered to the Serbian Church, particularly in the building of beautiful monasteries, which have been highly praised by Sir Arthur Evans, Charles Diehl, Gabriel Millet, Kondakoff, and others. It so happened that the relics of this Serbian saint were removed from Serbia in the days of the Turkish invasion, and carried to Sofia, about the middle of the fifteenth century. There they were worshipped by the people, and the church wherein they were laid was known as "The Holy King," and so it has continued through the centuries. Now the Bulgarian authorities have changed the name of this church also, and have thrown the mortal remains of the saint into "some obscure corner." The Bulgarian Press makes the following comments on this act, which are a worthy counterpart of the words uttered by the Bulgarian Prime Minister:—

"The Holy King of Serbia," says the Sofia paper, *Kambana* (August 22), "is walking in the streets of Sofia. After a long tolerance caused by a misleading ignorance, the bones of this unworthy saint have now been thrown into some obscure corner; but they did not pass through the purgatory through which such unclean things should pass. Even the name of the Church has been renewed, and that of 'The Holy King,' forced upon it through ignorance, has been taken away." But the Church of The Holy King is so well known in Sofia that a square in Bulgaria's capital was named after it; therefore, the inscriptions on the electric trams still bear this name. On this account, the *Kambana* protests as follows: "But it is not easy to destroy an evil action. The name of The Holy King is still officially borne through Sofia's streets—on electric trams! We know the anti-Bulgarian feelings of the director of the trams, but we admire our endless patience."

A Paris telegram announces that the Montenegrin Government will shortly take up its quarters at Neuilly-sur-Seine, where King Nicholas already resides.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The War in the Near East. October 11.

Mr. Asquith, in the course of the speech in which he proposed a fresh Vote of Credit for £300,000,000, reviewed the situation generally. In the course of his remarks he made the following references to operations in the Near East:—In Mesopotamia, the hot weather of the past months hampered active operations, but substantial progress has been made in the improvement of our rail and river communications. The health of the troops is also greatly improved. General Maude assumed the command of the forces in Mesopotamia on August 28, and his most recent reports indicate that real headway has been made in overcoming the difficulties which have hitherto hampered our operations in that territory. In Egypt the chief event of importance has been the Turkish attack on our forces at the Katia oasis on August 3, which resulted in the complete defeat of the Turks, with a loss of 3,164 prisoners and four guns. In spite of the great heat our troops pursued the defeated enemy, forcing him to evacuate the Katia district and to fall back for a distance of twenty miles to the east. This success has gone far to remove the danger of an attack on the Canal, and has impaired Turkish prestige in Syria and Arabia. The weather has not allowed of any extended operations since, but steady progress has been made with the railway from the Suez Canal to Katia. On the Western front of Egypt the Senussi has been reduced to impotence. This, combined with the successful operations undertaken by the Sirdar in Darfur, has put an effectual check on the Turco-German intrigue in Western Egypt and the Sudan. At Salonika the Allied forces, having received considerable reinforcements of Italian and Russian troops, assumed the offensive early in September with the object of combining their action with that of the Russians and Roumanians in Transylvania and the Dobruja. This offensive has met with a considerable measure of success. On the right flank the British troops have established themselves on the left bank of the Struma, where they have occupied several Bulgarian positions, and have repulsed repeated counter-attacks, and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. On the left flank the French, Russians, and Serbians have defeated the Bulgarians, and taken Florina, driving the enemy from frontier heights, and are now within eight miles of the important town of Monastir. Our operations in that sphere have not only entailed heavy losses on the enemy, but prevented him from transferring troops from Macedonia to the Dobruja, and have rendered valuable aid to our Russian and Roumanian Allies.

There is, as I have said before, complete intimacy and mutual confidence between the General Staffs of the four Powers, with the resulting co-ordination of purpose and of purport. I spoke of the four Powers, but our gratitude is equally due and is equally warm to the smaller States which have recognized that both interest and duty call upon them to play their parts in a struggle upon which their whole future hangs: Belgium, Serbia, and now Roumania, whose King and people, in defiance of a thousand calls on a pusillanimous and self-regarding neutrality, joined our cause and are spilling their best blood on behalf of the threatened independence of small nationalities. I wish I could add Greece. Greece—with her imperishable record of stubborn and victorious resistance to the inrush of barbarism and tyranny; Greece—of whose fortunes and liberties we have been for the best part of a century the staunch protectors. I will only say that even now, wisely guided and governed, Greece may yet take a worthy part on the side to which she is committed by all that is great and glorious in the traditions of her past.

Sir Edward Carson, in the course of a long speech, said:—I am bound to say that, for my own part, following as well as I can the operations in the Balkans, there seems to be some ground for anxiety upon our part. I am, of course, glad and thankful, as the Prime Minister himself said, that the Roumanians have come in; but those who are watching events must have considerable anxiety as to whether the Germans have not as their policy the crushing of the Roumanians. That, in my opinion, would be a great disaster. To have the consolidated Balkan States under the heels of the Germans and in their possession at a time when peace proposals may be put forward would seem to me to add great difficulties to the acceptance for a moment of any of the proposals that may be made. I think it is right that this country should turn its attention to the fact which is now patent, and has been patent for a long time, that the aggression of the German Government is not directed merely toward Europe, but is also directed toward the Balkans with a view to ultimate aggression in the East, where we are so deeply concerned. That is a matter which ought never to be left out of consideration for a moment in considering the various operations which we are driven to undertake.

Bombs were successfully dropped on Sofia by two French aeroplanes, which landed at Bucharest last week. One of the machines went up from Sorovitch, on the Monastir front, and the other from Salonika.

According to the *Cologne Gazette*, an official report of the death sentence passed upon Essad Pasha has been issued in Constantinople. It says that it was proved from a letter that Essad Pasha had conspired against Turkey and had rendered service to her enemies. The sentence was confirmed by the Sultan.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Allies and Roumania.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* (October 9) expresses the opinion that "the loss of Brasso and the retreat of the Roumanian Army from Transylvania can cause little surprise, in view of the trend of recent events. Possibly the invasion of Transylvania went too far in pursuit of its political object, and certainly the unexpected action of Mackensen in the Dobruja must have had its repercussion." The writer continues:—

There seems to be no ground for alarm at present, but Germany is undoubtedly bent on striking with all her weight at Roumania, and no one can foretell the future if the Allies should falter in doing their share to relieve the situation. It would be a smashing blow to our prestige if Roumania were to suffer the fate of Serbia, and, as champions of small nations, the Allies would have to bow to the enemy, who have at least kept the territories of her satellites inviolate. It is largely Russia's job, but the Macedonian contingents could powerfully influence the situation if they could put more life into the offensive from Salonika.

German "Invention."

The *Scotsman* (October 9), in a leading article on the progress of the war ridicules the "inventions and suppression of the truth that figure as history in the German dispatches"; and points out that though "neutral and belligerent nations alike are expected to import their information in war time, as they imported their goods in time of peace, from Germany," that expectation is not likely to be realized nowadays. The article continues:—

There was a run for a time on fraudulent victories in the Dobruja and in Macedonia. These have meantime stopped. The Roumanians, aided by the Russians, have picked up 8,000 prisoners on the scene of their decisive defeat. The great Bulgarian offensive in the direction of Greece and the Ægean has fared still more unhappily. The enemy's right flank has been driven in upon Monastir over a front of some forty miles; on their left flank, the British have got across the Struma, and have established themselves on a twelve-mile front within reach of the railway which is the chief connecting link between the Southern Bulgarian Army and Eastern Macedonia. As nothing hopeful is to be had from the Balkans, on which the other day the German critics were asking their own people and neutral nations to concentrate their eyes, they have gone for comfort to Transylvania. By concentrating superior forces on the more Western Carpathian passes, Falkenhayn has compelled the Roumanians to fall back at several points—including, it is said, Brasso—on their own frontier. But the object of the movement was not the withdrawal, but the interception and destruction of the invaders, and this purpose has signally failed. Our Allies have skilfully evaded the clutch, and through the concentration of their hold in the region where they can co-operate with Russia they have probably improved the strategic strength of their position.

King Constantine and the Allies.

The *Manchester Guardian* (October 9), in an article entitled "A Cabinet of Professors," adds yet another to the warnings that have been raining on King Constantine from all sides of late:—

King Constantine has tried a Cabinet of officials and a Cabinet of party politicians. He has now sought salvation in a Cabinet of professors. He could be congratulated on his fertility of resource if that quality were the mark of statesmanship in a ruler of Greece at this time. Unfortunately, what his country requires of him is a very much simpler quality—the capacity for patriotic decision. If King Constantine continues to drift it may be sure that he will be doing his brother-in-law a useful turn; it is certain that he will be presiding over the disintegration and ruin of Greece. He would, perhaps, from his own personal point of view, do well to remember that a dynasty must be very ancient and deeply rooted to bear the weight of responsibility for such a national catastrophe.

As to the Allies' attitude, the writer says:—

If they feel that they cannot safely move in the Balkans so long as King Constantine's attitude threatens their base at Salonika and their lines of communication, and if they are convinced that King Constantine's intention is to hamper their moving, then they must either abandon their campaign or remove the obstacle in their way. Those are the alternatives, and much too much time has already been wasted in hesitating to choose between them.

"Untrustworthy."

The *Morning Post* (October 6) concludes a leading article, "The Betrayal of Greece," with the following plain speaking:—

The time is past to treat with King Constantine. It is obvious that he cannot be trusted, and that he is altogether in the hands of the German Party. It may be a painful duty, but the interests of the Allies cannot be sacrificed any further in the indulgence of a Government committed to the interest of the enemy. In war it is necessary to come to disagreeable decisions and to act upon them with resolution. The neglect of this quality of firmness has already cost the Allies dear not only in the Balkans but in every theatre of war. The time has come for our Government to understand that the friends of Germany can only be indulged at the sacrifice of our own brave soldiers, and that this sacrifice in such an interest can no longer be permitted.

Greek Naval Feeling.

In a note upon "The Greek Navy," the *Naval and Military Record* remarks:—

It will be no slight matter for satisfaction on the part of many British naval officers that the Greek fleet should have shown so unmistakably its sympathy with the Entente Powers. It would never have had any existence if it had not been for the part which the British Mediterranean squadron took in the battle of Navarino. In recent years it has owed much to British naval officers and men.

It certainly is pleasing to find the Greek naval officers more alive to the best interests of their country than are certain others more highly placed. The writer is doubtless correct when he states that "the fighting value of the Greek Navy is inconsiderable," in the present case at least; yet it is also true that—

If the whole Greek Navy had thrown in its lot with M. Venizelos his cause would not have gained appreciably in strength; but the fact that so many officers of the Greek fleet, from Admiral Contouriotis downwards, have associated themselves with the Venizelist movement has been of no little political value. Their adhesion has not only exposed German misrepresentation as to the attitude of the Greek people towards the Entente Powers, but has reminded King Constantine that his policy has already deposed his country, though we trust only temporarily, from its position as one of the smaller maritime Powers of the world. It is curious to recall that only a little over two years ago, amid enthusiastic cheers, the Minister of Marine announced that the Greek Government had determined to take active steps to re-establish the Greek fleet. The programme was drawn up after consultation with the British mission. It included three battleships, three armoured cruisers, and a large number of smaller craft. The only vessel of the new Greek Navy which was to be is the battleship Salamis, now flying, presumably, the German ensign.

In the Dobruja.

The following passages are extracted from a description of the Dobruja contributed to *Common Sense* (October 7) by a correspondent:—

It is an undulating stretch of country, generally devoid of trees, and remarkable for the extraordinary abundance of its bird life. Across the isthmus between Kustendji and Tchernavoda runs Trajan's Wall—a ditch some 12 ft. deep and 20 ft. wide. At the base of the mound formed by the thrown-up earth there was at once time a great wall, composed of rough-hewn stones weighing from one to six tons. The wall is now fallen, and its huge stones lie in disorder on the ground.

This wall afforded, when I was in the Dobruja, most excellent partridge shooting. The bottom of the ditch was full of brambles—the only cover for miles. The plain abounded with partridges, and as the day advances the hawks and harriers drive these from their feeding ground in the stubbles to the wall for shelter. By following the wall, therefore, in the afternoon, you were generally sure of sport. Eagles, vultures, and eagle owls abound, and the lakes are alive with wild fowl and snipe. You may also see grand flights of swans, and hear the beating of their strong pinions. Flocks of great bustards, on the plain, might easily be mistaken for sheep. Of sheep there were great flocks, tended by Bulgars or Transylvanians and protected by ferocious dogs. Those Transylvanian shepherds must be some of the most enduring of mortals. They spend years on the plains and seldom sleep in a house. Summer and winter they are clothed in sheepskins, and on a cold day a shepherd looks like a gigantic old ram on his hind legs.

France and Roumania.

The following passages are extracted from an article, "Les Roumains et nous," contributed to *Correspondance d'Orient* (September 10) by M. J. Ernest Charles:—

Le maintien du corps expéditionnaire à Salonique était indispensable pour le progrès politique et moral des Alliés dans les Balkans. Or, nul n'ignore ce que fit M. Briand aux heures ingrates, pour le maintien du corps expéditionnaire à Salonique. Ce succès, voulu et préparé par M. Briand, apporte au premier ministre français un surcroit d'autorité et de prestige. Tant mieux! et il est permis de penser, au surplus, que cela ne nous sera pas inutile au moment de la conclusion de la paix.

Mais quand on a considéré les circonstances et les contingences, quand on a mesuré l'action des événements et l'action des hommes, il importe de ne pas méconnaître l'influence des grandes forces qui parfois entrainent à leur insules gouvernements et les peuples. La Roumanie, entrant dans la guerre, est excellemment réaliste. Mais elle est idéaliste aussi. Constatons la puissance de cet idéalisme. La Roumanie va où le mènent non seulement son intérêt national, mais encore ses ardentes et profondes sympathies.

Des affinités existaient depuis longtemps entre la Roumania et les Alliés, et particulièrement entre la Roumanie et la France. La récente décision roumaine souligne ces affinités, et les résultats que cette décision produira développeront dans les temps prochains ces affinités merveilleusement.

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Austria-Hungary and Peace.

"A Foreign Correspondent" contributes to the *Outlook* (October 7) an article entitled "Can Austria-Hungary be Spared?" from which we extract some passages bearing on the Near East. "Materially and geographically," says the writer, "the Danubian Monarchy is in an envious position. . . . It is difficult to discover anything lacking for its strength and prosperity." Yet prosperity was absent: there was no soul in the land.

Austria-Hungary, ruled by a bigot dynasty allied to an unconciliatory Church and intolerable aristocracy, was a living anachronism of Europe, and like Turkey was assailed from every side by growing forces of her nationalities endowed with centripetal motion, ever waxing greater. In order to maintain its rule her dynasty divided the power with the Germans and the Magyars, leaving to their tender mercy and greedy exploitation all other nationalities in the Monarchy. But even such a combination was too weak to resist the pressure from outside and to subdue the centripetal motions from the different nationalities. . . . The Czechs pray for our victory and contribute to it greatly. The Czech regiments surrendered to the Russians and the Serbs, and were ruthlessly butchered by brutal German officers.

The Italians, the Roumanians, and the South Slavs did and do the same and suffer equally. The latter are looking for deliverance to Italy, Roumania, or Serbia, and actively, after having surrendered, take part in fighting on the side of the Allies. No wonder that Austria-Hungary is exhausted, and sacrifices as a last resource to the unsatiable Moloch of dominion children of fourteen and old men of sixty-five years of age.

The writer is of opinion that "peace in Central Europe can be secured in two different ways: by German conquest—and it would be a peace of graveyards—or by setting free the trodden-down nationalities in Austria and uniting them with their kinsmen in Italy, Serbia, and Roumania. Such a peace would be the peace of progress and liberty. The Allies have pledged their word to obtain such a peace, and have given solemn assurances that the rights of the smaller nations shall be recognised. But such a peace cannot be achieved without the complete dismemberment of Austria-Hungary."

The Balkan States—

Last week we referred briefly to Sir Edwin Pears's article on "The Balkan States and Turkey," which appears in the current *Contemporary Review*, and expressed the hope that we might be able to return to it. It is indeed a temptation to quote from it at great length, but we must confine ourselves to the concluding passages, in which Sir Edwin gives in effect what he regards as an ideal and yet practical solution of the old Balkan Problem. "The Balkan States, excluding Turkey, are," he considers, "worth cultivating." The Roumanians, Bulgarians, Serbians, and Greeks "are full of the energy of newly-born peoples." They are to-day divided, hostile to each other, with apparently conflicting interests; but they are in presence of a struggle that may—Sir Edwin thinks it "should"—end by their becoming united for the purpose of saving their existence.

A century has not passed since each and all were under the Turkish yoke. Partly by foreign sympathy and aid, but still more by their own aspirations and exertions, they have formed themselves into separate States. The one thing which they have in common is a form of Christianity. The Orthodox Church is a living force to which they are all deeply attached. That it makes for civilisation is beyond doubt, that it is clearing itself from forms of superstition is equally manifest to those who know the country well. The influence of Robert College and the American and other Christian missions in the Near East have revived in the people higher conceptions of their duty as men and as citizens. A quiet social revolution or reformation is going on steadily throughout all the Balkan States. Hitherto their Christianity has been bound up with nationality, and has been justly regarded as constituting their bond of union against the oppressor. It is now their great arm in promoting morality and in the cultivation of higher ideals of life. Among the many hopeful signs is their increased liberality towards foreign forms of faith. It is tempting to tell of religious services where Presbyterian ministers have preached in Orthodox Armenian churches; of the enthusiasm created by a visit of the learned and noble young Anglican Bishop, Collins, who in the robe of an Armenian Bishop preached to the edification and delight of an enormous congregation; of a Presbyterian minister from Scotland, who pretty regularly on his visits from England conducted his own service in Orthodox churches in Greece; of the small British congregation at Candilli, on the Posphorus, who in an Armenian church on successive Sundays held their English service. Christianity is still in these States a great power. Bitter as is the hostility between Bulgarians and Serbians, members of the same race, professing the same religion, speaking virtually the same language, the two nations would have long since come together but for the opposition of foreign politicians, and especially of Austrians. Englishmen may well hope to see a greatly enlarged Serbia united to Bulgaria. It is as inevitable that the two nations should come together as it was that England and Scotland should unite. It is too much to hope that the racial and lingual differences between these two Slavic States and Greece will be overcome within the same period. Roumania, also, with a different language, may well enter into a union with Serbia and Bulgaria. All these States, sooner or later, will recognise the need for combination against external foes. Probably the first step will be common action to form a Customs and Postal Union. From that to a Federation for Defence is not far. Englishmen should endeavour, both in the interest of civilisation and of our country, to aid in reconciling the differences between them and in promoting their union.

—And Turkey.

As to Turkey and the Turks, Sir Edwin assumes that "their dominion in Europe has come to an end, that the Armenian provinces will pass under Russian rule"; then, leaving the Arabs out of the calculation, there will remain between eight and nine million Moslem Turks in Asia Minor and Syria. "There can," he declares, "be no lasting peace in the Near East unless they are fairly dealt with." They should be treated justly and mercifully.

They have never shown themselves capable of dealing justly with subject races. But Europe must not duplicate the injustice by placing them in subjection. It is the fashion, especially among people who know little about the country, to denounce the Young Turk party. That party committed a host of blunders, and allowed themselves to be driven into union with the Central Powers, but among their leaders were thoughtful and patriotic men, who desired to see fair play to the subject races, as their predecessors had never desired. The party still remains in power, and I see no signs of its being replaced. The millions of Moslems should be allowed to choose their own form of government, and, while they must give guarantees for the protection of the life and property of their non-Moslem subjects, they should be left as far as possible to develop in their own way upon European or Asiatic lines, as they judge best.

In many ways this would certainly be an ideal solution. But who would protect the Moslem Turkish State against aggression from without, and—even more fatal, perhaps—from exploitation by European "capitalists"?

Italy and the Southern Slavs.

On Wednesday of last week *The Times* published a letter from Lord Cromer, President of the newly formed Serbian Society of Great Britain. As already stated in THE NEAR EAST, the main object of this society is to promote the union of the Southern Slavs and the establishment of a Southern Slav State as "the surest foundation of peace in the Adriatic and the Balkans"; and the purpose of Lord Cromer's letter was to rebut the suggestion that such an object might involve a policy hostile to Italian interests. Commenting upon this, the *New Statesman* (October 7) says:—

The suggestion is a natural one, since many, if not most, Italians are profoundly nervous and suspicious regarding Southern Slav aspirations. The same may be said, of course, of the Southern Slavs regarding Italian aspirations. The conflict of interests is real, and there is nothing to be gained by ignoring it. But, though real, it is by no means incapable of adjustment. Lord Cromer, on behalf of his society, emphatically repudiated claims alleged to have been put forward by Serbian propagandists to the possession of Istria and Trieste. We hope he will go further and state what Serbian claims his society does endorse; for when they are stated we believe it will be found that between them and the claims put forward by the saner elements of Italian public opinion, there is no point of really serious conflict. Italy wants strategic control of the Adriatic. The Southern Slavs want the freest possible commercial access to the Adriatic. These requirements are only incompatible when they are stated by the extremists on either side. If Lord Cromer, as we gather, is prepared to concern himself with the discovery of a compromise reasonably satisfactory to both parties, we most sincerely wish him success. We do not think there is any direction in which at the present time his influence and his special abilities could be more usefully employed.

Articles to Note.

"The Allies' Terms of Peace," by Paul Milyukov, in the *Independent* (New York) (September 25).

"The War of Liberalism: the Pan-German Scheme, III." by "Custos," in the *English Review* (October).

"Rumania a Year Ago," by Kate Blakey, in the *Englishwoman* (October).

"The Roumanian Tommy: Some Impressions," by Hamilton Fyfe, in the *Daily Mail* (October 6).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

According to the *Patris*, the Greek "Prime Minister has been informed that the Treasury has only 360,000 frs. in hand for the month of September, while about 20,000,000 frs. are required for the salaries of public servants and officers, and for other urgent needs of the State." I have little confidence in such unbacked statements as this appears to be. That the Greek Government is in great need of financial assistance there is no reason to doubt: that its position is causing weakened credit abroad is obvious; but that Greek finances have been reduced to the level described by the *Patris* is very unlikely indeed.

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Herr Basserman is an optimist in regard to the future relations between Germany and Russia. For the *Badische Neueste Nachrichten*, apparently, there is no reason why the policies of the two countries should not harmonise in the future. The paper does not agree with the many German politicians who maintain that the "great issue separating Germany and Russia—the Dardanelles question—is one of life and death. With skilful treatment it might become a question of diplomatic understanding which would keep for Turkey her property and sovereign rights in Constantinople and assure for Russia free passage through the Straits. Russia suggested in 1908 summoning a European conference for revising the Berlin Treaty concerning the Straits. The Central Powers then opposed to this desire an obstinate resistance, which doubtless promoted England's encircling policy. It might be thought that Germany and her allies, in the stronger position in which they find themselves to-day towards Russia, could resume without danger the policy abandoned in 1908." A good many questions will have to be subjected to "skilful treatment" long before Germany will be in a position to "resume the policy abandoned in 1908."

***

Smyrna fruit will again be conspicuous by its absence on the market this year, but gradually we are beginning to draw our supplies from other sources. Thus, as regards sultanas, Australia, which before the war did not grow the fruit, is now cultivating them, and with satisfactory results. If the undertaking should prove profitable there is no doubt that Australian sultanas will become a yearly feature in the dried fruit market. It will depend to a great extent whether the prices of the Australian article, placed on the home market, can compete with the Smyrna product. The higher freights from Australia, as compared with the Mediterranean, are certainly not in favour of the Australian sultana; but, then, cannot that be remedied, if necessary, by a preferential tariff? Similarly, cannot figs and oranges, grown in our possessions or in those of friendly countries, eventually be made to replace those drawn chiefly from Smyrna and Jaffa? Of course, there will be many objections to the introduction in this country of a preferential tariff on foodstuffs, but I think that most of them will have to be waived if Imperial trade is to gain ground after the war. The matter is one that must be seriously envisaged sooner or later, and I only indicate the dried fruit trade here as one minor aspect of the great trade problems which will arise after the war. Doubtless growers in Australia have gone to some considerable expense in beginning the cultivation of sultanas, and their interests will have to be considered before those of the Turks of the Smyrna vilayet, whatever the sympathies of the latter may be.

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I am glad to see that negotiations have been going on in connection with the future of the Turkish bondholders. It is not so very long ago that in these columns I drew attention to the parlous state of Ottoman finances, and to the supreme ease and casual carelessness with which the Young Turks had mortgaged their country up to the hilt in Berlin. I still maintain that the debts contracted by Constantinople in Berlin since the autumn of 1914 will have to be totally disregarded by the Entente Powers when the war is over. That is the first principle to be asserted by our delegates. The second is that the interests of our bondholders, regardless of the nature of their securities, should be safeguarded. This will mean a total reorganisation of the Debt Administration, the disappearance therein of Teuton influence and intrigue, and the introduction of new elements, prominent among them being the Russian and Roumanian. The acquisition of Ottoman territory, thereby reducing the revenues accredited to the Debt Administration, will have to be compensated for, either by the payment to the bondholders of a capital sum to be profitably invested (preferably in Allied countries, please), or of an annuity equivalent to the normal annual revenue derived from the territory in question.

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As a matter of fact, the whole question of Ottoman finances, and, perhaps, more particularly of the country's outstanding debt, is so intricate and involved that there are only very few experts alive to-day who can see clearly through the range of loans, securities, and schemes. Even before the Balkan wars the tangle was extremely complex; the outcome of those wars only hastened to make it more intricate. Moreover, the outbreak of the Great War prevented any settlement of the vexed question. It is true an Economic Conference met in Paris in the spring of 1914, but it was adjourned until the autumn, when, of course, it was killed by the outbreak of war. So that nothing was done to simplify the situation, and now it is, literally, in an awful mess.

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Which brings me to suggest that, apart from all other considerations, it might be advantageous if a complete re-arrangement of the Ottoman Debt were to be undertaken. Surely the majority of the outstanding loans—those recognised by the Entente Powers—can be consolidated, and new securities exacted. This would, at one blow, do away with securities that are anomalous, not to say archaic—Egyptian and Cyprus tributes, for instance—and reduce the present muddle to a simpler form of reckoning. Secondly, and in view of the greater indebtedness of the Ottoman Empire and the inability of its rulers to look after their finances, it is advisable that greater power be given to the Debt Administrators to collect and administer the country's revenues. But before this is done it is necessary to purge the Board of its obnoxious elements and to strengthen it considerably. I gather that the negotiations now taking place are intended to attain this end, but I hope also that serious attempts will be made to simplify a financial situation which is in a state of chaos. It only needs a determined effort on the part of those conducting the negotiations to succeed in introducing drastic reforms more in accord with modern business methods than has hitherto been the case And, finally, steps must be taken to prevent in future the indiscriminate borrowing powers of the Ottoman Government, more particularly when the proposed loans are intended to serve the political aims of our enemies.

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As was to be expected, since Roumania decided to come into this war on the side of the Entente, a great deal of attention has been devoted to the commercial and industrial possibilities of the country. Financial writers have been at great pains to show how vast an ascendancy the Germans and Austrians enjoyed before the war, and how many are the possibilities that lie ahead for British enterprise. That, of course, is all to the good; too much emphasis cannot be laid on this aspect of the coming in of our latest Ally. At the same time, I think it ought to be pointed out that the suggestion that there is no direct British representation in Roumania is entirely wrong. The Bank of Roumania—the London branch is at 27, Throgmorton Street—provides all the representation that is necessary, as everybody who has trading interests in the country knows. I hear, by the way, that there are considerable schemes afoot regarding the future of British interests in the country, of which I hope to be able to say more later on.

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I understand that considerable feeling has been evinced in Egypt because of the apparently dilatory manner in which certain enemy businesses are being liquidated. If British trade and commerce are to benefit from the turning-out of the Teutons, the authorities in Egypt must display more energy. My information is that one large enemy firm in particular could be sold for something approximating £100,000, and only the fact that it "is still being wound up" stands in the way. As the liquidation has been in progress for a very long time, it is difficult to understand the delay. Surely something can be done to expedite the clearing-up of formalities. Opportunities are slipping by, and we cannot afford to let them do so. It might be advisable to invite the attention of the Financial Adviser, let us say, to the firm of Stein's, to begin with.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Future of Serbia.

Opportunities for British Engineering and Financial Houses.

Rail and Waterway Schemes.

So much has been written regarding the outlook of the gallant and martyred Serbian people that it would seem that little remains to be said; but as the British and Allied Forces advance in the Balkans, and the liberation of the occupied country appears now to be within measurable distance of time, actually, too much attention cannot be drawn in this country to the possibilities that lie ahead. In 1912 the foreign trade of Serbia represented, approximately, one-hundredth of the British turnover—£8,000,000, to be more exact—and it is not surprising, perhaps, that British merchants and industrialists gave little attention to almost the smallest of the Balkan States. Two outstanding facts have to be remembered, however. First, the Serbs were hemmed in, land-bound, and without sea communications; and, second, the political conditions of the Near East were all against stability, and were sufficient to discourage enterprise from without.

In the following year the conditions of the Serbs were more promising. National territory had been nearly doubled, and when the time of redemption comes even the enlarged area will still be greater; the land-lock will be removed, and there will, consequently, be greater scope for expansion. With an estimated population of 15,000,000, with a territory of about 100,000 square miles, and with an extensive sea coast, Serbia will enter upon a new era, and, given the sympathy and support of those who are now her allies, the era should be one of commercial and political importance. That will be Great Britain's opportunity.

Factors of Development.

The true development of Serbia depends upon a great number of factors. There will be the rebuilding and re-equipment of the old railways, for example, and the construction of others. Destroyed bridges must be replaced, and wrecked bridges repaired. It is estimated that in new Serbia immediately after the war, construction of something like a thousand miles of railway line must be taken in hand to bring the communications into line with the industrial and commercial developments which are known to be inevitable. One of the main arteries will continue to be the existing Fiume-Zagreb-Belgrade and the Belgrade-Nish-Salonika systems; but these are susceptible of improvement and change.

But there are additions to be made to Serbia's railways, some of which are already projected, and others actually were under construction when the war broke out. These are: — Belgrade - Malakrsna - Pozkarevac-Negotin-Radnevac, on the Lower Danube, a scheme involving about 140 miles; Kragnevac-Kralevo-Rashka-Mitrovica (Kossovo Field), about 100 miles; Krushevac-Tulari-Kurshumbia-Prishtina, about 100 miles; Ferizovic-Prizren, along the River Drin to Scutari and the Adriatic, 180 miles; Prizren-Dibra-Sruga-Ohrid-Monastir, 140 miles; Spalato-Konjica-Sarajevo-Donga-Tuzla-Belgrade, 250 miles; Spalato-Gospic-Karlovac, 150 miles; Veles-Monastir, 70 miles; and Kumanovo-Kriva-Palanka, 40 miles. These are new lines, regarding the importance of which there is no doubt; but their construction, which is regarded as inevitable sooner or later, does not exhaust the programme of what ought to be undertaken.

The existing lines running through Bosnia and Serbia are on the narrow gauge, and for various reasons must be changed to standard. In this category are the Bosnia-Brod-Sarajevo Mostar-Ragusa, 200 miles, Sarajevo Vishegrad-Uzhice, 80 miles. In addition, there will be feeder lines on the narrow-gauge measurement which will be designed to connect the great mountainous districts with the fertile plains and large centres of population and industry. Here is a reason, then, why British engineers and manufacturers should take steps to be ready to come into this harvest. It will be to their lasting discredit if they fail to do so.

Danube-Salonika.

Discussion of coastal developments must be left to the future. It may be relied upon, however, that these will be considerable. But for the present there is another great proposal which, it is hoped, will come within the scope of practical discussion—the suggestion to construct a navigable waterway through Serbia which will connect the Danube with Salonika. "As every student of Balkan geography knows" (said a recent writer), "nature has provided in this otherwise mountainous country the easiest passage from the basin of the Mediterranean Sea with Central Europe. The tributaries of the rivers Morava and Vardar, running in the opposite directions, have their head sources on a lower plateau forming the watershed between the Black Sea and the Ægean Sea, only 1,500 feet above sea-level, quite indistinctly marked, affording the easiest passage for any road from Belgrade to Salonika, naturally turning Serbia to the Ægean."

It is too much to say, perhaps, that this great scheme is realizable immediately, but its importance to Serbia has long since been recognised, and it is significant that last year, when the Germans and Austrians overran the country, they immediately took the possibilities of the scheme into consideration. They speedily recognized—it is probable, indeed, that Berlin had marked out the possibilities at a much earlier date—that by obtaining a cheaper route to Salonika the development of the mineral resources of Serbia would be enormously stimulated.

"Not only Serbia, but future Magyar States (says the writer previously quoted), as well as Transylvania and Bohemia, would avail themselves of that route, as all their rivers flowing into the Danube would be naturally connected with the waterway Smederevo-Nish-Salonika.

"The agricultural and mineral products of Bohemia, Hungary, and Central Balkan countries might find an easy access to the sea, and an outlet to the Western European markets without being obliged to pass through Germany or by the Lower Danube and the Straits. From Buda Pesth to the nearest seaport, Fiume, there is a distance of about 440 miles, the same as from Belgrade. The distance by waterway to Salonika would be, from Buda Pesth 600 miles, and from Belgrade 460 miles. The places in Hungary situated on the rivers Theiss and Morish are nearer to Salonika and further from Fiume than Buda Pesth."

This waterway would have an enormous advantage over the existing communication, which proceeds tortuously from Belgrade *viâ* the Danube, the Black and Ægean Seas to Piræus, a distance of approximately 1,200 nautical miles; the Serbian scheme would involve a distance of little more than half. This would mean that imports and exports to and from the countries of the basin of the Middle Danube would be freed from considerable charges. The heavy dues of the Straits, at Sulina and at the Iron Gate, would be avoided, to say nothing of other advantages which would accrue.

It is an alluring prospect, and we think British financial and engineering houses will do wisely to fasten their attention upon Serbia—not the broken, gasping Serbia as we know her, barely living under the oppression of the Teuton heel; but a fair land which is capable of coming to a new birth and of entering upon a new life.

A BANKING DEVELOPMENT.

As we stated last week, the Banque Franco-Serbe has opened a branch in London, the offices being located at 27, Throgmorton Street. There could be no greater mark of the confidence felt in an early restoration of their territory to our Allies. Correspondence is invited from those having actual interests in Serbia or contemplating the transaction of business with that country when conditions become more normal.

The Banque Franco-Serbe was established in Paris in 1910, and has a paid-up capital of 12,000,000 francs. Its principal office in Serbia is at Belgrade, with branches in Skoplye (Uskub) and Bitolj (Monastir). In the three years prior to the outbreak of war the bank had made considerable progress, and had paid dividends of 5 per cent. for 1911 and 6 per cent. for the two years 1912 and 1913.

In the absence of any direct British representation in Serbia those having connections in the country will be well served by the facilities offered by the Banque Franco-Serbe.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

By a proclamation published in the *Journal Officiel* the export from Egypt of cotton seed to other than Allied destinations has been prohibited.

The condition of the cotton crop in Lower Egypt is officially reported to be 90 per cent., and that of Upper Egypt 96 per cent. The yield is likely to be appreciably below the average.

In the British revenue returns for the last week of the half-year ended September 30. receipts from Suez Canal shares and sundry loans came to £1,862,924. The expenditure included £250 for the Anglo-Persian Oil Company sinking fund.

According to a message from Athens the Allies have confiscated the goods which were on board the seized Austro-German vessels, and which were subsequently stored in the Customs house at the Piræus. Great activity has been noticed among the Allied ships which are lying off Salamis.

As the result of an agreement between Italy, France, and England, the Italian Government has prohibited the export of silk products (except drawn silk) to neutral countries bordering on enemy States, or situated in the North of Europe. This measure will tend to check the supply of silk to the enemy through neutral States.

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EGYPTIAN TRADE AND FINANCE.

Marked Improvement in Trade in August.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 24.

August was another good trade month for Egypt. The Customs statistics just published show that imports came to £E2,659,799 and exports to £E1,119,343, the former being £E845,126 better and the latter £E160,466 less than in August, 1915. The total imports and exports for the eight months amount to £E19,665,733 and £E18,433,846 respectively, as against £E11,449,386 and £E15,598,325 during the same period of the previous year, a very marked improvement on both sides of the account, due on the one hand to the expansion given to the sale abroad of Egyptian products, and on the other, but unfortunately so, to the rise in freights and in cost price of imported goods.

It may be remarked that the balance of trade, which was £E4,148,939 in favour of the country at the end of August, 1915, has swung over against it to the extent of £E1,231,887. This position is, however, no worse than it was before the war. At the end of the corresponding eight months of 1913 imports amounted to £E17,390,417 and exports to £E16,072,760. Thus, whilst there is an improvement of respectively £E2,275,316 and £E2,361,086 on the two sides of the account, the balance of trade is to all intents and purposes stationary, the increase in export of agricultural produce compensating for the rise in price of imported articles. Export of cereals has, however, now been stopped, and during this and the next month cotton exports will have been considerably reduced owing to the exhaustion of the stock. There is, therefore, every reason to expect that the adverse trade balance will increase up to the end of the year, though this increase may to a certain extent be set off by the higher prices commanded by the cotton crop now coming on the market.

Principal Imports.

The principal imports during August were:—Skins and leather goods, £E40,850; cereals, £E104,224; raw sugar for refining purposes, £E28,484; jams and preserves, £E33,187; petroleum, £E175,152; beer, wines, and liqueurs, £E61,604; stationery, £E86,317; coal, £E574,119—27,168 tons less than the previous year; cotton tissues, £E499,649; sacks, £E99,616; ready-made linen and millinery, £E52,160; worked iron and steel, £E89,500. The chief exports were untanned skins, £E37,346; cereals, £E133,207; sugar, £E23,802; alcohol, £E27,951; wool, £E27,816; cotton, £E699,642; cotton seed and cake, £E78,883. It is noteworthy that, by comparison with 1913, cereal imports fell of 60 per cent., by which proportion cotton tissues increased; sugar exports trebled; and that whilst cotton exports fell off by 20 per cent. in value, they decreased by nigh on 50 per cent. in quantity. Cigarettes were £E5,012 better in August this year than last, though £E6,272 less than in August, 1913; the total for the current eight months is £E78,382, or 31 per cent. less than at the end of the latter month.

Great Britain still maintains her position amongst the nations trading with Egypt. She provided 50 per cent. of the imports and took 63 per cent. of the exports, whilst the Colonies sent just over 10 per cent. of the imports. The principal items provided by the Empire were all the indigo, potatoes, sacks, pepper, flour, and tea, 90 per cent. of the coal, of which South Africa is continuing to supply part, 88 per cent. of the coffee, 80 per cent. of the cotton tissues and cotton threads, and 60 per cent. of the ironwork and machinery. Under exports the Empire takes half the sugar, 40 per cent. of the maize, all the cotton seed and cake, senna, gold and silver bar, and 80 per cent. of the cotton.

Foreign Trade Analysed.

The United States increased their exports to Egypt by £E158,035 to £E277,226, providing all the benzine, 75 per cent. of the petroleum, and 10 per cent. of the coal. They took only one quarter of their usual quantity of cotton. France increased her sales somewhat, as also did Italy and Japan, the latter providing 25 per cent. of the ready made linen and millinery; but the chief increases were registered by the neutral European countries—Spain, who quadrupled her share, and Holland, Sweden and Switzerland, all of which rose very considerably. It is noteworthy that the three Scandinavian countries and Spain, which did not figure in the statistics in 1913, sent over one-third of the stationery last month, and that Holland provided nearly 50 per cent. of the beer. Amongst the countries buying from Egypt, the only ones outside Great Britain and Russia which showed any increase in their purchases were again the neutral countries, especially Greece and Switzerland. Holland and Sweden, it may be remarked, still show a very great preference for Egyptian tobacco.

Trade with the Sudan fell off slightly during August. Imports into Egypt came to £E36,646, and exports to the Sudan to £E81,347, the totals for the eight months, however, showing a marked improvement on the preceding year. The chief imports into Egypt were live stock, maize, sesame, gum, charcoal, and cotton; the main decrease was in the latter item, which fell to £E1,248. The principal exports from Egypt were cereals, boots, sugar and cotton tissues. Sugar fell off by 33 per cent., whilst coffee dwindled from £E9,046 to £E429; cotton tissues rose, however, by 45 per cent.

JULY FINANCES.

Revenue Continues Above Pre-War Level.

Cairo, September 26.

Last night the Ministry of Finance published its accounts for the month of July. During that month the receipts amounted to £E1,184,151, and the expenditure to £E1,144,191, as compared with £E1,228,100 and £E993,723 respectively during July last year. The total revenue for the four months of the financial year comes to £E5,775,441, and the expenditure to £E5,925,542—an increase of £E852,095 and £E581,318 over the total at the same date in 1915. As a consequence, the balance is again a more satisfactory one, being a deficit of only £E150,101, as against one of £E420,878 at the end of July, 1915, and one of £E1,021,334 in the previous year.

Perhaps the extraordinary manner in which the country continues to improve its position, in spite of war conditions, will be more clear from the following table, which gives the totals of the principal heads of revenue at the end of July this year, in 1915, and in 1914, when normal conditions were still holding:—

	1914. £E.	1915. £E.	1916. £E.
Direct taxes	1,315,528	1,651,744	1,682,162
Customs	678,212	469,575	798,951
Tobacco dues	645,233	568,588	675,176
Port dues	150,650	554,731	45,628
Legal fees	477,143	399,951	399,386
Railways	1,199,260	1,014,359	1,419,357
Telegraphs	38,281	42,032	47,461
Post Office	110,585	90,193	100,535
Rent of Government land	83,737	103,993	107,186
Domains	71,222	135,591	82,130
Investment of funds	103,691	103,934	123,753
Sale of land	69,456	35,111	47,018
Sundry heads	415,743	253,544	246,698
Total	5,358,741	4,923,346	5,775,441

£E852,095 Up.

From this we see that whilst the revenue for the current financial year is, as already mentioned, £E852,095 better than that of the previous year, it is still £E416,700 above the figure registered before the war broke out. The improvement over the pre-war period is evident in practically every branch, where the economic condition of the people would affect the totals.

Thus direct taxes are £E366,634; Customs, £E120,739; tobacco dues, £E29,943; railways, £E220,097; rent of land, £E23,449; domains, £E10,908; telegraphs, £E9,180; and investment of funds, £E20,062 to the good. The only heads where important decreases are evident are port dues, £E105,022, which is, after all, entirely due to the difficulty in getting shipping to come to Egyptian ports, owing to the demand in other parts; legal fees, £E77,757, of which £E65,387 is accounted for by the Mixed Courts; Post Office, £E10,050; and sale of land, £E22,438.

Increased Expenditure.

Expenditure during July increased by £E150,468, as compared with July, 1915, and was £E120,564 below that of the same month in 1914. This year's increases were mainly accounted for by railways, which took £E134,960 more, other increases being: irrigation, £E19,741; Mixed Courts, £E16,249; Native Courts, £E8,523; and public health, £E9,691. War Office decreased by £E51,635. Irrigation and public works generally account for the decrease in expenditure as compared with 1914, but railways are requiring a larger credit, owing partly to improved traffic conditions and also to the enforced economy during the early days of the war.

TRADE NOTES.

Openings.

Tenders are invited for the supply to the Lunacy Division, Abbassia, Egypt, of clothing, bedding, furniture, hardware, slippers, brushes, and other household necessaries required for Abbassia and Khanka Hospitals for the Insane, for one year, from April 1, 1917. (November 15.)

Also for the supply to the Director of Personnel and Equipment Department (Supplies Office), Cairo of photographic material for Cairo City Police. (November 1.)

Liquidations.

Mr. H. Bridson, 6, Rue de l'Ancienne Bourse, Alexandria, has been appointed Receiver of the business of A. Seidmann, Alexandria, with instructions to liquidate.

Mr. A. S. Ingram, Port Said, has been similarly appointed and instructed in regard to the business of Klink and Lauer, Port Said.

Licences Granted.

The following persons and firms have been granted licences to trade in Egypt, with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain:—Luzianovich, C., 8, Rue Abou Dardaa, Alexandria; Fazzi, Augusto, 7, Boulevard de Ramleh, Alexandria; Steinauer and Co., Max, 3, Sharia Antikkhana el Masria, Cairo; Société Carmel Oriental, 9, Rue de l'Ancienne Bourse, Alexandria.

The firm of Behrend and Co., Ltd., have been granted a licence to trade without special restrictions, in place of the restricted licence granted to them.

Enemy Property.

All money, claims, and other property of whatsoever nature in Egypt belonging to Leonhard Tauber, of Nuremberg, in the Empire of Germany, have been vested in the Public Custodian of enemy property in Egypt, and the appointment of the Receiver of the property has been cancelled.

NOTICE.

Société Anonyme pour la Fabrication des Cigarettes Egyptiennes marque HADJES NESSIM en liquidation.

Offers for the purchase of the following items of Stock and House Property will be received in the name of EDWARD D. JOYCE, P.O.B. 206, Alexandria (Egypt), Receiver of the above Company, up till 8 a.m. on the 15th of NOVEMBER, 1916:—

(a) The TRADE MARK belonging to the Company, together with all the Stock of Tin Boxes, Labels, Cigarette Paper, etc., on which the Trade Mark is printed.

(b) The BUILDING situated No. 12-14, Rue Abou El Dardar, Alexandria (Egypt), belonging to the Company.

Details of the above can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, 12-14, Rue Abou El Dardar, Alexandria, between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon, on any day except Sundays, from this date to the 13th of NOVEMBER, 1916.

Offers must be made in writing, under registered cover, to the above mentioned P.O. address, and must be accompanied by a deposit in Cash of 10 per cent. of the amount offered.

Offers may be made for items A and B separately.

The Receiver is not bound to accept the best or any offer made.

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PRODUCE REPORT.

London, October 12.

Currants.

The market has been very active during the week, and prices of all qualities are much dearer, especially of Provincial, which is in greater demand. The 2,000 tons that were brought by the s.s. Pyrin and s.s. Alkmini were soon cleared, and one or two other cargoes now afloat are eagerly expected by would-be buyers. Provincial is quoted 65s. to 68s., against 33s. to 37s. last year; Amalias 70s. to 72s., against 36s. to 40s. last year; Patras 72s. to 78s., against 40s. to 42s.; Gulph 78s. to 80s., against 42s. to 45s.; Vostizza 80s. to 84s., against 42s. to 52s.; Islands 80s. to 86s., against 38s. to 42s.; and Smalls 76s. to 84s., against 37s. to 46s. In the Liverpool market the first arrival of new fruit met with a good reception, and sales were made at full prices. The stocks of currants in London on September 30 were 3,319 tons, against 2,754 tons the same period last year.

Sultanas.

There is only a moderate demand, with small business done in Afghanistan and Australian fruit, at more or less unchanged prices. New Greek sultanas have not arrived yet, but owing to restrictions, and to the fact that great quantities were sold to the Allied armies in Macedonia in fresh condition (not dried), only small quantities may be expected here, and prices will, of course, be high. The stocks of sultanas, of all kinds, in London on September 30 were 2,578 tons, against 1,246 tons the same period last year.

Seeds.

Linseed is quieter; London-Calcutta spot has been sold to-day at 80s., afloat 79s. 9d., Oct.-Nov. 81s. 9d., Nov.-Dec. 82s. 6d.; Bombay ordinary Oct.-Nov. 84s. 6d., and small grain 83s. Rapeseed is firmer; Toria, Oct.-Nov. is quoted 72s.; and brown Cawnpore ditto at 69s. Cottonseed is steady; London-Egyptian loading is quoted at £14, and Oct. also £14 per ton. Mustard exhibits an easier tendency; the new crop—which is reported to be large—is now coming on the market. Rangoon beans show a further advance of 1s. to 1s. 6d. per cwt. on the week.

Oils.

Linseed oil is firm. Spot pipes are quoted £39 10s., and barrels at £40 10s. landed. Rape oil is steady; ordinary brown naked, spot £43; English refined barrels £48 to £50. Cotton oil is firm; crude spot pipes £35 15s. asked, with refined pale pipes £41 10s., and sweet barrels £48 to £51 10s., as to make.

Oilcakes.

Cotton cakes: Egyptians are not available on spot, but good business has been done during the week in Sept.-Oct. shipments at £10 7s. 6d. to £10 10s. ex-ship terms. English-made cakes continue to be offered sparingly at £11 2s. 6d. per ton. Linseed cakes are in better demand, with improving prices on account of the limited supplies of both English and foreign. Best London-made are quoted at £14 12s. 6d. to £14 15s. ex mill.

Locust Beans.

Nothing is offered on spot, with the exception of a limited quantity of kibbled, for which £12 2s. 6d. per ton is demanded.

A TREASURE IN THE TRENCHES.

"A week ago," writes a corporal in the A.S.C.M.T., "I dropped my Swan Fountain Pen near the trenches in the dark, and as it meant pretty certain sniping if I lit a match, I reluctantly had to abandon it. This morning I was passing that way again and found my lost property fifty yards from where I had missed it. Apparently a bursting shell had blown it down the road. I have had the pen in constant use ever since the early days of the war. That it stood the rough usage without ever failing me, and was as smooth in writing at the end as when first I had it, bears evidence of 'Swan' excellence and utility for soldiers at the Front."

Thousands of "Swan" pens are being used by our men at the Front and in the Fleet, and, in truth, what more useful present could be sent to either soldier or sailor? Our readers would do well to ask the Manufacturers, Mabie, Todd, and Co., Limited, 79 and 80, High Holborn, London, W.C., for their free booklet giving full particulars.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Facts about the Newest Motor Ship.

The twentieth motor ship to be launched from Burmeister and Wain's yards at Copenhagen started her maiden voyage to South Africa and Australia on August 24. This vessel, the Peru, is a sister ship of the Columbia and the Chile, wrote the *Engineer* in the course of a recent article. These vessels have a length between perpendiculars of 425 ft., a beam of 55 ft., a depth of 30 ft. 6 ins., and a draught of 26 ft. 5 ins., Their deadweight capacity is 9,500 tons. Their propelling machinery consists of two six-cylinder Diesel engines, driving twin screws. These engines are designed to develop a total of 3,100 horsepower at 125 revolutions, and to give the ships a speed of 11.15 knots. The great difference which may characterize the performances of two sister ships, engines, or machines has often been remarked upon, and is well illustrated in the case of the Peru and the Chile. On her trial trip the Chile's engines, running at 136 revolutions, developed 3,318 indicated horse power, and gave the ship a speed of 11.39 knots. The Peru on her trial trip developed 3,685 indicated horse power 139.3 revolutions, and showed a speed of 12.74 knots. The consumption of fuel oil on the Chile was 147.6 grammes per indicated horse power hour, and on the Peru 144.8 grammes. It is to be noted that the trial trip of the Chile was run during very cold weather, and that, as her bronze propellers were not ready in time for the trip, cast-iron screws were used in their place. Even so, the difference of a knot and a-quarter in the speed of the two vessels is remarkable.

Electric Vehicles.

In previous notes we alluded to the petrol famine which is threatening seriously to disorganise road transport throughout this country. From what is gathered from foreign publications a similar, if not more acute, famine is experienced in other countries, especially in the East, where private motor-cars are sparingly used, and road transport is paralysed by the great scarcity of petrol. The question, therefore, of employing electric vehicles instead of petrol cars is engaging at the present time the attention of municipal authorities, as well as of the public. Yet there was a time that such a question was considered, from an economic point of view, as unpractical. Even now *dilettanti* experts adhere to that opinion. Without entering into technical details we think a reference to the results obtained recently by practical experiments will be of interest to those who contemplate the employment of electric vehicles. Mr. H. Webber, a competent electrical engineer, in a very interesting paper gives facts and figures which prove that cars can be run cheaper by electricity than by petrol. He points out that the present retail price of petrol of the grade suitable for commercial vehicles (when it can be obtained) is 3s. 2d. per gallon, and when purchased in bulk, 2s. 10d. Pre-war prices varied between 1s. 1d. and 1s. 3d. Whereas under the present abnormal conditions the price of electrical energy has advanced only by a small percentage, the cost of petrol is nearly double, and Mr. Webber shows that even in normal times, with electricity at about 1d. per kelvin, trolley-buses can be operated more cheaply than petrol-driven vehicles.

A Comparison.

Mr. Webber, in his experience as a municipal electrical engineer and tramway manager, compares the running costs of a service employing ten 'buses, each running 80 miles daily, giving a total annual mileage of 292,000. The cost of petrol-'buses for fuel alone is, at present rates, 3¾d. per car per mile, and of electric trolley-'buses 2d., inclusive of maintenance and other charges, showing a saving in favour of the trolley-bus of 1¾d. per mile, or £2,129 3s. 4d. for the whole service. With such results, and considering that the trolley-'bus is comparatively, a new development, whereas the petrol-bus has benefited by all the experience and improvements gained in the motor-car industry during many years, so that there is no room for further great improvement, the prospects of the two antagonistic systems are very obvious.

The Port of Candia.

From statements in the Greek press, it would seem that the long projected improvements of the port of Candia, Crete, are about to be undertaken. It is stated that the contract for the construction of this enterprise has been awarded to a French firm. Under the plans submitted the outer port of Candia is to be used for anchorage of vessels of comparatively a deep draught, while the inner harbour will be planned to accommodate smaller steamships and sailing vessels. The work will consist of a breakwater of stone some 2,400 feet in length; the dredging of the inner harbour, originally built by the Venetians, to a depth of 13½ feet, and the dredging of a new harbour to a depth of 23 feet. Various necessary jetties, moles, and piers will also be constructed. This work is expected to entail an expenditure of some 3,500,000 drachmas (£135,000).

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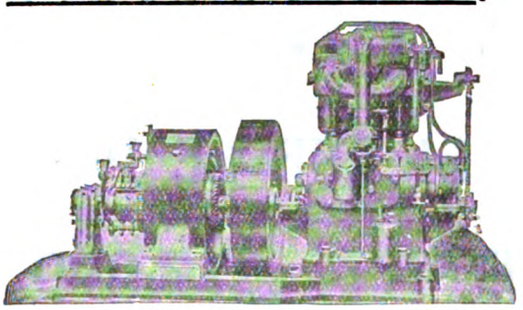

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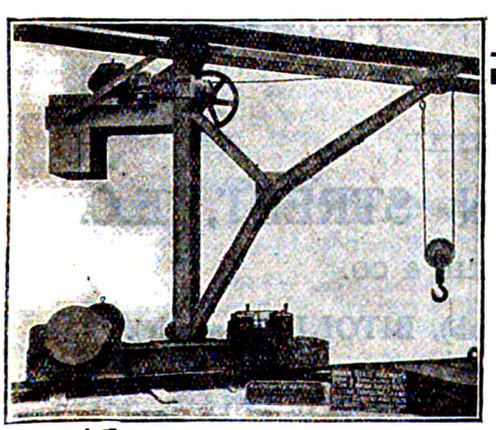

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GERMAN RAPACITY.

When will the Bulgars be Tired of It?

When will the Bulgars grow tired of German rapacity? According to a letter from the Buda Pesth correspondent of the *Morning Post*, the whole of the copper found in Bulgaria has been exported to Germany, having been requisitioned earlier in the war. Everybody has to deliver up any copper in his possession, and even the church bells have gone to Krupps from all the Bulgarian church towers. Twenty-five per cent. of the tobacco produce also goes to Germany, but this only on paper, for as a matter of fact one-half at least is exported to that country, where the tobacco famine is as great as in Austria-Hungary.

The influence of the Germans over Bulgaria springs from the fact that they are the munitions producers and argue that unless they can feed their working men and get the raw materials they need the production of munitions suffers. What the Bulgarians are suffering from most is the scarcity of soap and leather. It is almost impossible to obtain an ordinary cake of soap, and the soling of a pair of boots costs 25s. Petroleum is a rarity, and candles are a luxury not everybody can afford.

As regards the temper of the people under the circumstances, it is not difficult to picture. The men at the front are dissatisfied because they were promised that they would be allowed to go home to attend to their lands, while, later, leave was denied to them. Their womenfolk write to tell them that their produce is being snatched from them for almost nothing by the Germans and the Committee, whilst the people at home are in need of everything. One Hungarian food-buyer, who spent some months in Bulgaria buying geese and ducks, said that he took with him two bags full of small cakes of soap, and for every one he got one or two geese from the peasants, which he sold at Buda Pesth and Vienna for £3 to £4 each. The second time he wanted to repeat the experience the soap was confiscated at the frontier, for it is now a prohibited article of export.

THE COTTON POSITION.

Prices and Possibilities of a Famine.

The position and prices in the cotton market have been exercising a great deal of attention recently, owing to the remarkable advances. The *Financial Times* pointed out recently that at the early part of the present century, raw cotton on the basis of middling American, got down to a shade below 3d. per lb. in Liverpool. The last business day (October 6) of the past week opened with middling American spot cotton standing at 9.95d. per lb.; say five points above the previous "record," at the beginning of September, and 1.45d. per lb. above the record of the short crop of the 1909-1910 season (when Egyptian cotton was even poorer in crop yield than the American). And, after a week of strength, there was a recession of only two points in "middling," namely, to 9.93d. In brief, the present level of values is very appreciably higher than was attained in and since the financial crisis period of 1873, and one has to go back to the American war-time to find higher prices than to-day's for the American staple.

Egyptian Cotton.

In the same way the longer Egyptian staple, on the basis of fully good fair brown, has now got to 15.06d. per lb. spot, as against 13.60d. per lb. at the beginning of September (when middling American was 9.90d.). It is true that, although on Friday alone F.G.F. spot rose 35 points per lb. (repeating Thursday's rise) the value of the Egyptian staple has not yet attained the high level of the 1909-10 season, when F.G.F. brown spot went to 16 3-16d. per lb.—a figure quite unreached since the American war period. But, of late times, owing to the correspondingly greater demand for medium-to-coarse counts of yarns and fabrics, the run upon the finer grade Egyptian staples has not—till the last few weeks—been so pronounced as it was in 1909-10, or as it is normally. But the at first "sympathetic"—and now "bolting"—rise in Egyptian cotton of late may be seen at a glance when it is noted that as recently as the end of August F.G.F. brown Egyptian was at little over 11½d. per lb. spot, as against 14.35d. on Wednesday and 15.05d. on Friday, while in the same period—barely six weeks—middling American has risen from 8.85d. to 9.95d. per lb. Since the beginning of 1915 "middling" has risen about 2.60d. per lb., and about 4.10d. per lb. since June 30, 1915.

SHIPPING NOTES.

H.M. Consul-General at Barcelona (Mr. C. S. Smith) reports an announcement in the local Press of the first sailing from that port of a new weekly service of Greek steamships, by the Palios Line, between Barcelona and Piræus, calling at Marseilles, Naples, Messina, and Patras.

After a considerable interval, caused by war conditions, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have found it possible to resume their fortnightly service between New York, West Indies, and Colon. Two passenger steamers will be employed on this service, commencing with the Tagus from New York, December 2, followed by the Danube on December 16. The ports of call will be Santiago (Cuba), Kingston (Jamaica), Colon (for Panama Canal and Pacific ports). The round voyages will occupy twenty-three days.

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ARNOLD NAVILLE.
CH. R. WEHRUNG.

Director General in Serbia: ROBERT L. NAVILLE.

London Office: 27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

London Bankers: Messrs. GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & CO.

Central Office: BELGRADE. Branches: SKOPLYE (Uskub), BITOLJ (Monastir).

Communication with Serbia is at present interrupted by the War, but the Bank holds its services at the disposal of all those having Serbian interests, or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

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TRADE RESTRICTIONS.

Another Proclamation by the Egyptian Authorities.

By a proclamation dated Cairo, September 13, 1916, published in the *Journal Officiel* of Egypt on September 18, further additions to and removals from the list of prohibited firms are notified.

Additions.

ARGENTINA.

Argentine Real Estate and Finance Corporation, Limited, Calle Alsina, 902, Buenos Aires.

Bechtel, Kurtz & Co., Calle Tucuman 1575, Buenos Aires.

Daniel, Bruno & Co., Paseo de Colon 464-68, Buenos Aires.

Duckwitz, Otto, Calle Araoz 2918, Buenos Aires.

Hartrodt, A., Corrientes 685, Buenos Aires.

Hinderfield, Martignoni & Co., Calle Lavalle 437; Calle Tandil 5900, Buenos Aires.

Portena Tug Co.

BOLIVIA.

Callenius, Gustavo, La Paz.

El Tigre, La Paz.

Hardt, E. & W., & Co., La Paz; Sucre; Oruro and Cochabamba.

Martins, F., & Co., La Paz.

BRAZIL.

Dreher, Edmundo, and Co., Rua Barao do Triumpho 6, Porto Alegre.

Gunzberger, J., and Co., Manaos and Para.

Harm, Heinrich, Manaos and Itacoatiara; Holdum, Maxim, Manaos.

Peters, W., and Co., Manaos; Pohlman and Co., Pernambuco and Maceió.

Reisch, Felix, Manaos.

COLOMBIA.

Añez, Julio A., and Co., Cucuta.

Beck, Roberto, Bogota; Beckmann and Co., Cucuta; Berne, O., and Co., Barranquilla; Breuer, Möller and Co., Barranquilla, Cucuta (and all branches); Breymann, Wilhelm von, and Co., Cali.

Empresa Hanseatica, Barranquilla.

Hoz, P. de la, Barranquilla.

Lindemeyer, Heinrich (Partner of Empresa Hanseatica).

Stegmann, Arthur (widow of) (Partner of Empresa Hanseatica).

Vasquez, Martin (of Empresa Hanseatica).

Volkmann, Gustav, Bucaramanga.

Wiese, F. (Partner of Empresa Hanseatica).

DENMARK.

Bohm, J. M., Stettin Spedition (manager, Aage Larsen), Ny. Toldbodgade 37, Copenhagen; Brix-hansen and Co., Amaliegade 36, Copenhagen.

Carstensen, Ph., Frederiksholm Kanal 4, Copenhagen.

Grauballe, Christian, Frederiksberggade 32, and Bredgade 45, Copenhagen.

Hommel, Valdemar, Hestemollestraede 6, Copenhagen.

Nordisk Kommissions Kompagni, Raadhustraede 11, Copenhagen.

ECUADOR.

Balda, Manuel.

Cattan Hermanos, Quito.

Minerva Aerated Water.

MOROCCO.

Glaser, Dr., Tetuan.

Ragonez, Abraham, Laraiche.

Salama, Mokhluf, Laraiche.

Schumacher, Otto, Tetuan.

Zapatero, O., Tetuan.

NETHERLANDS.

Anthraciet Handelsvereeniging, Boompjes 70, Rotterdam.

Elster and Co., Nijverhiedsstraat 3, Rotterdam.

Ganser, Dr. F., Herten, near Roermond.

"Hollandia" Export Co., Wijnstraat 70, and Gedempte Binnerrotte 155, Rotterdam.

Koning, Carel A., and Co., Keizersgracht 209, Amsterdam.

Lange's, A. W. de, Thee Handel N.V., Wijnstraat 113, Rotterdam; Lichtle, F. J., Sarphatipark 68, Amsterdam; London, S. N., Damrak 28-30, Amsterdam.

Mentz, H., junior, Mentz, Heinrich, Mentz, Hermann, senior, Ceintuurbaan 346, Amsterdam; "Monopol" Thee-Onderneming, Wijnstraat 113, Rotterdam.

Roselius and Co., N. Spiegelstr. 25 (corner of Keizersgracht 592-94), Amsterdam.

Thee Maatschappy "de Chinees," Wijnstraat 113, Rotterdam.

Wigleven, J. H. (of Zeeppœderfabriek "Het Bleekertje"), Scheepmakershaven 29, Rotterdam.

NETHERLAND EAST INDIES.

Cultuur Maatschappy Pasoemah, Batavia; Cultuur Maatschappy Plaboean Ratoe, Batavia.

Diehn, August, Medan and Palembang, Sumatra, and Java.

Exploitatie Maatschappy Soengei Lalah.

Gummi Fabriek Harburg-Wien, Sourabaya.

Handel Maatschappy A. F. van den Berg and Co., Batavia; Handel Maatschappy Paré Paré, Macassar; Hinlopen, W., Tandjongbalei, Asahan, Sumatra.

Import Maatschappy Zikel and Co., Samarang and Bandoeng.

Keil, K. E., Buitenzorg; Koning, Carel A., and Co., Medan.

Look, H., Hulkenbachstrasse 43, Medan; Luppe, Th., and Co., Bandoeng.

Maatschappy Tot Exploitatie van Het land Semplak, Batavia; Machine en Rijwielfabriek Tropical, Samarang.

Neumann and Co., Batavia.

Plantagen Gesellschaft Langkapoera, Batavia.

Thee-Plantagen Gesellschaft Tjiémas, Bandoeng.

Schild, J., Padang, Sumatra; Spier, F. C., Sourabaya.

Technisch Bureau Sunda, Bandoeng.

NORWAY.

Christianssand's Elektrochemiske A/S., Fiskaa, near Christianssands.

SPAIN.

Cruz, Calmarino Manuel de la, Rics Rosas 11, Malaga.

URUGUAY.

Buch, A., & Co., Montevideo.

Hinderfeld, Martignoni & Co., Cerrito 257, Montevideo.

Larsen, Herbert, Montevideo.

Ruete & Guyer, Montevideo.

VENEZUELA.

Afanador, J., & Co., Ciudad Bolivar.

Afanador, Doctor J. E. Sanchez, Ciudad Bolivar.

Anez, Julio A., & Co., Maracaibo and San Cristobal.

Becker, George, Caracas.

Beckman & Co., Maracaibo.

Behrens (partner of Blohm & Co.).

Blohm & Co., Ciudad Bolivar; Caracas; La Guayra; Puerto Cabello; Valencia; Barquisimeto and Maracaibo.

Breuer, Möller & Co., Maracaibo and San Cristobal.

Diaz, Alfred, La Guayra.

Dissel (van), Rode & Co., Maracaibo and San Cristobal.

Gathmann Hermanos, Caracas.

Henriquez, Daniel, Maracaibo.

Herrenbruck, E., Maracaibo.

Hess, Carlos, Caracas.

Kehrhahn, Adolf, & Co., Maracaibo.

Mestern & Co., Puerto Cabello.

Otamenda & Co., Maracaibo and San Cristobal.

Pineda, Joviniano, Maracaibo.

Rayhrer & Firnhaber, Maracaibo.

Rincon, Angel Renato, Maracaibo.

Rodriguez, Luis M., Ciudad Bolivar.

Rossi, Jesus Belloso, Maracaibo.

Schnell (partner of Blohm & Co.).

Schreier (partner of Blohm & Co.).

Stenvorth & Co., Maracaibo.

Vasquez, Tomas Rodriguez, Puerto Cabello.

Wenzel, Gmo., & Co., Ciudad Bolivar and Caracas.

Zingg, Christern, & Co., Maracaibo.

Removals.

BRAZIL.

Costa Ferreira & Co., Rua Sao Bento 77, Sao Paulo.

Fischer, Christiano, Rua Marechal Floriano 73, Porto Alegre.

Schneider & Co., Rua Voluntarios da Patria 40/42, Porto Alegre.

NETHERLAND EAST INDIES.

Cultuur Maatschappy Goenoeng Goemiter, Djember.

Cultuur Maatschappy Kali Klepoeh Goenoeng Passang, Djokjakarta Java.

Ong Kek Chia, Batavia.

Ong Kek Siang, Batavia.

Oving, H. E., Sourabaya.

NORWAY.

Aktieselskabet Trondhjems Handelsbank, Trondhjem.

PARAGUAY.

Costaguta, David, Asuncion.

PERSIA.

Haji Lutfali Tabrizi, Teheran.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Connor, J. A., Manila.

FERTILISERS IN RUSSIA.

Opportunity for British Producers.

In the course of a useful article dealing with the extent of the production in Russia of medium and heavy chemicals, the *Financier and Bullionist* discusses the native manufacture of fertilisers.

Referring to the output of sulphate of ammonia, the writer says:—"The Russian farmer does not fully appreciate that product, but it will yet play its part in his general scheme of agriculture. Fertilisers just mentioned must prove of particular interest to both the Russian and the foreign industrial chemist. To the former because, as the population grows and begins to press on the available cultivable land, intensive cultivation with the aid of artificial fertilisers will become urgent, and to the latter because Russia must remain to all appearances mainly an agricultural country and an exporter of grain in conformity with the world's economy of exchange for many years to come; and as the demand for foreign manufactures grows and the call on the agricultural resources of the country correspondingly increases, the need for fertilisers will progressively impose itself, to anglicise a French expression.

"That Russia should supply all her own fertilisers is unthinkable. It is quite true that her fertiliser-producing industry is constantly growing, but her importations grow as well, and it may be safely assumed that with the progress of agricultural knowledge amongst her grain-growers the demand for fertilisers will keep so well ahead of the home production that foreign supplies will continue, as in the past, to be a growing feature on Russian import lists.

"One item she ought to be able to supply herself—that is, superphosphate. Phosphorites are abundant in many parts of Russia, and the home supply of sulphuric acid is increasing; therefore there is no reason why the recent production of this particular fertiliser should not be improved on. But the act of evacuation of so many chemical works in the West will make the demand a feverish one as soon as the ports are opened. In connection with this particular item, it should be stated that, although phosphorites abound in Russia, large quantities are too poor for commercial use, excepting where it becomes too expensive to transport the richer foreign superphosphates from the ports or from those parts of Russia, such as Podolia, where the phosphorites are of exceptional richness, and can be turned to excellent account in agricultural regions within reasonable reach. Russian basic slag is not of much importance. There are only one or two iron works that yield the requisite composition of slag."

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Do. (Gold-tipped) 5s. " "
Corbetti (Egyptian) 5s. " "
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COMPANY NOTES.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, 2,327 tons; Hurgada, 731 tons.

Baku Russian Petroleum Company (1909).—Week ended October 7, 85,200 poods.

European Oilfields.—Week ended October 1, 81,200 poods. Week ended October 8, 82,900 poods.

Maikop Pipeline and Transport.—Week ended September 30, 61,051 poods.

North Caucasian.—Week ended October 3, 560,728 poods.

Spies Petroleum.—The production, including 12,795 poods from ambars, for the week ended October 1 was 154,140 poods, or about 2,486 tons. Week ended October 8, 145,090 poods.

Ural Caspian.—Week ended September 28, 150,711 poods. Week ended October 5, 153,580 poods.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our City Correspondent.).

Throgmorton Street.

Business continues very restricted. There is practically nothing doing in Bank shares, Nationals being weaker on offer at 12⅞ without any willing buyers above 12½, and Agriculturals dull at about 4⅞. In Aboukirs, a fairly large parcel of shares changed hands at 14s. 6d., while about 100 Béhéras were transferred at £6. In Delta Lights there have again been a few transactions at about 5 5-16. Markets have been done in the neighbourhood of 25s. 6d. for about 1,000 shares, and in Salts something like the same number have changed hands at between 18s. and 18s. 6d. Khedivial Mails are rather quieter round 27s., as also Khedivial Prefs. round 3½. A few Land Banks are wanted at 4 15-16, but there are no sellers. Mortgage of Egypt Prefs. are quieter at 7½. Some trifling business has been done in New Egyptians at 8s. 6d., and 1,000 United Egyptian Lands were transferred at 10½d.

In Greek stock, apart from a deal of about 4,000 Monopoly at 49⅜, there has been practically no business, and prices are all nominally marked down.

SUEZ CANAL DUES.

With reference to the notice in the *Board of Trade Journal* of July 13 relative to increased tonnage dues on vessels passing through the Suez Canal, the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade is notified by the London Enquiry Office of the Suez Canal Company that from January 1 next the transit dues will be increased from 7.25f. to 7.75f. per metric ton for ships with cargo, and from 4.75f. to 5.25f. for ships in ballast.

This increase has been rendered necessary by the continued decrease in transit receipts, which up to September 21 this year amounted to 56,500,000f. only, as against 66,330,000f. and 86,690,000f. in the corresponding periods of 1915 and 1914 respectively.

Receipts.

The traffic receipts for the Suez Canal were as stated on the following dates :—

	1915. Francs.	1916. Francs.
October 4	200,000	60,000
October 6, 7, and 8	680,000	610,000

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended September 20, 1916.

	1915. £E.	1916. £E.
Sept. 10-20	4,495	5,281
April 1-Sept. 20	67,902	82,400

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

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Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

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STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27, 1915.	Price Oct. 6.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909..	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4 %. 1909 ..	99	78	78
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	62½	62½
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan ..	93½	71⅜	71⅜
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	79½	78
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	70	69
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	67	67
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	55	54
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	55	54
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	49	48½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	42	42
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	52½	52½
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	50	49½
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902 ..	77	67	67
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	74	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82⅛	55	55
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	77¼	77¼
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	xd	xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855..	103	85	85
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	78	78
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	52	52
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65⅛	37½	37½
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4½	4 1/16	4⅛
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.....	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red...	83	69½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	12	12
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens.....	£2	2	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	6 7/16	6 7/16
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6½	6½
Ionian Bank, Limited.....	3⅞	3⅜xd	3⅜xd
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5	5
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	12⅞	12¼
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	5	5
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5⅜	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	88½	88⅜
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	10	10
Do do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	11½	11½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb. ..	87	59½	59½
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb...	101	55	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10 1/16	10 1/16
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds..	61	55xd	55xd
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1 1/16	15/-	15/-
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	91	91
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	¼	¼	¼
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2¼	2¼
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	6½	6
Do. Pref.	4⅜	3½	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	9/-	9/6	9/6
Do. Delta Land and Invest.	98	87	87
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	5/-	¼	¼
Do and Foreign Trust ..	1⅜	⅜	⅜
Gharbieh Land Co.	¼	¼	¼
" " Founders	—	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	96	96
Do 5 % Debs. Red.			
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	7½	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	8/9	8/9
Sidi Salem Co.	1/16	¼	¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	1	⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-/9	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11⅜	11⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	12/6	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1⅛	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	26/-	25/7½
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	95	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	18/3	18/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	27 6	27/3
Do. do. Prefs.....	3⅝	3⅜xd	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	90	89	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2¼	1⅜	1½

OIL.

	Price on Oct. 5.	Oct. 12.
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	10/3	10/6
Anglo-Persian	20/9	20/3
European Oilfields	4/-	4/-
Roumanian.....	16/9	15/3

PARIS BOURSE.

	Oct. 5.	Oct. 12.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	466	460
Canal de Suez	4720	4630
Credit Foncier Egyptien	663	660
Turkish Unified 4%	61.0	61
Egyptian Unified 4%	90.25	86.75
Serbian, 1895	64.50	63

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON SEPTEMBER 22.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	12¼	to 12⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie..	Frs.	85	„ 86
Alexandria Water Co.	£	12	„ 12⅛
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5½	„ 5⅝
„ priv.	L.E.	3½	„ 3⅝
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	127	„ 130
Bons de Panama	Frs.	103	„ 104
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	60	„ 61
„ Privilégiée	Frs.	90	„ 95
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	75	„ 76
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2½	„ 2⅝
Comptoir Financier et Commercial..	£	⅜	„ 7/16
Building Lands of Egypt	£	⅞	„ 1
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	½	„ ⅝
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	4	„ 4⅛
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	4⅜	„ 4⅝
Unifiée	L.E.	83½	„ 83⅝
Privilégiée		72	„ 72⅛
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4⅜	„ 4⅞
„ Fondateur	£	24	„ 25
Pressage et dépôts	£	28½	„ 29½
Nungovich Hotels	£	2½	„ 2⅝
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	4⅛	„ 4⅜
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.		21/-	„ 21/6
„ Ord.	£	3¼	„ 3⅜
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3⅝	„ 3¾
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£	5⅛	„ 5⅜
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	104	„ 105
„ Jouissance....	Frs.	154	„ 156
Egyptian Markets		24/6	„ 25/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv...	Frs.	210	„ 215
„ Div....	Frs.	140	„ 145
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	115	„ 118
Egyptian Salt and Soda		18/3	„ 18/6
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	595	„ 600
„ 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	304	„ 305
„ 1903 „	Frs.	246	„ 247
„ 1911 „	Frs.	254	„ 255
Delta Lands		⅜	„ 7/16
Port Said Salt		33/6	„ 34/-
Cotton Ginners		⅜	„ ⅝
New Egyptian Co.		7/-	„ 7/6
United Lands	P.T.	—	„ —
Levant S.S. Co.		27/-	„ —
„ Deferred	£	5	„ —

NEW COMPANIES IN RUSSIA.

Activity in financial and industrial circles in Russia continues, as will be seen from the fact that in one week recently eight new companies, with an aggregate capital of nearly £3,000,000 sterling, were formed. The companies with their capitals are :—

	Roubles.
"Leterit," Ltd., boilers and engines	2,000,000
Northern Timber, Industrial, and Trading Co.	3,000,000
"Kurort Koporye," Ltd., sanatorium, etc.	2,000,000
Lopandinskoe Co., match factory	5,000,000
"Petchat" Publishing Co.	5,000,000
Grigorevka-Grishino Mining Co., coal and anthracite	4,000,000
Maloff Bros. Petroleum Co., Ltd., kerosene, benzine	6,000,000
White Sea Fish Co.	2,000,000

NEW RUSSIAN LOANS.

Subscriptions to the new Russian Railway Four per Cent. Internal Loan for 350,000,000 roubles at 73¾ are now being received. Redemption is to take place at par by annual drawings extending over eighty-one years. It is understood that the railway issue is to be followed by a still larger internal loan next month, to be styled the new Military Internal Loan. It will be for 3,000,000,000 roubles in Five and a Half per Cent bonds.

ENEMY COTTON FIRMS IN EGYPT.

The Manchester Cotton Association has made the following reply, through the secretary, to the letter sent by Lord Edward Cecil, Financial Adviser to the Ministry of Finance, Cairo, to the president of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, which appeared in *The Times* of October 7, refuting the opinion expressed by the Manchester Cotton Association that the British firms already in Egypt were capable of dealing with the small cotton business previously transacted with England by the enemy firms that had been liquidated :—

"I am instructed by my directors to write and thank your lordship for the detailed information contained in your letter dated Cairo, August 31, 1916, and to inform you that the communication was referred by them to a committee of Egyptian Merchants and Spinners for consideration and report.

"That Committee expressed the following views :—(1) That they agreed with the directors' statement previously made. (2) That any new firms should preferably be British. (3) That it is of the greatest importance that banks should give generous support to British firms, and (4) That it is of the greatest importance there should be a full and regular supply of tonnage, as an irregular supply would have a most serious effect upon spinners and manufacturers of this country using Egyptian cotton, and therefore respectfully request your lordship to kindly use your influence whereby the supply of tonnage may be regular and ample."

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 285.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Roumania for the moment supplies the key to the whole future course of the war, for the cogent reason that her defeat by Austro-German forces would nullify to a very large extent what has been accomplished by two years of Great Britain's naval blockade. It is impossible to over-estimate the value which the Central Powers must be placing on the possession of the stores of grain and oil that are known to be in the country. As the Roumanians themselves will be dependent on these supplies, they could not be destroyed in their entirety. Once they fell into the hands of the Germans they would be ear-marked for German use, and Roumania would be left to fend for herself. Apart from economic considerations, the overrunning of Roumania would seriously affect the strategy of the eastern theatre of the war. With the whole course of the Danube open to the enemy, Southern Russia would be exposed to attack to an extent not possible hitherto, in view of the limited capacities of Bulgaria and Turkey.

It would seem, therefore, that the Allies' first consideration at this juncture must be to bring direct relief to Roumania, even at the cost of heavy sacrifices. Russia alone is near enough to her to be able to help immediately in this way, but Russia's strength is largely dependent on the support in the form of munitions that she receives from Great Britain and France. Public sympathy with Roumania has been aroused in both of these latter countries, and the same tolerance as was shown when Serbia was overrun could not be expected if it could be proved that mismanagement or supineness was responsible for this supreme misfortune overtaking Roumania as well. The Allied General Staffs must be aware that the consequences of the two reverses would be entirely different, and there is no reason to suppose that they are indifferent to the danger threatening the whole Allied cause. Fortunately, the difficulties of the enemy in an advance across the Carpathians are not inconsiderable. His advantage is said to lie in the superiority of his artillery, and the rate at which heavy guns can be pushed forward in hilly country is restricted. The course of the struggle along the Roumanian frontier, therefore, must be watched eagerly and not altogether without anxiety, for some days to come, until it is seen whether the resources of Roumania and her Allies are equal to checkmating the very determined effort which the Central Powers are making to achieve a success in this theatre.

Amid the multiplicity of comments on the situation it is impossible to draw any conclusions as to the likely course of events during the next few weeks. From the tenour of the remarks made by King Ferdinand to a special correspondent of *The Times* it is evident that on October 9 a serious view of the position was taken in the highest quarters in Roumania. Otherwise such a pathetic appeal would not have been addressed to the Allies. "The Roumanians pray," his Majesty is reported to have said, "that in spite of their existing exigencies and of their own huge problems, the Allies will not allow the affairs of Roumania, who has staked her all on this conflict, to pass into the back of their minds and suffer that she meet the fate either of Belgium or of Serbia." A few days later the British Secretary of State for War appeared to take the same view of Roumania's position when he declared that the Allied countries were fully alive to the danger, and that they would make every effort to protect the Roumanian army. On October 14, however, General Georgesco, the representative of the General Staff at present in England, adopted a far more confident attitude towards his country's predicament. He admitted the huge concentration against Roumania, but considered that it was quite certain that the Austro-German troops would not succeed in forcing the passes. On another point he was equally emphatic, and his assurance is a source of gratification. "Any suggestion," he declared, "that we are not being supported by our Allies is absurd."

In spite of General Georgesco's optimism, the Roumanians have already lost two passes, the Törzburg, south-west of Kronstadt (Brasso), and the Gyimes, in the centre of that part of the Carpathians which runs roughly north and south, dividing eastern Transylvania from Moldavia. The latest reports, however, are to the effect that the military news is reassuring. In the Predeal region, the pass through which runs one of the railways connecting Budapest and Bucharest, the Roumanian troops are said to be resuming the offensive and to be pursuing the enemy on the Transylvania slope. Very stubborn fighting is in progress. At every other point along the whole Carpathian front the enemy is attacking violently, but so far without success. Bucharest, it is satisfactory to learn, remains calm, and it is significant that the enemy's official statements are couched in moderate tones.

Although the Allies continue to maintain steady pressure on every front, they have not succeeded in making any considerable headway at any one point which might

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react in favour of Roumania in the Carpathians. Particularly is this the case in Macedonia, where an advance at this stage would be of great value to the Allied cause. After the successful thrust across the Struma the British troops have reached the railway; but they found Seres strongly held by the Bulgarians, and there has since been an absence of important news. The capture of the village of Bursuk, near Lake Butkovo, pushes forward the British line on the left wing and points to an encircling movement against Barakli Djuma, the pivot of the Bulgarian line in this region. In the same way, on the extreme west, the closing in of the Allied troops on Monastir is proceeding but slowly. It was reported that the Bulgarians were evacuating the town. Some movement of this nature may be taking place, but it is evidently precautionary, for the enemy continues to occupy strong positions and to offer a stubborn defence.

Greece continues to make up for any lack of incident noticeable in any other portion of the world immediately affected by the war. Last week we were able to record the sudden demand of Admiral du Fournet for the surrender of the Greek fleet, on the ground that its dispositions constituted a menace to the Allied squadron, while the movements of Greek troops in the interior appeared to threaten the Allied army of the East. The reference was to a surreptitious concentration of men and material in Thessaly, along the Piræus-Larissa-Salonika railway —a proceeding hardly compatible with protestations of friendly neutrality. The significance of the Allies' action lay in the fact that it amounted to an admission for the first time that the Entente Powers credited King Constantine and his advisers with warlike intentions against them. There could be but one explanation of the preparations at Larissa—that King Constantine contemplated an open breach with the Allies, and was making ready to withdraw to a district where he would be out of the reach of the Allied Fleet and in a position to threaten the army in Macedonia.

As far as is known, King Constantine has made no attempt to offer any other explanation of the military movements in the interior. It may be of interest, therefore, to examine his position in the light of these latest developments. The King has clung to a policy of neutrality for Greece during the war, and, it must be admitted, has carried part of the nation with him. Fully one-half of the people, however, has declared against this policy in favour of military co-operation with the Allied Powers. By no stretch of the imagination could the neutrality half of the nation be regarded as advocates of a policy which would ally them to Bulgarians and Turks against British, French, and Russians. But King Constantine, by throwing down the gauntlet to the Allies, in the face of the secession of a large, if not the larger, section of the people, would deliberately league Greece with her hereditary foes against her traditional friends. And for what purpose? The Central Powers may make promises to Bulgaria; but it is inconceivable that, with the pledges which they must have given already to the Bulgarians and the Turks, any sane Greek can suppose at this stage that in the most favourable circumstances these same Powers will have anything to give to Greece. King Constantine, therefore, would seem to have been prepared to commit Greece to a policy which could have brought her no reward, no advantage, but which would most likely entail her complete ruin. Such action might be expected of an Enver capable of selling his country for German bribes: it seems incredible on the part of the scion of a European reigning house.

The prompt action of Admiral du Fournet has probably saved Greece from a worse fate. Within the stipulated time—a matter of a few hours only—the vessels of the Greek fleet indicated were handed over, certain coast batteries were disarmed, and the Allies assumed control of the Piræus-Larissa Railway. It was symptomatic of King Constantine's attitude that he should still try to flout the Allies by arranging for a demonstration in which the disbanded crews of the men-of-war would figure. He appears to have received an ovation, but the inevitable disturbances arose subsequently among the populace. To prevent further breaches of the peace and to forestall the intentions of the Reservists' Leagues, which in spite of the Allies' embargo maintain their activities, Admiral du Fournet landed a force of a thousand bluejackets to assist the police in keeping order in Athens. This unmistakable manifestation of the Allies' intentions not to tolerate an equivocal situation any longer would seem to have succeeded, where Notes failed, in impressing the King and his advisers. Agitated consultations are stated to have taken place. The report may be believed, for the capital in the virtual occupation of the Allies is a factor which something more than King Constantine's popularity will be required to explain away.

In the meantime, the Greece of the Provisional Government is consolidating its position. A Cabinet has been appointed in which no member of the Triumvirate—M. Venizelos, Admiral Condouriotis, and General Danglis—is serving. It would seem that the accumulation of public business brought about by the separation of the islands and Macedonia from the Athens Government required immediate attention. By appointing a service Cabinet of men of note, but not including any of their number, the Triumvirate have made a last bid for conciliation with Athens. If the King summons this Cabinet to exercise office in the capital, the members of the so-called Provisional Government, it is stated, will resign. His own subjects, no less than the Allies, seem to leave no stone unturned to enable King Constantine to make good his retreat from an untenable position.

The publication of General Sir Percy Lake's dispatches dealing with the operations for the relief of Kut serves to whet the public appetite for a more detailed report from the Commission appointed to inquire into the whole Mesopotamian campaign. In spite of the unusually full narrative, there are clearly many points on which further light is required. Something more is now known of the failure to take Dujailah Redoubt on March 8. General Kemball's column arrived at the point selected for its deployment more than an hour late. "This delay was highly prejudicial to the success of the operation. . . . Prompt and energetic action would probably have forestalled the enemy's reinforcements. But time was lost by waiting for the guns to register and to carry out reconnaissances." Three hours later General Kemball's troops attacked, but the Turks were back in their trenches, and the attempt to relieve Kut had failed. The Commission's report will, perhaps, explain how it came about that those three precious hours after General Kemball's late arrival were lost. Another passage which does not afford welcome reading is a brief reference to the British aircraft. General Lake is commending the services of the airmen who dropped eight tons of provisions in Kut in a fortnight, and he adds:—"The journeys were subject to attacks by enemy aircraft of superior speed and fighting capacity." Yet another state of affairs that ought not to nave been.

Reference has been made from time to time in these columns to the School of Oriental Studies. The provisional date of opening has been fixed for January, 1917, but much headway has yet to be made in the matter of funds, if the school is to play the rôle intended for it An income of £14,000 is aimed at, and towards this amount only £7,500, including grants, has been secured. The Committee desired to raise an endowment fund of £150,000, but its appeal was suspended at the outbreak of the war. The time has now come to renew the appeal, for the war, it is held, has made the creation and the early opening of the school not less but more urgent, and it is a matter of Imperial importance that it should be in full working order as soon as hostilities have ceased. Provision will be made in the school for all the more important languages of the Near, Middle, and Far East and of Africa, and for this reason the appeal for funds may be particularly commended to readers of THE NEAR EAST.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 4.

The Adviserships to the Interior.

It is now officially announced that Sir Ronald Graham has resigned the Advisership to the Interior, and that he is to be succeeded by Mr. James Haines, Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture, to which post Mr. John Langley, Director-General of the State Domains, is to be promoted. This confirms my forecast of a week or so ago, that the new Adviser to the Interior would be taken from outside that Ministry.

Sir Ronald Graham's resignation was by no means unexpected, as it was known that he was due for the next vacant Under-Secretaryship at the Foreign Office, and that it was only a question of months as to when that vacancy would occur. The news has been received with sincere regret by everyone, especially the Egyptian element of the population, who have hastened to give expression to their feelings both by coming to Cairo personally to take leave of him, and also by arranging the various ceremonies with which it has become customary to speed any prominent official whose departure is deplored. H.H. the Sultan, who has bestowed the Order of "Al Kemal" on Lady Graham, gave a State banquet in Sir Ronald's honour at Ras-el-Tin Palace, to which H.E. the High Commissioner, General Murray, the Sultania Princes, the Ministers, and the high Government officials and notables were invited. Yehia Pasha, President of the Native Court of Appeal, held a *thé d'honneur* at his house; while prominent Egyptians are organising farewell fêtes in Cairo and in the provinces, where it is understood Sir Ronald Graham will make a tour before he finally leaves the country at the end of the month. To judge from the articles that have appeared in the local Press, their regret at his departure is sincere and widespread. Nevertheless, as one of the papers has put it, that regret is tempered by the thought that he is obtaining well-merited promotion, and that his successor is such an able man.

The New Adviser.

Mr. James Haines has had twenty years' experience of Egypt. He was for several years Controller of the Department of Direct Taxes, a position once held by the late Sir Eldon Gorst. He displayed conspicuous ability in that difficult post, and when the Department of Agriculture was transformed into a Ministry in the autumn of 1913 he was chosen to be its first Under-Secretary of State. Since that date he has confirmed the good opinion held of him by the British authorities; he steered the new administration with great skill through the troubled waters on which it had been launched, and has contributed in no mean manner to the solution of many of the problems that continually arise in a country like Egypt, and that require delicate handling. It was an open secret that he was marked out for the post of Adviser to the Interior whenever it might fall vacant, and he should fill it with credit to himself and benefit to the country. His appointment appears to be very popular in Egyptian circles.

The promotion of Mr. John Langley to the Under-Secretaryship of State for Agriculture has come as a great surprise to everyone, as, without detracting from his merits, it was thought that the post would go to one of the higher officials in that Ministry who had done yeoman service in organising the agricultural administration when it was first formed in 1909, and who has since done much to secure the success that has attended its work, especially since the outbreak of war. However, Mr. Langley, who, before going to the Domains, had been Inspector-General of Irrigation, and who possessed seniority, was chosen, and it only remains for us to wish him success in his new sphere of work.

The Egyptian Courts.

I understand that Mr. H. W. Halton, British Counsellor in the Mixed Court of Appeal, will after all be appointed Vice-President of the Native Court of Appeal in the place of Judge Bond, who recently retired. Mr. Halton was offered the post some little while back, but, as I reported at the time, he declined it. However, it is understood that he has been persuaded to reconsider his decision, and that an announcement to this effect will be made as soon as Sir William Brunyate, the new Judicial Adviser, returns to Cairo. Mr. Halton's return to the Native Courts, which he left some years ago in order to take up an appointment as judge in the Mixed Courts of First Instance, is most welcome, and his nomination to the Vice-Presidency of the Court of Appeal is an excellent step; for he is most popular with the Egyptian element, and in addition to his legal qualifications he has displayed great administrative ability in his direction of the affairs of the various Courts over which he has from time to time had to preside.

It is, indeed, quite time that the personnel of the Native Courts was strengthened. With the departure of Judge Bond the English vacancies in the higher Court were increased to three, while in the Courts of First Instance two still exist. The position has been aggravated by the fact that Mr. Sheldon Amos has been absent—on munitions work—for two years from the Court of Appeal, and that two of the junior judges, Messrs. Baynes and Sanderson, are at the front. The strain on the judges who have been left to do the work has been very great, and it is really marvellous that they have been able so successfully to cope with it. Some of these vacancies ought most certainly to be filled speedily. But whilst the Mixed Courts can spare no one, and the Bar is reduced to its minimum, the administrative staff of the Ministry of Justice, which should be the natural recruiting ground for the junior judgeships, has now been reduced by promotions and the demands of the Army to two English inspectors only, so that under present conditions no relief can be obtained from that quarter. The Government is certainly faced with a very difficult problem, and it would not be at all surprising if it found itself forced to apply for the return from the front of those members of its legal staff to whom it accorded permission to take up commissions.

British 5 per Cent. Exchequer Bonds.

The authorities at home have at last awakened to the fact that there is an untapped source of capital in Egypt which might well be drawn upon for the purpose of supplying the British Empire with funds for the carrying on of the war. When the previous British loans were issued, I called attention to the fact that no provision had been made for obtaining subscriptions from the British colony in Egypt and from Egyptians. They could, it was true, subscribe through the local banks, but the minimum was £100, and no facilities such as were being offered to the small investors at home were available out here, whilst the deduction of income-tax made the loan unattractive, especially for non-British subjects, as compared with the French one. It is now announced that the National Bank of Egypt is prepared to receive applications, from £5 upwards, for British

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5 per cent Exchequer Bonds, and that the bonds can be held in London, so as to save transfer and insurance expenses. This is an excellent departure, and as the interest is payable free of income-tax to all residents outside the United Kingdom, they should prove a great attraction to the small investor, and should enable Britishers out here to emulate the patriotic attitude of their fellow-countrymen at home: while Egyptians will also be able to give practical expression to their loyalty. It is, nevertheless, a pity that the offering of facilities to the small investor in Egypt should have been delayed so long, for it has coincided with the advertisement for applications for the new French War Loan. The latter, which bears the same interest as the British Exchequer Bonds, and is also free of income-tax, is issued at 88.75 frs. per 100 frs., as compared with the par issue of the British bonds. This represents 5.6 per cent., and in reality the return comes to just under 6 per cent. owing to the present favourable rate of exchange with France. In these circumstances the non-British small investor will almost certainly turn to the French investment, whereas if the British bonds had been available six months ago he would certainly have put his money in them.

The Greek Situation.

In view of the developments which the Greek situation has undergone, the Hellenes of Egypt held another meeting of the community on Sunday last in Cairo and Alexandria. Without a single dissentient voice, the community declared itself in favour of M. Venizelos, and despatched to the courageous Cretan a telegram advising him and Admiral Condouriotis of this decision. At the same time a committee was formed to recruit volunteers and to collect funds for assisting the new Pan-Hellenic movement. Already substantial sums have been remitted to Salonika. It is stated that M. Sachtouris, the Consul-General at Alexandria, who in the past has adopted a somewhat ultra-Royalist attitude, has expressed the desire to resign, as he no longer approves of the policy followed by his chiefs at Athens.

SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, September 28.

H.E. the Governor-General and his Staff are expected to return to Khartoum in the first week of October. Lady Wingate will accompany him. Other visitors to Erkowit who will be returning simultaneously are Major and Mrs. Spinks, Captain Pattisson, Captain and Mrs. Gowland, and Mrs. Burnett.

Major Vandeleur, Second-in-Command of the Camel Corps, has arrived in Khartoum, from el Obeid, and Captain Maclaine, of the same corps, accompanied him. They are proceeding for a change of air.

The Feast of Kurban Bairam will be celebrated, as usual, as a public holiday extending over several days, from October 7. There will be the usual levee and reception, and a number of notables will receive robes of honour.

One of the results of the war is the difficulty of obtaining the cloth of the kind used for robes of honour. It is a good class of red cloth, and it appears that the whole of the available supply in Egypt was taken by the Sultan for ceremonial purposes; and the merchants find that they cannot replace it.

The weather in Khartoum has been somewhat hotter, but it rarely attains the temperatures of last year, and on the whole the season may be said to be very fair. The months of September and October are never pleasant, owing to the damp and the large numbers of flying pests.

There were a good many reports of locusts in the course of the last week, but they do not seem to have done much damage. The chief trouble is said to be the need of additional seed at Tokar, with which to re-sow the areas washed out.

Commenting on the Mesopotamia despatches, the *Times of India* urges the immediate and generous recognition of all who did well, in order to raise the *moral* of the force and as an act of justice to the fighting men.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, October 3.

According to present plans, the High Commissioner should leave Troodos and visit Limassol, *en route* for Nicosia, on October 20. Here there are always matters of local importance to be presented or discussed. Ever since the occupation Limassol has been the most progressive of the district capitals, this being principally due to the fact that it is the chief centre for the export of wine and carobs. General progress, too, in municipal matters has been more conspicuous than in other towns.

The Legislative Council.

October 11 has been fixed for polling throughout the island. The number of new candidates is considerable. Among the late members who are retiring from politics is M. Pascal Constantinides, who may be called the *doyen* of island representatives. An advocate of ability and great experience, gained under both Turkish and British administration, he has long been regarded as one of the most far-seeing and capable men of the island, his opinion carrying great weight in the counsels of the Greek community. He is supporting the candidature of his son, Neoptolemos Pascali, who for some time studied and was called to the bar in England.

Archiepiscopal Election.

The course of the election is not running smoothly, as it was hoped would be the case. The Holy Synod has commenced proceedings against a paper called the Κυπριακὸς Φύλαξ ("Cypriot Guardian") for libel, and, unless pacific counsels prevail, this will be followed, it seems, by actions against the Holy Synod on the part of citizens of Larnaca and Limassol, who have felt aggrieved by decisions pronounced by that body in the matter of objections made against the election of certain representatives. Regret is expressed in most quarters that there should be a danger of such regrettable incidents as would be involved in the appearance in the civil law courts of clerics of the highest rank, and others, as accusers and accused, or as witnesses, in connection with questions which ought to be settled within the precincts of the Church.

The Wheat Supply.

With reference to the order of the Egyptian Government prohibiting the export of wheat, mentioned last week, it has been arranged that shipments to Cyprus of quantities not exceeding 500 tons monthly may for the present be allowed.

SIR RONALD GRAHAM'S DEPARTURE.

(From An Alexandria Correspondent.)

Your Cairo Correspondent will doubtless have dealt fully with the subject of the approaching departure from Egypt of the Adviser to the Ministry of the Interior. As the event is of considerable importance, it may not be out of place to record the impression of an Alexandrian.

Sir Ronald Graham has spent more time in Alexandria lately than he would have done in normal circumstances, but it was only recently, upon the second anniversary of the outbreak of war, that the British community, as a whole, had the opportunity of seeing him on the platform. In the course of the proceedings he made a most interesting speech, and though his abilities in this direction were doubtless known to his personal friends they were in the nature of a revelation to a large section of his audience. Save on the comparatively rare occasions upon which Mr. Cameron, H.B.M.'s Consul-General in Alexandria, lends himself to the task, the community too seldom hears a good speech in the mother tongue, and in this instance the effort—if effort it were—was warmly appreciated.

Where first-hand knowledge is lacking, there is a tendency, more pronounced perhaps in Egypt than elsewhere, to echo the opinion of the last acquaintance with whom one has discussed a personality or event. If this somewhat dubious test of public opinion be applied in the case of Sir Ronald Graham, he will not suffer in the result; fortunately for him, his reputation rests upon a securer basis.

In a leading article in its issue of September 26, the *Egyptian Mail* states that Sir Ronald "leaves behind him no enemies and many friends of all nationalities." The reflection that he has no enemies is apt to be the anodyne of the nonentity in his moments of abstraction—and even then he may deceive himself. But when applied to a man in the prime of life, who has occupied one of the most important positions in the Administration of a country such as Egypt, it is at best a doubtful compliment. The present writer prefers to believe that Sir Ronald's enemies are few, that such as they are, their possession does him credit, and heartily concurs with the opinion expressed in the latter portion of the paragraph quoted. As to his abilities, it should suffice to say that he worked successfully under a man whom one might reasonably suppose to have been exacting where the public security of the country was concerned, and to whose memory he paid a touching and finely conceived tribute in the course of the speech to which reference has already been made. Sir Ronald and Lady Graham, then, are among those to whom Egypt is loth to say farewell.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, September 24.

Bulgarian Atrocities.

Every day the Danube yields up a ghastly toll of bodies, horribly mutilated by the Bulgarians. The *Dimineatza* demands an official commission of inquiry into these atrocities, suggesting that it shall be composed of military men, magistrates, journalists, and delegates from the neutral countries. "It is necessary," says this journal, "that we should have exact information of every Bulgarian crime possible."

The Germans who surrender on the Dobrujan front—and they are not a few—when coming in contact with the Roumanian troops invariably call out, "Wir sind nicht Bulgaren," anxious to let it be known at once that they took no part in the fearful torturing of the unfortunate wounded and non-combatants at Tutrakan. But, as a Roumanian paper remarks, after what has happened in Belgium, Serbia, and elsewhere, it is difficult to see what difference there is.

In spite of the very justifiable hatred and thirst for revenge engendered in the Roumanians by these Bulgarian atrocities, the people of this country preserve their self-respect. The following incident which I witnessed myself serves to emphasize this fact. A party of Bulgarian prisoners was passing through one of the streets of this city, in charge of Roumanian militia. The public gazed at them in strict silence as they tramped by, but a couple of street lads near me began to whistle. "Silence!" exclaimed a man, who, judging by his leather apron, was probably a bootmaker in a small way of business. "Remember you are Roumanians." And a murmur of approval ran through the crowd of onlookers. As a matter of fact, I could readily have forgiven the observers if they had hooted the prisoners; for I had just come from a hospital where I had seen an officer with a knife-slash across the upper part of each thigh. These had been inflicted upon him by a young Bulgarian girl, while he was lying wounded.

Queen Marie's Hospital.

On Tuesday the hospital in the Royal Palace organized by Queen Marie was inaugurated. At present 300 beds have been arranged for, but many more can be provided if required. The Red Cross flag now flies over the Palace, in place of the Royal Standard, which has been relegated to one wing of the building.

News for the Troops.

The Ministry of Public Instruction has decided to publish a Bulletin, similar to those issued to the Allied armies, for distribution among the Roumanian troops. The question of allowing all Bucharest journals to be sent to the front is also being considered by the Ministry of War.

In Transylvania.

The troops advancing in Transylvania have found in that region considerable quantities of provisions of all kinds. Apart from the supplies found at Brasso and other centres, it is surprising to learn of the existence of large numbers of cattle, sheep, and pigs. Thus the feeding of the Roumanian troops is proceeding under the most favourable conditions. Everything is paid for most promptly, and the Transylvanian Roumanians flock to sell what they have to their cousins from "The Country," as they term this land. On their part, it is reported, the soldiers are enchanted by the country through which they march, and especially by the handsome kine. On one occasion a magnificent young bull was offered for sale, and the officers of an infantry regiment from Wallachia clubbed together and bought it for the regiment. Now, its horns decorated with ribbons of the Roumanian tricolour, the bull proudly heads the regiment on march. The bull's head, it may be added, forms the arms of Wallachia.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of the 2nd inst. announces:—The U.S. cruiser Des Moines is expected to leave Alexandria for Jaffa before the end of this week. It is believed that an American medical mission will sail on board for Palestine in order to assist in fighting cholera, which is reported to be spreading there in certain districts where people take drinking water from contaminated wells.

NEWS FROM SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)
Cairo, October 6.

The Question of Relief.

The question of the distribution of relief among the victims of starvation in Syria is, unfortunately, not yet definitely settled. It seems that the Ottoman Government insists on the distribution of relief being carried out by a joint committee of the Ottoman Red Crescent and the American Red Cross. Unless, however, this is left solely and entirely in the hands of the American Red Cross, the Syrian Relief Committees that have been formed in Egypt and the Sudan will not part with the subscriptions hitherto collected. Pending the result of its negotiations on this subject with the American Red Cross, the Cairo Central Committee is urging those who have put their contributions on the subscription lists to hasten payment, so that the total amount should be ready for immediate use as soon as this vexed question is satisfactorily settled. Meantime, it is hoped that the British authorities here will hurry the formalities in connection with private remittances destined for close relatives, of which the American Diplomatic Agency here has kindly offered to assume the charge, because it is reported that the forms which were filled up a few weeks ago by the intending senders are still under examination in the Licensing Officers' Department. It is comforting to learn, in the meantime, from people who have lately managed to escape from Syria to Ruad Island, and thence to Egypt—and the numbers of these fugitives is said to have largely increased lately—that the Maronite Patriarch has mortgaged a part of the patriarchal estates against a loan of about £20,000 made by two rich Moslem merchants of Beyrout, and has distributed the proceeds among the poor in urgent need of help.

A Romantic Story.

Apropos of this venerable prelate, an interesting account of his alleged escape from trial by Jemal's court-martial is given. There is a touch of mediæval romance about the story, and I will therefore briefly summarise it:—An Austrian nobleman, in the course of a tour in the Holy Land and the Lebanon, met a Lebanese lad who took his fancy by his comeliness and bright wit. Having the spirit of adventure, the youngster readily accepted the nobleman's offer to enter his service and go with him to Austria. Thanks to personal ability and high patronage, the Lebanese had such a brilliant career of rapid promotions that he now holds one of the most important commands in the Austrian army as a general. A few years ago he is said to have visited the Lebanon, and especially his native village, and to have made generous donations to deserving members of his family. A relative of this Austrianised general, an Exarch of the Maronite Church, who is now in the United States, on hearing of the impending trial by court-martial of the Maronite Patriarch and his suite, had the happy idea of appealing to his distinguished relative for immediate intervention. In his long and impassioned appeal, the Exarch explained that such a humiliating and undeserved blow, aimed at the aged prelate, as the temporal and spiritual head of the Maronites, would react on the whole body of the Lebanese and spell moral and material ruin to the land and people. Although the reply sent by the general's secretary was couched in stiff military language—evidently meant as a screen—yet the desired result was not long in being attained; for the Ottoman Government, which had actually decided to have the Patriarch and his suite tried at the court-martial at Aley, recalled this decision, evidently on representations from the Imperial Court at Vienna.

British Prisoners Removed.

From the same source it is learned that the Ottoman Government has removed the British, French, and Russian prisoners in Syria to Kutahia, in Anatolia, and that the ex-Director General of the French Railways, now in Paris, is using his influence with the ex-Ottoman Commissaire of Railways in Syria, who is now in Constantinople, and is an important member of the committee, with a view to his prevailing upon the Ottoman Government to have these and all Allied prisoners transferred to Constantinople.

It is reported that the well-known French College of the Lazarists at Aintoura, Mount Lebanon, near Beyrout, the pioneer of European institutions of higher education in Syria, has been transformed into barracks and now occupied by Turkish soldiers, and that the members of this congregation—no doubt those of Ottoman nationality—have sought refuge in some of the Maronite convents, where they are said to be suffering great privations.

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AT SHIRAZ A YEAR AGO.

(From a Correspondent.)

Whatever the case may have been with regard to other parts of Persia, it is a fact that in Shiraz there was no anti-British feeling at all in the early stages of the war. Indeed, the members of the small British community there were made to feel in many ways that the sentiments of the upper-class Persians towards them were as friendly as ever, if not rather more friendly; and when the work of the German propagandists began to bear fruit at last, and the "pro-German" party began to make itself offensive in a number of small ways, the better-class Persians, as a rule, were undoubtedly vexed, and honestly resented the underhand work.

Then came the arrival of the notorious Herr Wassmuss, who proved a veritable stormy petrel. He did not stay very long in Shiraz, but he contrived to stir up a certain amount of mischief, and his activities in the south, whither he betook himself, doubtless exercised a malignant effect upon the development of events at Shiraz. It is doubtful, however, if things would ever have reached the stage they actually did reach if an unkind fate had not helped the German intrigues most substantially. The British occupation of Bushire was in itself an excellent step no doubt, but the hauling down of the Persian flag and the hoisting of the Union Jack provided our enemies with just the lever they wanted to rouse feeling against us. The Persians are proud and extremely sensitive, and the incident touched them to the quick. Wassmuss and his agents saw their opportunity, and seized it at once. The result soon became apparent in the form of street processions, the formation of corps of *mujaheddin* (volunteers), and the delivery of many fiery speeches in mosques and other places. Then news reached Shiraz that an attempt had been made upon the life of the British Consul at Ispahan, resulting in his being wounded and one of his Indian *sowars* being killed; and a few days afterwards the British Vice-Consul at Shiraz was actually murdered in the streets while accompanied by an escort of gendarmes. These escorts had been supplied to the Consul and the Vice-Consul, and also to the bank and the telegraph office, which were thus directly under the protection of the Persian Government.

From this point things went from bad to worse. Wassmuss and his agents lost no opportunity of making mischief; and the first fruits of the renewed agitation were the wounding of a Persian clerk of the Shiraz Consulate and the killing of one of the Consular guards. Then came, with dramatic suddenness, the great *coup*.

It was well planned and skilfully carried out, and if the Consul had any suspicions of what was in store it is safe to say that no other member of the British community had. We were prepared for many things, but hardly for what actually happened.

On November 9 the only Swedish officer of Gendarmerie then in Shiraz left the city, under the pretext of having business in the north in connection with making preparations for escorting a new Governor-General of Fars, who was said to be on his way down from Teheran. As a matter of fact there can be no reasonable doubt that the captain, considering discretion the better part of valour, left simply in order to avoid responsibility for what was to follow. The next morning, soon after nine o'clock, parties of gendarmes suddenly appeared all round the Consulate, occupied the adjoining buildings, placed machine guns and a field gun in positions commanding the Consulate, and summoned the Consul, Major O'Connor, to surrender. Simultaneously the telephone wires were cut and telegraphic communications were also cut off.

The demand for surrender was made in writing, and the document, which was signed by "the National Committee for the Protection of Persian Independence," was a truly remarkable production. It announced that the "provisional arrest of the Consul and the British colony" had been decided upon by "the Persian patriots"; that the Consul was given a half-hour to decide what to do; and that if he and the British surrendered they would be sent to Borasjun, there to be kept prisoners until they could be exchanged for certain Persians and Germans held by the British. The English ladies, it was added, might choose between remaining at Shiraz, where they would be "perfectly safe," or accompanying their men folk to Borasjun, whence they would be escorted to Bushire. Failing surrender, the Consulate and the British houses would be bombarded; and "the Committee" expressly declined any responsibility for the consequences that might follow—"especially for the women." One wonders whether this last rather artistic touch was due to Persian or German suggestion! Probably German.

In the circumstances resistance would have been worse than futile: it would have been criminal folly. The surrender was made, and within a few hours the prisoners of the "National Committee" were marched out of Shiraz. Owing to the short notice given, most members of the little party had no baggage worth speaking of, and consequently all suffered a good deal of inconvenience on the road. It is worthy of note that the departure from Shiraz was witnessed by very few of the citizens, and the only demonstration of any hostile feeling came from the Gendarmerie. It was satisfactory to learn subsequently that the "Committee" and their friends were bitterly disappointed by their failure to find the large supply of rifles, machine guns, and so forth—to say nothing of vast sums of gold—which they had expected to secure in the Consulate. The German agents who set afloat the tales about these hordes may have honestly believed them, judging British methods to be similar to German, or they may have acted simply with the aim of prodding their dupes into action. In either case the Persians, at least, must have been sadly surprised by the meagreness of their booty. Nevertheless, our enemies had, for the time, scored rather heavily, and Herr Wassmuss must have felt entitled to congratulate himself on the success of his labours for the Fatherland. The end of the story has, however, still to be written.

MANCHESTER SYRIAN RELIEF FUND.

At a meeting held on Tuesday in Manchester under the chairmanship of Mr. E. Tootal Broadhurst, a local Syrian Relief Fund was inaugurated, and a committee was appointed. Lord Bryce, in a letter to the Lord Mayor of Manchester expressing his wishes for the success of the fund, wrote:—"The information which has reached me from Syria, of whose correctness there can, unfortunately, be no question, describes the condition of the Christian, and to some extent of the Jewish, population there as most deplorable. The Lebanon, which has been the one peaceful and prosperous part of the Turkish dominions, because it enjoyed an autonomous government, has now been laid waste, and the unfortunate villagers and peasantry are starving. All the help that English charity can send will be needed to relieve their sufferings."

The meeting appointed the following officials:—President, the Lord Mayor; vice-presidents, Lord Bryce and the Mayor of Salford; chairman of committee, Mr. E. Tootal Broadhurst; hon. treasurer, Mr. E. E. Rigby; hon. secretary, Mr. K. Jebara; and a committee composed as follows:—Mr. Alfred Brookes, Major Cardwell, the Dean of Manchester, Sir Edward Donner, Sir Arthur Haworth, Mr. G. C. Haworth, Mr. J. H. Macmillan, Sir Henry A. Miers, Mr. C. T. Needham, M.P., the Rev. J. E. Roberts, Dr. C. W. Saleeby, Sir F. H. Smith, Sir William Stephens, Mr. Harold Sumner, Mr. William Sutcliffe, and Colonel Sykes. The executive committee consists of Mr. Alfred Brookes, J.P., Mr. S. Cohen, Mr. E. Kahla, Mr. Y. Majdalany, and Mr. F. Hourani.

Donations amounting to about £2,000 were promised in the meeting. The committee have issued an appeal to the public in which they emphasise the urgency of the need, and ask for a prompt and generous response.

Cheques may be made payable to the hon. treasurer, Mr. E. E. Rigby, and sent to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank, Limited, Mosley Street, Manchester, or its branches.

It is announced that the offices of the Military Forwarding Officer, Devonport, have been removed to Avonmouth Docks, Bristol (G.W. Railway), and the public is informed that all parcels, gifts, etc., intended for troops serving with the forces in Egypt, Salonika, Mesopotamia, India, and East Africa, which have hitherto been dealt with at Devonport, should from henceforward be sent:—C/o. the Military Forwarding Officer, Avonmouth Docks (near Bristol).

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SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

AN APPEAL.

The following appeal on behalf of the Endowment Fund of the School of Oriental Studies at the London Institution has been issued by Lord Curzon (chairman of the Appeal Committee), Lord Cromer, the Lord Mayor, Sir J. P. Hewett (chairman, Governing Body), Sir Montagu C. Turner (chairman, Executive of Appeal Committee), and Mr. Lionel Martin (chairman of Council, London Chamber of Commerce):—

The buildings of the School of Oriental Studies, in regard to which announcements have already been made in the Press, are now ready for occupation. The school has received a Royal charter, and the provisional date of opening has been fixed for January, 1917. His Majesty the King has graciously consented to be patron of the school.

The objects of this new institution have been frequently explained and are now fairly familiar to the public. They are three in number—(1) To provide a place where the Englishmen who will presently be engaged in governing or garrisoning the Oriental and African parts of the Empire may learn the languages and study the literature, the religions, and the customs of the peoples with whom they will be so soon brought into contact, and their influence over whom will largely depend upon their familiarity with indigenous character, ideas, and institutions; (2) to offer a training to those who are about to proceed to the same countries to take part in commercial enterprise or avocations; (3) to furnish in the capital of the Empire a meeting-ground and focus for the scholars of the East of all nationalities, where, on their visits to this country, they may be assured of a sympathetic welcome, and, if required, of opportunities for study among those who are engaged in kindred pursuits.

In all these respects the war has made the creation and the early opening of this school not less but more urgent; and it is a matter of Imperial importance that it should be in full working order as soon as hostilities have ceased. Evidence has been accumulating in recent years, and even since the war began, that the training of our Civil servants and officers in the languages, the beliefs, and the modes of thought of Oriental peoples falls short of the ideal which we ought to have in view. In the new relations that will develop when the war is over there must be a higher standard of efficiency in these respects, if our rule is to continue to commend itself to the heart and brain of those with whom we are brought into administrative or diplomatic relations.

Similarly on the business side it is clear that a long and fiercely-waged commercial war will follow immediately upon the cessation of hostilities. Information has been received that important steps are already being taken in Germany to give a higher education to Germans about to proceed to the East. It is probably in China, where the population is estimated at over 400 millions, that the commercial war will be most acute, and that the opportunities will be greatest, if only our business representatives are properly equipped to take advantage of them. Some of those who sign this letter have seen with their own eyes the immense strides that have been made in recent years by our present enemies in their attempt to acquire the mercantile hegemony of the Eastern world, and we hold that a great effort will be required, and that now is the time for it if this advance is to be checked by us, and if Great Britain is to recover her once unchallenged position in the Orient.

In the third category, may we not hope, after the war, for a much closer co-operation, a clearer understanding, a livelier interest, the more universal recognition of a common aim between the peoples of the East and the West who are fellow-subjects of the same Sovereign, and whose common allegiance will have been tested and purified by the fiery ordeal of common service and sacrifice against a common enemy? Just as the soldiers of these various climes have stood shoulder to shoulder on the battlefield or in the trenches, will not the students and scholars, the civilians and men of peace, crave for the closer association of fellowship in a common spiritual and intellectual aim?

Provision will be made in the school for all the more important languages of the Near, Middle, and Far East and of Africa; but above all we desire to urge the claims to a further recognition of Indian studies, especially in view of the splendid part that India has played in the struggle for our Imperial existence.

The Berlin School of Oriental Languages had, before the war, an income of £10,000; the income required for the school in London, of which the scope is necessarily more extended, is £14,000. Of this sum the school has at present in view an income of about £7,000, including grants from the Imperial Government and the Government of India. The committee desire to raise an endowment fund of £150,000 for this purpose, towards which they have now as a result of a preliminary appeal (which was suspended in August, 1914) about £10,000. One subscriber of £100 has raised his subscription to £1,000 as a mark of appreciation of the services rendered by India in this crisis. We appeal for similar help and, where possible, for similar generosity.

In addition to the signatories of this appeal the Prime Minister, the Marquis of Crewe, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Viscount Grey of Fallodon, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Henderson, and many others have joined the appeal committee.

Donations and subscriptions may be paid to the head office or to any branch of the London County and Westminster Bank, or to the secretary of the executive of the appeal committee at the School of Oriental Studies, Finsbury Circus, E.C.

ROUMANIA AND TRANSYLVANIA

There was a crowded meeting in the great hall of King's College last Friday, when Dr. Seton-Watson delivered an address on Roumania and Transylvania. His Excellency the Roumanian Minister, M. Nicolas Misu, was in the chair.

Dr. Seton-Watson traced the history of Transylvania from the time when, in the eleventh century, the Magyars extended their sway over the country, began to make settlements therein, and were followed shortly by the Saxons. Thus a dominant class was formed in a community where the mass of the people consisted of Roumanian peasants, who never obtained recognition. When the Reformation brought religious equality for other sects, the Greek Church, to which the peasantry belonged, was excluded from this benefit. In 1848, when the spirit of nationality was abroad in Europe, the Transylvanian peasantry became affected by it; but the Magyars, refusing to recognise any nationality but their own, passed a law uniting Transylvania with Hungary. A racial war resulted, to be followed by ten years of repression, constitutional government being restored in 1859 after the disastrous war with Italy. The Transylvanian Diet then assembled and passed a law giving equal rights to Magyars and Roumanians; but this alarmed the bigots of Buda-Pesth. The Diet was dissolved, its laws were annulled, and Transylvanian autonomy ceased. A law passed in 1868 guaranteed equal rights to all nationalities in Hungary, but, as the result of the deliberate policy of the entire Magyar ruling class, this remained a dead letter. There were no State schools, primary or secondary, where the language of instruction was Roumanian; and Roumanian voters were prevented from getting representation in the Hungarian Parliament by wholesale jerrymandering of constituencies and every conceivable device of chicanery and intimidation. In one case, when a Roumanian candidate was winning "hands down," the returning officer stuck up a dummy, a non-existent person, of the same name. Voting was by word of mouth; the votes of the peasants were credited to the imaginary person, and so the Government candidate got in.

Of the present situation Dr. Seton-Watson said that Germany was straining every nerve against Roumania, partly because she wanted to convince neutral Powers that she was able to help small Powers who sided with her, while the Entente was not, partly because she was anxious to get possession of a country full of corn and oil, whose products would ease the situation for the Central Powers, but, above all, in order to maintain her connection with Turkey and to keep open the road to the East. A psychological reason why German troops fought with special enthusiasm in Transylvania was because of the Saxon colony they found there. We must picture to ourselves the feeling that would be aroused among our soldiers if in Macedonia they found English villages dating from the reign of Henry III. and speaking the dialect of Yorkshire or Somerset. The German effort must be crushed at all costs. The honour and the credit of the Entente were at stake.

Sir Arthur Evans, President of the British Association, also spoke, and a telegram was sent from the meeting to the University of Bucharest expressing good wishes for the success of the Roumanian army and for the liberation of Transylvania.

ROUMANIAN FLAG DAY.

The Organising Secretary of the Roumanian Flag Day, 1, Central Buildings, Westminster, has received the following letter from Lieutenant-General Georgesco, A.D.C. to the King of Roumania, and representative of the Supreme Command of the Roumanian Army at the British Headquarters: "I have visited the offices of the Roumanian Flag Day and I am much pleased and impressed with the organisation and preparations that are being made to hold a day in order to celebrate the entrance of Roumania into the war. I am sure from what I have seen at the offices that the Roumanian Flag Day will be a great success. We Roumanians are fighting for the same great principles as yourselves, and the motto of all the Allies must be. 'One enemy, one front, one command.' The Roumanian people will appreciate this British effort for our wounded, not only on account of the money that may be raised (though that is important), but because it will be welcomed as an expression of the British goodwill towards Roumania, and because it will tend to strengthen that solidarity of the Allies, which is so essential to our ultimate triumph. I hope and believe that the Roumanian Flag Day as now being organised will be a complete and conspicuous success."

A Reuter's message from Amsterdam, dated October 18, says:—The *Kölnische Volkszeitung* reports from North Palestine that the Turkish Government two months ago handed over to the Germans the famous monastery on Mount Carmel, which, as it was under French protection, was seized by the Turks. The monastery is now occupied by German Carmelite monks.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Eighty-nine years ago—October 20, 1827—was fought the Battle of Navarino, in which the Turkish and Egyptian fleets were utterly smashed by the combined British, French, and Russian squadron commanded by Admiral Sir Edward Codrington. That was really the turning point in the fierce and desperate struggle for Greek independence. At the time, Sultan Mahmud, with the very efficient help of Mohammed Ali Pasha, had got the "rebellion" fairly well in hand, and Turkey looked like weathering the storm. But Navarino put an entirely fresh complexion on affairs, and Greece soon afterwards was free. King Constantine and his pro-German friends may have forgotten these unimportant things, but I hope and believe that a good many *real* Hellenes have better memories, and that to-day they will remember with gratitude what the three senior partners in the new Grand Alliance did for their forebears nearly ninety years ago.

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The members of the Smyrna Municipality appear to have made up their minds not to let any petty questions of finance cause them undue worry. At any rate, the municipality recently issued £T30,000 worth of one and two-piastre notes. These form a forced currency, but they are not accepted at the post-office or in payment of taxes, nor—need it be added?—are they current outside Smyrna. Further, they are not redeemable if torn *or dirty*. I am not an expert in High Finance, but it almost looks to me as if these novel notes will be jealously guarded against damage by their lucky (!) possessors, and as if the Smyrna Municipality had done quite a good stroke of business. I am, however, unable to say what local opinion on the subject may be.

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The Young Turks seem to have been rather panicky of late, probably because, being by no means fools, they realise that the day of reckoning is very, very near. At any rate, it appears to be a fact that they have been making a great many arrests during the past two months. In a letter received a few days ago from a correspondent who is well placed for gathering trustworthy news one of these arrests is rather quaintly reported. "The Mufti of Damascus," says the writer, "has been arrested for lack of enthusiasm for the war, which, apparently in an unguarded moment, he denied to be 'holy.'" Can the absent-minded Mufti, I wonder, have been reading Dr. Snouck Hurgronje's masterly little book "The Holy War 'Made in Germany'"?

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No: on second thoughts it is safe to conclude that the Mufti will have had no opportunity of reading the book referred to. Whatever other works may be allowed to enter Turkey at the present time, the Leiden Professor of Arabic's scholarly essay is sure to be banned, and to remain so as long as the Germans retain any shred of influence in the country. For not only does he show how preposterous was the attempt to involve the whole Moslem world in a *Jehad* for the benefit of the Germans and a handful of free-thinking "Young Turks"; he also exposes, by means of quotations from their pre-war speeches and writings, the sheer dishonesty of some of the leading professors (German, of course!) and others who are now posing as ardent champions of Islam. Thus, he reminds us how Professor Marquart, of the University of Berlin, in 1913 derided "the alleged function of Islam as a bearer of culture," and how he spoke "with biting irony of the 'blessings of the *jehâd*, predatory murder on the path of Allah turned into a religious duty,' *i.e.*, that duty which Germany now has again impressed on Turkey." And a little later we read how "in a German colonial congress this resolution was adopted:—'*As the expansion of Islâm is a serious danger to the development of our colonies, the colonial congress suggests for earnest consideration*,'" etc.

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The passages quoted would suffice to make the Germans anxious to keep this neutral professor's book out of Turkey. But they do not stand alone; far from it. Dr. Snouck Hurgronje tells us that "Professor Martin Hartmann, who teaches the science of Islam at the Seminary for Oriental Languages in Berlin . . . never tires of pointing out that the Moslems are kept from participating in culture mainly by the institutions of Islam"; and that "He calls the Caliphate of the Ottoman Sultans a usurpation which could only have been committed through contempt for the holy tradition." At the time of the Turco-Italian war the same Professor Hartmann also wrote that the idea of "a holy war, *i.e.*, of war against all unbelievers, except those who are especially designated to the community by the leaders of Islâm as friends of Islâm" was "madness," and declared that "all civilised nations" would unanimously stand together "against any attempt to excite religious fanaticism," and that Islam was "a religion of hate and of war," which "must not be suffered to be the ruling principle in a nation of the civilised world." It would be easy to add to this list of deadly quotations; but enough has been written to show why the little book is not likely to have fallen into the hands of the Mufti of Damascus—or anybody else in German-bossed Turkey.

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A Spartan friend, who knows King Constantine's latest (at the moment of writing) Prime Minister very well, assures me in a letter that "he is far more *Anglophilos* than *Germanophilos*. He may," adds my friend, "admire German philology, but he thinks a great deal of English ethics, character, and liberalism. In the University, as a student, he was always the popular Spiro Lambros, and afterwards, as a professor and as Rector of the University, he still retained his popularity. . . . Son of the late well-known antiquarian, he was appointed Professor of General History at Athens University in 1887. He has written several important works in German, French, English, and Greek, mostly on philological and historical subjects, and he is the author of a few dramas and of some poetry. He is of independent means, very popular in society, a charming companion, and—had never mixed in politics until called upon by King Constantine."

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When Dar-es-Salaam surrendered I expressed my great satisfaction—due to the avenging of an act of treachery of the most disgraceful kind on the part of the Huns. A recent report issued by the Belgian colonial authorities in connection with the capture of Tabora seems to indicate that the German Governor of Dar-es-Salaam was quite a specialist in the way of doing dirty work. On August 4, 1914, he was entertaining a number of Belgian guests at dinner, when, towards the end of the meal, a telegram was handed to him. He read it, rose from his seat, and said: "Gentlemen, there will be no coffee. I have grave news for you. Belgium has declared war on Germany. You are my prisoners." I am glad his official residence was afterwards so knocked about by our men-of-war. His ideas of "rising to the occasion" are, let us hope, peculiarly his own.

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It is not only at Salonika that the military have, unintentionally, no doubt, rendered service to archæology. Trench digging on the scale that it has to be carried out on to-day is indeed sure, sooner or later, to produce "finds" of interest in ground so rich in historical interest as South-Eastern Europe. I learn from a Bucharest correspondent that early in August Bulgarian soldiers who were engaged in digging a trench in the neighbourhood of Rustchuk came upon a tomb at a depth of about two metres below the surface. It contained, besides human remains, two heavy silver bracelets and some large earrings, with pendants in gold, of an Oriental pattern. The grave was probably that of the wife of some former Turkish pasha, but apparently its date has not yet been decided. The bracelets and earrings have been sent to the National Museum at Sofia. One hopes that they may escape the fate of other "relics" and "souvenirs" that have found their way to Bulgaria by more questionable means!

CORSAIR.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

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Lecturing at King's College last week, Dr. Seton-Watson said that the Serbs and Croats came into Europe side by side and settled along the shores of the Adriatic and throughout the country behind it. Christianity was brought to them from the East by Cyril and Methodius at a time when the Eastern and Western Churches were united. When the schism reappeared the Serbs went with the Greek and the Croats with the Latin Church. Gradually two States evolved, but at the end of the eleventh century Croatia fell under the Hungarian Crown, and though it always retained a kind of home rule, it had never since been an independent State. The Serbian State grew steadily stronger during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries under a series of able rulers, and became a centre of mining industry, populous and flourishing, with the beginnings of a fine architecture and painting. At this period Stephan Dushan, the greatest of the Serbian Kings, ruled over a country stretching from the Adriatic to the Ægean, and, after a long series of victorious campaigns against the Byzantine emperors, he was threatening Constantinople when he died in 1355, and his empire fell to pieces.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

BERLIN TO BOMBAY—AND BEYOND.*

The literature of the great war, extensive and weighty though it has already become, includes no more valuable contribution to the study of its causes and objects than Mr. P. Evans Lewin's new book, "The German Road to the East." It is the first story which has yet been published in England of the great German movement known as the "Drang nach Osten"—the Big Push towards the East, of which the Baghdad Railway was the outward sign and symbol, the great orientation which comprehended the subjugation of the Balkan States, the seduction, utilisation, and subsequent abandonment of all the forces of Islam, and the consolidation of a land route through Roumania, Bulgaria, and Turkey, Mesopotamia, Persia, and Baluchistan, to the heart of India. Mr. Lewin's survey is wide, judicious, and undogmatic. He marshals his facts with meticulous care, and strains no point in order to draw a conclusion. And the facts which he assembles show beyond the shadow of dispute that the world-tragedy which apparently began with the crime of Serajevo had been in steady, careful, and well-organised preparation for at least a generation. The Pan-Germans based their dream on the Napoleonic ideal. Mr. Lewin writes:—

> Napoleon aimed not only to deliver a staggering blow against British prestige in India, but also desired to secure the domination of the Levantine route to the East. These are the two dominant aims of Germany in building the Bagdad Railway and in overwhelming the Balkan States that have opposed her advance. The thrust from Belgrade means nothing less than the aim of Germany to dominate the East.

Napoleon, following the course of the Emperors Trajan and Julian, laid his proposed course through Aleppo, Baghdad, and Busreh. The pinchbeck Napoleon of Potsdam laid down precisely the same route, and, blind to the lessons of the past, or obsessed by the problems of the moment, our diplomacy, in what Mr. Lewin calls its "unfortunate sentimentalism," amiably acquiesced in these plans, and, even at so recent a period as the middle of June, 1914, six weeks before the war, initialled an agreement permitting the Germans to carry the railway as far as Busreh. Mr. Lewin believes that all these plans for an empire in the East were laid down by the Berlin Congress of 1878, and the facts give strong support to his belief. Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg was assigned to his allotted task in Bulgaria, a Prussian princess became Queen of Greece, Albania came under Prussian control, Austria was alternately bribed and threatened, Turkey became a hotbed of Prussian intrigue, the German consular system came under the domination of the Kaiser's master-spy. Germany, however, had reckoned without one masterful personality. In the sinister grouping of events prior to the outbreak of war the one figure which stands out in tragic prominence is that of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand. He was one of the few men in Europe who realised that Austria, whose aged and half-demented Emperor had become a puppet in the hands of his Ministers, lay between the upper and the nether millstones, and that the house of Hapsburg was doomed to extinction between the grinding forces of Pan-Germanism on the one hand and of Magyar ambition on the other. The Archduke's sympathies were with the Slavs, and he foresaw that the consolidation of a Southern Slav State within the Austrian Empire was the one means of saving Austria from the German menace. His prescience sealed his doom. Such a Slav consolidation as he proposed would have meant the shipwreck of all those colossal plans of Eastern expansion which Germany had for so many years, and at such great sacrifices, been preparing. The Archduke stood in the Kaiser's way; and he was removed. He was the champion of the Slav peoples, and, as Mr. Lewin reminds us—

> The Slav peoples of Austria-Hungary were to be swept down the Danube and pushed into national reserves like Kafirs or American Indians. The frontiers were to be settled by Germans. Austria-Hungary was to be deluged with a flood of Germans, whose duty it would be to displace the useless Slav elements.

Nothing, not even the Archduke, still less the treaties to which Germany had signed her name, the Kaiser had given his pledged word, was to stand in Germany's road to the East. And so the great war came, and it is Mr. Lewin's view, as well as that of many who had studied closely the problem of the Near East, that it is in the Balkans that the final struggle will be waged. Mr. Lewin has done well in putting the issue so clearly before us. His book should be read by all who desire a complete understanding of the great issues for which the Allies are fighting.

* "The German Road to the East." By P. Evans Lewin. (Heinemann, 7s. 6d. net.)

TWITTING THE TURK.*

When we learned, by a note at the commencement of Mr. Herbert's book, that most of the verses it contains had already appeared in *Punch*, we set ourselves to read it with the comfortable assurance of a pleasant half-hour before us. We were not disappointed. "Half-Hours at Helles" is packed with good things from cover to cover. In his opening dedication Mr. Herbert makes his own position plain:—

> Think not, if in these lays
> The singer seeks for smiles,
> That he forgets the unsmiling days
> Beyond the Ægean Isles.
> Think not he now pretends
> That Helles hours were sweet,
> Think not he wrongs the buried friends
> We left at Achi's feet.

So runs the first verse, and in the succeeding lines of this dedication the author allows his public to see how deeply the iron of war has entered his soul. For the rest, his verses deal only with the humorous side of things, and they make capital reading. According to Mr. Herbert, one of the chief difficulties which beset the British lay in the fact that the Turk—who, by the way, is described as an "honest man"—consistently refused to remain riled, despite all the efforts of his Majesty's warriors to annoy him. For instance, in the early stages of hostilities he was much insulted by being catapulted with tins of bully, until, as the bard pathetically informs us—

> . . . He spoiled the whole concern
> By gobbling up the beef.

This is the second book we have read from the pen of Mr. Herbert. We hope it will not be the last.

* "Half Hours at Helles." By A. P. Herbert. (Oxford: B. H. Blackwell 5 net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Wave: An Egyptian Aftermath. By Algernon Blackwood. (Macmillan. 5s. net.)

Year Book for 1916. (The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, U.S.A.)

BOOK NOTES.

By a printer's error, the title of Mr. Algernon Blackwood's new book was given last week as "The War." It should be "The Wave."

The October number of the *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains the first part of an account of "Lord Kitchener's Work in Palestine" by Miss Estelle Blyth, who handles her interesting subject most gracefully. There are also further instalments of the valuable "Occasional Papers on the Modern Inhabitants of Palestine," by Dr. E. W. G. Masterman and Professor R. A. S. Macalister, and of "The Immovable East," by Mr. P. J. Baldensperger. The former contains some very typical tales illustrative of Oriental character; and we hope these papers will be eventually republished in book form. Mr. Joseph Offord continues his "Archæological Notes on Jewish Antiquities," and also contributes a paper on "The Warning Writing on the Wall at Belshazzar's Banquet."

Messrs. Putnams have published this week "The Gate of Asia: A Journey from the Persian Gulf to the Black Sea," by William Warfield. The price is 12s. 6d. net.

ARABIC JOURNALISM.

According to the Arabic Paris journal *Al-Moustakbel*, of the 6th inst., the number of Arabic journals in the world is about one hundred, with fifteen reviews, seventy of the journals being edited by Syrian Christians, ten by Mohammedan Syrians, and twenty by other Arabians; while of the reviews, fourteen are edited by Christian Syrians and only one by Mohammedan Syrians. The two editors of the new Mecca journal *Al-Kibla* are Mohammedan Syrians.

It is to be noted that sixty of these publications appear in various parts of the New World, whither the tide of Syrian emigration has set strongly during the past twenty years; whereas in the whole of Egypt, the most prosperous Arabic-speaking country, the daily papers do not exceed eleven, six of which are in the hands of Syrian Christians, while two are owned by Copts and three by Mohammedans.

The great fault and drawback of all these publications in Arabic has been, so far, their poverty, and their necessarily economical administration has prevented them from having original sources of information, either by telegraph or post, so that commercially they are of very little value. But no doubt in time this defect will be remedied, and they will be enabled to embrace larger fields of subjects with greater profit to all concerned. *Al-Moustakbel* is the youngest of Arabic journals, but except that it is a "war journal," now treating exclusively of current news and political events as an outcome of the present war, it is certainly one of the best written and best printed Arabic papers of the day.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Oct.	1916. Oct.		1334. Julhijja	5677. Tishri
20	7	Friday	22	23
21	8	Saturday.....	23	24
22	9	Sunday	24	25
23	10	Monday	25	26
24	11	Tuesday	26	27
25	12	Wednesday	27	28
26	13	Thursday	28	29

The King has sent £100 and Queen Mary £50 to Mr. A. Herscovici Hurst, chairman of the National Roumanian Relief Fund, London.

Prince Nicholas of Greece has arrived in London from the Continent.

Captain Paparigopoulos, of the Greek Navy, Aide-de-Camp to Prince Nicholas of Greece, has informed Reuter's Agency that there is no truth in the report that the Prince has come to this country on a political mission. He left Athens in July last for Russia on a round of family visits. He has been staying with his mother, the Queen Dowager of Greece, in Petrograd, and on his return home by the only practicable route is visiting his relations in England.

The Grand Duchess George of Russia, sister of King Constantine, who has been in England for a long time, has arrived in London, together with Prince George of Greece, who has come from Paris. Prince George honoured the Greek Minister and Madame Gennadius by calling at the Legation on Tuesday afternoon and remaining for some time. He also had an interview with Viscount Grey at the Foreign Office.

On Wednesday Prince George visited the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace.

Sir John Ramsden arrived in Egypt recently.

M. Alexis Catargi and Madame Catargi left London for the Roumanian Legation, Paris, last week.

Lieutenant-General Georgesco, the representative of the Roumanian Military Headquarters Staff, who has been visiting London, is at present in Paris.

The Serbian Minister visited Oxford on Sunday to see the Serbian students at Wycliffe Hall, where he was received by Sir Arthur Evans and Mr. Sidney Ball, Chairman of the Oxford Serbian Committee. After lunching with Sir Arthur Evans at Boar's Hill, the Serbian Minister took the opportunity of calling upon the Vice-Chancellor (the Dean of Christ Church) and the other heads of Colleges (Balliol, New, Magdalen, Merton, St. John's, and Jesus) which have admitted Serbian students, and expressed his profound gratification at the arrangements made for the education of Serbian students at the University and in Oxford. His Excellency has now returned to London.

SEC.-LIEUT. GEOFFREY N. P. D'ERF WHEELER, Dorset Regiment, missing, September 26-30. Any information will be most thankfully received by his mother, Mrs. d'Erf Wheeler, 97, Comeragh Road, West Kensington.

FRENCH, English, Spanish, Italian, German, Scandinavian Languages, Greek, etc., rapidly taught by natives.
Σχολή Γλωσσῶν. Διδασκαλία συστηματική.
Διερμηνεῖς κ.λ.π. Δίδακτρα μέτρια.
Lyceum Institute, 85, New Oxford Street, and 64, Haymarket.

M. C. Miyatovich has gone to Ireland to deliver a series of lectures, and will be the guest of Lady Fairbairn at Shanganagh Grove, Ballybrack.

Mlle. Helen Losanitch, the sister-in-law of the Serbian Minister of Agriculture, and a prominent member of the Serbian American Committee for the relief of the sufferers in Serbia, has left London for Washington.

A son was born to Sir Mark and Lady Sykes at 9, Buckingham Gate, on Sunday.

It is announced that a marriage will shortly take place between Brigadier-General Montagu Grant Wilkinson, C.B., M.V.O., late K.O. Scottish Borderers, and Lina Florence, eldest daughter of the late Captain Lennard E. Dick, R.N., and Mrs. Lennard Dick.

Simultaneously, the engagement is announced between Capt. Charles Gordon Dowding, Punjabis, eldest son of the Rev. W. B. Dowding, Senior Chaplain to the Forces, and Mrs. Dowding, and Violet Helen Grant, only child of Brigadier-General M. Grant Wilkinson, C.B., M.V.O., 3, Priory Mansions, Drayton Gardens, S.W.

General Wilkinson, it will be remembered, served in the Nile Expedition of '84-'85, and with the Sudan Expedition of 1888.

Mr. H. A. Cumberbatch, C.M.G., has removed from Campden Hill Court to 30, Bramham Gardens, S.W.

Captain R. C. Cumberbatch, Rifle Brigade, who was wounded in September, being shot in the arm, will, we are glad to learn, soon be fit for light duty. His brother, Lieutenant Hugh D. Cumberbatch, of the Buffs, has been wounded again, but fortunately not very seriously. He is now in Princess Henry of Battenberg's Hospital, London.

The Misses Rees, who have arrived from Athens, have taken up their residence at 55, Campden Hill Court, Kensington.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes: Mr. James Haines, the newly-appointed Adviser to the Interior, is the son of Mr. William Haines, and was born at Oxford on Jan. 2, 1868. He was educated at Oxford, obtained his B.A. in 1839, and came to Egypt in 1897, in which year he was appointed to an English mastership at the Khedivieh School in Cairo. In 1900 he was transferred to the Ministry of Finance as Inspector. On Jan. 1, 1906, he was appointed Sub-Controller of the Direct Taxes Department, and was promoted Controller of that department in December of the same year. When the Ministry of Agriculture was created in November, 1913, he was appointed Under Secretary of State, and he held that position when he was appointed to the Advisership to the Interior. Mr. Haines has received the 2nd and 3rd Class of the Order of the Medjidieh and the 2nd Class of the Order of the Nile.

In his despatch relating to the operations in Mesopotamia, which was published last Friday, General Sir Percy Lake expresses his indebtedness to Captain the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., Irish Guards, and Captain T. E. Lawrence, General Staff Intelligence, Egypt. These officers, he says, greatly assisted him in the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners from Kut for an equivalent number of Turkish prisoners.

General Lake also speaks of the "magnificent service in command of the Mejidieh" rendered by Lieutenant-Commander C. H. Cowley, R.N.V.R., throughout the campaign in Mesopotamia. Lieutenant-Commander Cowley, it will be remembered, met his death while taking part in the extremely gallant attempt made by the s.s. Julnar (Lieutenant H. O. B. Firman, R.N.), to run the gauntlet of the Turkish defences and convey stores to the beleaguered garrison at Kut. General Lake writes:—"I trust that the services in this connection of Lieutenant H. O. B. Firman, R.N., and Lieutenant-Commander C. H. Cowley, R.N.V.R., his assistant, both of whom were unfortunately killed, may be recognised by the posthumous grant of some suitable honour." Such an honour would certainly be much appreciated by all the members of the British communities of Baghdad and Busreh, by whom Lieutenant-Commander Cowley was highly esteemed.

King Peter of Serbia has forwarded through the Serbian Minister a subscription to the French 5 per Cent. Loan. At the same time, he expressed a wish that his action should be interpreted as indicating his gratitude for the generosity of the French and his absolute confidence in the successful issue of the war.

Colonel L. O. F. Stack, C.M.G., Civil Secretary, Sudan Government, who had been spending his leave at Alexandria, returned to the Sudan on the 2nd inst.

Second Lieutenant E. C. Masterson, Lancashire Fusiliers, who is in hospital suffering from a bad fracture of the right arm and slight injury to the right ankle, is an Old Mancunian, who came to the school from Roumania. He went through the Gallipoli campaign unscathed, and was then drafted to Egypt, after which he was sent to another front.

The inaugural meeting of the Serbian Society of Great Britain will be held at the Mansion House next Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Earl Cromer, Sir Edward Carson, and other speakers will address the meeting.

On Tuesday, October 24, in connection with the tenth anniversay of the Anglican and Eastern (Churches) Association, there will be a solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist at St. Augustine, Queen's Gate, at 11 a.m. The Rev. Fr. Nicolai Velimirovitch, D.D., of Belgrade, will be the preacher, and the Processional Litany will be sung to the traditional melodies of the Serbian Liturgy.

On the same date, at 7.30 p.m., there will be a public meeting in the Great Hall of the Church House, Westminster. The Bishop for North and Central Europe will preside, and will deliver an address on "Russia's Growing Desire for Unity," and the Rev. A. C. Headlam, D.D., will speak on "The Churches of Palestine and Their Future."

The erection of a town memorial to Lord Kitchener, the first and only freeman of the borough, was discussed at a public meeting at Chatham on Monday, and it was decided that homes for disabled soldiers and sailors should be erected.

In connection with the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund a Central Office has now been opened at 11, Victoria Street, Westminster. The Fund has been registered in the City of London, under Section I., War Charities Act, 1916. Donations continue to be received by Lady Roper Parkington at 58, Green Street, Park Lane, W.

Mr. Oliver Bainbridge has been requested by the Birmingham Lecture Society to deliver the inaugural lecture of the session at the Town Hall on Sunday evening, October 22. "Roumania and the War" is the lecture which has been selected for the occasion.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Official decrees have been published in Cairo nominating Sir William Brunyate Judicial Adviser, Mr. Haines Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, Mr. Langley Under-Secretary of Agriculture, and Mr. Anthony Director-General of State Domains.

The Egyptian Council of Ministers has appointed Lewa Blunt Pasha, member of the Commission of Supplies, President of the Commission.

The President of the Egyptian Council of Ministers has confirmed the nomination of Mr. A. S. Merton, of the Ministry of Agriculture, to the post of Secretary to the Commission of Supplies, the appointment dating from September 1, 1914, when he took up these duties.

Kaimakam F.R.L. Edwards Bey, Deputy Assistant Adjutant General and Aide-de-

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Camp to the Sirdar, has been appointed Assistant Adjutant General, Egyptian Army. He is succeeded by Bimbashi A.H. Pattison, the Officer Commanding the Military School at Khartoum, who in turn has been succeeded by Bimbashi F. H. Blackwood, of the 13th Sudanese.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—Mr. Thorne, President of the District Court of Larnaca, has accepted an appointment in Egypt. His departure will be much regretted.

M. Gustave Boissier has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires of the Swiss Legation in Roumania, and has left for Bucharest.

Kaimakam Spinks Bey, Second in Command of Artillery, Egyptian Army, has been promoted Officer Commanding Artillery and Director of Ordnance in succession to Lewa C.E. Palmer Pasha, and has been granted the temporary rank of Miralai.

Kaimakam S. E. H. Giles Bey, Staff Officer Transport; and Kaimakam Darwall Bey, Officer Commanding 14th Sudanese, have been granted three months' leave each, on medical grounds, expiring on November 22.

Temporary Miralai M.H. Logan Bey, Officer Commanding Sobat District, has been appointed Acting General Staff Officer and Adjutant General in succession to Lewa W.H. Drake Pasha, C.M.G., who has reverted to the British Army.

Kaimakam F. J. M. Postlethwaite Bey, Inspector of Kassala Province, Sudan Government, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army on reversion to the British Army.

OBITUARY.

M. NIKOLA FILIPESCU.

On October 13 Reuter's Bucharest correspondent telegraphed:—M. Filipescu, Senator, ex-Minister of War, and leader of the Unionist Federation, who has played in Roumania an important political part favourable to the Entente, died at 11.30 this morning, after a long and painful illness.

M. Nikola Filipescu, who was a descendant of one of the old *boyar* families, had long occupied a prominent position in the Roumanian political world, and his name will always be honoured by Englishmen as that of one of the most ardent and consistent advocates of Roumanian action upon the side of the Allies in the present war.

As a young man he studied law in Paris, and on returning to his own country soon entered the political field and was elected Deputy. In 1900 he was Minister of Agriculture and Domains, and in 1911 he became Minister of War in the Carp Cabinet, and held that office some eighteen months. During that period he did excellent work in connection with the reorganization of the army and in obtaining from Parliament the funds necessary for its accomplishment. That work finished, he retired from the Ministry of War, and took up again the portfolio of Agriculture, which he retained until 1913.

On the outbreak of the war, the Conservative party became split up, and M. Marghiloman, who had been its leader, became extremely unpopular with the majority of the party, by reason of his markedly pro-German sympathies. As a result, M. Jean Lahovary was chosen as head of the party, and on his death last year M. Filipescu was chosen as his successor. As recorded in THE NEAR EAST at the time, the party eventually joined forces with the Conservative-Democrats, whose leader is M. Take Jonescu, and last June the fusion of the two parties was announced by M. Filipescu to be an accomplished fact.

Early in the present year M. Filipescu visited Petrograd, where he was received in special audience by the Tsar, and on his return to Roumania he renewed his activities on behalf of the cause he had so closely at heart. Convinced that the Allies were fighting for a righteous cause, and sure of their ultimate victory, he also ardently desired the creation of that Greater Roumania for which his countrymen have so long waited and for which they are to-day fighting so gallantly. He has not been spared to see the fulfilment of his hopes, but his work has borne good fruit already; and though Roumania is passing through a somewhat gloomy period just now, it may confidently feel that brighter days are not far distant. When they come, M. Filipescu's work, carried on amidst considerable difficulties, and at times in the teeth of bitter opposition, will not be forgotten by his countrymen.

The death is announced as having taken place while on active service with the Scottish Women's Hospital Unit in Serbia, of Miss Olive Smith, of Glasgow. Miss Smith, who was the youngest daughter of Mr. Robert Smith, of Haltwhistle, Northumberland, was formerly head teacher of the Physical Training Department of Glasgow Provincial Centre for Teachers. Before going to Serbia she had served on the staff of a military hospital at Malta.

Second-Lieutenant Joseph Reginald Mark Lawrence, East Surrey Regiment, who fell on August 16, aged 21, was the youngest son of the late Rev. Thomas Ranger Lawrence, and of Mrs. Lawrence Dawson, Lady Superintendent of the Sailors and Soldiers' Institute, Alexandria, Egypt. Born at Alexandria, he was educated at Haileybury and Pembroke College, Cambridge, leaving there in November, 1914, to join the Public Schools Brigade. He obtained his commission in the East Surrey Regiment in May, 1915, and went to the front last March.

Referring to the death of Second Lieutenant Charles Justin Buch, which, as already reported in this column, took place on September 13, a correspondent writes:—"After a residence of eight years in Paris, he came home in the summer of 1915 to join the Army, and in August of that year was gazetted Second Lieutenant in the Bedfordshire Regiment. He went to the front in May, 1916, and in an attack on a German trench on September 13 was shot in the head, death having been instantaneous. His Colonel, when announcing the sad event, wrote: 'He was a splendid officer, and is a very great loss to the battalion. Of course I had not known him very long, but he was one of those people who succeed in obtaining the affection and respect of all with whom he came in contact.' The Egyptian Minister of Education also sent a sympathetic letter, in which he wrote: 'I desire to express to you our high appreciation of the character and worth of your son, and of the services he has rendered to the cause of education in Egypt since he became an assistant master in the secondary schools under this Department in 1907.'"

It is announced that Lieutenant Ronald William M'Kinstry, Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action on September 23. He was the youngest son of the late Colonel A. W. M'Kinstry, Leicestershire Regiment, and Mrs. M'Kinstry, Balerno, Midlothian, and was in his twenty-fourth year. He held the rank of captain in the Egyptian Coastguard Service, and was home on sick leave when war broke out. He applied at once to the War Office and obtained a commission in the Royal Field Artillery. He went to France in 1915, was invalided home, and after some months in hospital returned to the front. He took part in the recent great advance, and met his end by shell-fire while endeavouring to rescue the battery horses.

The death is announced in Alexandria of Dietrich Bey, former chief engineer of the Alexandria Municipality, who died at the age of seventy years.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH.

THOMAS.—On October 15, at "Glack," Boscombe, Hants, to the wife of L. Irving Thomas—a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

LAKE—NICHOLS.—On October 12, at Westbury Church, Westbury-on-Trym, by the Rev. J. C. Godwin, William Henry Lake, of Khartoum, son of the late George Henry Lake, of London, to Ethel Mary, eldest daughter of the late Hugh Nichols, of Bristol.

WHERE TO STAY.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1916.

PROGRESS IN PERSIA.

A year ago the situation in Persia was frankly disquieting. German and Austrian agents were at large throughout the country, bribing officials and stirring up the tribesmen against Russia and Great Britain. A series of outrages on British subjects had been committed, culminating in the action of the Swedish-trained gendarmerie in surrounding the Consulate at Shiraz and taking prisoners his Majesty's Consul and the other members of the British community. The details of that incident, which have not been told in their entirety before, are given on another page. They make interesting reading, and will serve to clear up certain misunderstandings which arose at the time from a failure to appreciate the actual conditions obtaining in Persia. The Shiraz prisoners have been released for some time now, ostensibly in virtue of an exchange for Persian insurgents who had fallen into British hands; but in part as a result of the growing conviction among the Persian tribesmen that they had placed themselves in a false position through being misled by German intrigues. This change in their attitude has been brought about by more vigorous action on the part of the protecting Powers, heralded, it will be remembered, by a Russian proclamation announcing the intention of Russia and Great Britain to put an end to their enemies' activities and reminding Persia that friendly relations could be maintained with her, only if the Teheran authorities made a real effort to prevent Russian and British subjects from being exposed to such outrages as had taken place. Then followed the Russian military operations which extended to Ispahan in one direction and to Kermanshah and Khanikin in the other. In the face of a Turkish offensive the Russian troops who had reached the Persian frontier beyond Kermanshah were compelled to fall back, and the Turks were able to overrun a considerable tract of country in Western Persia, including Hamadan. This temporary set-back, however, has had little or no effect on the general situation in Persia. Turco-German intrigues received a sudden stimulus from the occupation of Bushire by British troops, when an unfortunate mistake in connection with the Persian flag provided an opportunity for misrepresenting the action of the Allies. They have now finally, we may hope, been given their quietus, and fluctuations in the fighting in Western Persia ought not to be able to revive them.

Apart from the landing at Bushire of troops, who were subsequently withdrawn, the British Government has undertaken no military operations in Persia. General Sir Percy Sykes has been appointed, in agreement with the Teheran Government, to organize a new gendarmerie, and is supported by an adequate force to secure order in the districts where its members are being recruited and trained. But no steps have been taken to visit on the tribesmen in Southern Persia the penalties they have incurred by the outrages committed on British subjects. For a long time neither the Home nor the India Government was in a position to undertake this task. It is, therefore, a question now whether the rehabilitation of British prestige in these parts requires something in the nature of a punitive expedition against the tribes who have been guilty of hostile acts in the past and have still to be regarded as unfriendly. Only full knowledge of local conditions can decide the point. But apart from military considerations, which, it would be thought, must be against fresh commitments of an indefinite nature in this part of the world, it is at least open to argument whether Great Britain would not be making a political mistake by driving any large section of the population at this stage into permanent hostility. Swift retribution after the commission of the outrages was, no doubt, desirable. It could not be inflicted, and in the interval the culprits have had occasion to take stock of the situation. They are naturally lawless, and require little encouragement to indulge their passion for brigandage. The arrival of German agents with money, rifles, and promises impressed them momentarily with exaggerated ideas of Germany's might, and they readily made common cause against her enemies. After the lapse of a few months they were compelled to revise their estimate of the Germans. The supply of everything except the promises was probably exhausted, and they saw the people whom they had regarded as so powerful cut off from the outside world and virtually prisoners in Persia. A number of these Turco-German agents had already been captured; the remainder hardly dared to venture beyond the jurisdiction of the tribe or chief in whose hands they had placed themselves. The Persians are under no illusion, as far as their country is concerned, regarding the relative strength of the Turco-German combination and the protecting Powers, and if wisely handled should fall into line with the new order without much difficulty.

In spite of Great Britain's preoccupations elsewhere the Persian problem cannot be ignored at the present time. The new arrangement arrived at between the Russian and British Governments, in agreement with the Persian Government, calls for a far more definite policy in Southern Persia than has been adopted hitherto. Sir Percy Sykes's mission is a necessary preliminary, but the formation of an efficient gendarmerie will not fulfil all Great Britain's responsibilities in this sphere. British interests in the past, it is to be feared, in the same way as the Mesopotamian campaign, have suffered from a system of divided control, with the consequent evils of overlapping, hiatuses, and the absence of any consistent driving force. There was much in the old Russian régime, as administered by Russia's representatives on the spot, which was as completely out of harmony with British principles as with the professed intentions of the Tsar's Government. But Great Britain's close association with Russia made her equally responsible in the eyes of the Persians, and she had no alternative régime in the south to point to as an example of her own intentions in regard to Persia. The new order to be established after the war, and possibly to be gradually introduced during its progress, will provide, we may hope, a concrete policy for the better government of the country. To what extent Persian co-operation can be secured at once or must be a goal for the attainment of which a period of training is required is a subject that does not need to be dealt with here. The first desideratum would seem to be a definite scheme for promoting the welfare of Southern Persia. Such a scheme should then be entrusted to one authority to carry out, and this authority, it would be expected in present circumstances, would be the Foreign Office. Indian interests will clearly be involved and must be safeguarded. We do not, however, subscribe to the theory that the interests of any one portion of the Empire or department of State must needs be prejudiced by being transferred to the jurisdiction of another portion or department. If they should be so prejudiced, the sooner the ways of the administration or department concerned are mended or ended the better. But Imperial interests may well suffer when they are made the shuttlecock between two administrations. They have undoubtedly suffered in Persia from this cause in the past, and advantage ought to be taken of the present readjustment of things in the country to remove the anomaly.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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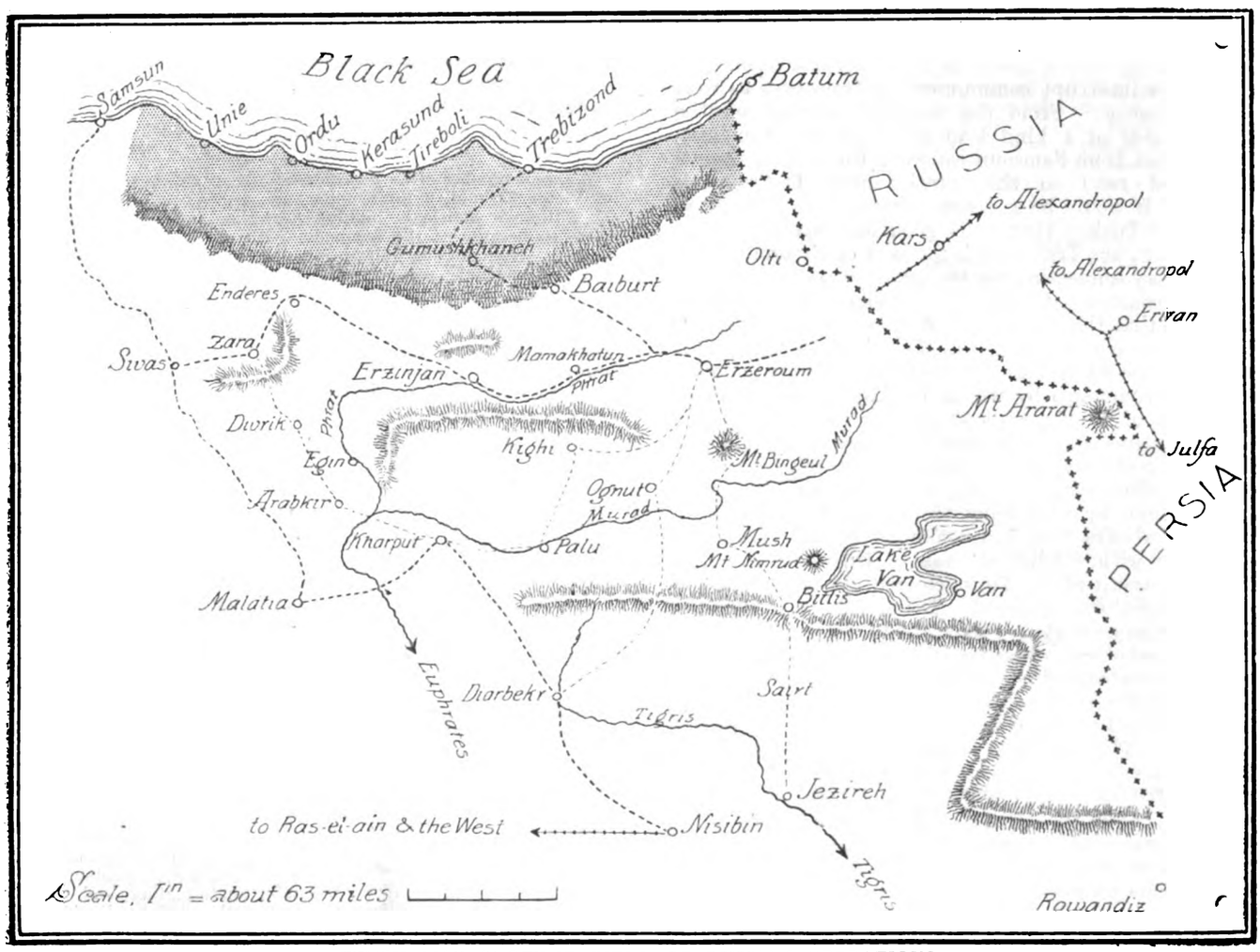
THE RUSSIAN ADVANCE IN THE CAUCASUS AND THE TURKISH COUNTER-STROKE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Since the sudden and dramatic fall of Erzeroum there have been no events in the Russian campaign in the Caucasus of sufficient importance to sustain the interest of a public absorbed in watching the momentous struggles on the European fields of war—the tremendous attack on Verdun, the discomfiture of the Austrian dash on Northern Italy, and the brilliant drive of the Russian Southern Armies. In comparison with these the operations in the remote plateaus of Armenia have been of secondary importance, and we have to cast our minds a long way back to realize the interest with which we heard in January last of the blow that had fallen on the Turks. At the time the Allies badly required a victory. The Central Powers, after bringing their great effort against Russia to a victorious, but not to a decisive issue, had turned their arms south, had overrun Serbia, and completed the humiliation of Montenegro. The long agony of Gallipoli, with its brilliant examples of almost incredible heroism, had ended in admitted failure, and the news of the evacuation of the Peninsula without loss had been hailed almost as a victory. In Mesopotamia our troops, after a success which seemed to herald a decisive victory, had been obliged to fall back. On the Western front there was no hope of an early advance; on the Eastern a Russian offensive, after some preliminary success, had been brought to a standstill. The Russian advance in Armenia thus brought the first feeling of genuine success that we had for long enjoyed, and to us in this country it was doubly welcome from a vague expectation that it would in some way relieve the pressure on the beleaguered garrison at Kut. We had also the pleasure of welcoming an old friend in the emergence after a long silence of the Grand Duke, whose name had been familiar to us throughout all the fluctuations of fortune which our Ally had experienced in the first period of the war.

Of the preparations which the Grand Duke was making on the far side of the mountain barrier that formed the Russian frontier no whisper had been allowed to reach us. Information was published from time to time of movements away to the south in Persia, which brought the Russians nearer to the region on which our eyes were fixed in Mesopotamia; but of an advance in Armenia there was no sign, and no expectation, as the region was one in which, by general agreement, military operations were well-nigh impossible at that season of the year. It is probable, indeed, that the Grand Duke accelerated his advance, owing to the setting free of the Turkish forces that had been immobilised while we held the Dardanelles. The evacuation of the Peninsula was completed on January 9, and ten days later came the news that the Russians had crossed the Turkish border on a front of 70 miles. So well and so secretly had the Grand Duke's plans been laid that in less than a month the fortress of Erzeroum, which in the last war, half a century before, had defied the efforts of the Russians, was in their hands. It is from this point that the campaign has been difficult to follow, and that progress has seemed by comparison to be slow. The *communiqués* are vague; the places they mention are unfamiliar and often untraceable; the popular commentators on the war have made little or no attempt to furnish enlightenment. Moreover, the contradictions between the reports of our ally and of our enemy make it peculiarly difficult to ascertain the truth. But the Russian advance may yet have an important effect on the war in the West, and it is worth while attempting to understand the geographical conditions that affect it as it rolls slowly westward, if only to follow more intelligently the *communiqués* of our Allies.

As the accompanying sketch map shows, the main line of the Russian advance from Erzeroum lay nearly due west along the valley of one of the branches of the Euphrates, which is generally referred to in the *communiqués* as the Euphrates, but which will here be dis-



SKETCH MAP SHOWING FIELD OF RUSSIAN OPERATIONS.

(The shaded portion indicates area in which the ranges run mostly North and South).

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tinguished as the Phrat—the name by which it is known in the maps. In this direction the strongest forces of the Turks might be expected, and in this direction lay the principal interests of Russia in the campaign. But it was necessary also to safeguard Erzeroum and its long line of communications from attack from the south, from the direction of Lake Van and of the head waters of another branch of the Euphrates, which in the *communiqués* is generally—but not always—distinguished as the Eastern Euphrates, and which will here be called the Murad. The danger of attack from this direction was not serious in February, but it would inevitably become more threatening as the season advanced, and prompt arrangements to forestall it would have the additional advantage of alarming the enemy for the safety of his communications with Baghdad, and thus perhaps of relieving the pressure both on the English forces in the Tigris Valley and on the Russian main advance in the north. The operations then may be considered in the first instance under two main heads:—

(1) Those in and to the north of the valley of the Phrat.

(2) Those in the country of Lake Van and the upper reaches of the Murad.

(1) The valley of the Phrat is separated from that of the Murad by a range of almost impassable mountains that extend from the 41st to the 39th parallel of east longitude—from the south of Erzeroum to a point further west than Erzinjan. Except perhaps in the immediate neighbourhood of Erzeroum, these effectually guard a force moving west from that place from any serious attack from the south. Once Erzeroum was passed, the left flank of the advance would thus be sufficiently protected, especially in winter. On the north, however, it was otherwise. On this side lay the old Roman province of Pontus, formed of ridge after ridge of mountains running generally from south to north, from the valley of the Phrat (and further west of the Kelkid) down to the Black Sea. The wild and varied beauty of these ranges, passing through all gradations of climate and vegetation from ice-bound peaks above to a moist sub-tropical belt near the sea, has aroused the enthusiasm of travellers; but the country is thinly peopled except in the towns on the coast, and the mountain ridges interrupt communication from east to west in the interior. From the seaports, marked on the sketch, roads of a kind lead south to the Armenian plateau, but from Samsoun eastward there is no reasonably good road to the interior until Trebizond is reached. It would be a strong thing to say of any road in Asiatic Turkey that it is good and maintained in good repair; but Trebizond is the port of Erzeroum, and the highway connecting the two places was carefully and skilfully constructed, and is still looked after with an attention that the Turks are not in the habit of bestowing on their communications. For this attention there are good reasons; for the road is not only a main artery of commerce by which Turkish trade can reach the north of Persia without passing through Russian Custom houses and over Russian railways; it is also a strategic route by which supplies and reinforcements can reach the garrisons of Erzeroum and Erzinjan more quickly than by road from the railheads in the west, provided always that the command of the sea is not interfered with. After the fall of Erzeroum the Russians in pursuit of the Turks cleared the country to the west, where the roads to Trebizond and Erzinjan follow the same route for some thirty miles. This done, they turned their attention to Trebizond itself, and, taking advantage of their command of the sea, landed a force on the coast to the east of the town, which fell to a combined military and naval attack in the middle of April. The two ends of the highway were now in Russian hands, but the road itself is circuitous, bending well to the west of Trebizond, and its intervening stretches, with the towns of Baiburt and Gumushkhaneh, were still in the possession of the Turks, and could be reinforced from Erzinjan by roads that were at the time outside the Russian sphere of operations. By this time the Turks had been able to push up additional troops to Armenia, and appear to have been in great force there. At a later date it was estimated that they had as many as fifteen divisions about Erzinjan and in the country extending from it to the Trebizond road. There was much fighting, with fluctuating results; and the Russian advance was checked both along the road to Trebizond and at Mamakhatun, half-way to Erzinjan. This was in May. Two months later, however, they made a rapid and successful advance along their whole front. In July they routed the Turks at Baiburt, and pressing on rapidly, were able to announce the capture of Gumushkhaneh on the 21st of that month. The left wing of the advance was equally successful, and on the 26th gained possession of Erzinjan. With justifiable exultation the Russians announced this capture as "completing the conquest of Armenia." Erzinjan was, in fact, a place of great military importance to the Turks. It, and not Erzeroum, was the headquarters of the Turkish troops in the north-eastern part of their Empire, being chosen probably for the purpose as lying further from the frontier than the fortress. A glance at the map will show that with Erzinjan and the Trebizond Chaussée firmly in their hands the Russians are secure from any serious menace to their right flank for a long distance to the west. The left flank of an advance is also sheltered from serious attack for a considerable distance by the almost impassable hills that overlook from the south the valley of the Phrat. When the time comes the advance on Sivas, rather less than 150 miles due west, where the climate in winter is much less rigorous than on the high plateaus to which the operations have hitherto been confined, can be undertaken under much less hazardous and arduous conditions than our ally encountered in the opening of the campaign. For the present there are no definite signs of an early advance, but the attacks of which we read on various points along the Black Sea coast are undoubtedly meant to prepare the way for it. Nor do the Turks appear to have made any formidable attempt to drive the Russians from the positions occupied. We still hear of severe fighting west of Gumushkhaneh, but the accounts which we receive indicate that these are due rather to Russian than to Turkish initiative. The Turkish strategy appears here to have been defensive, however aggressive their tactics may have been locally. Their real counterstroke was not delivered on the Erzinjan front, but was directed with great ability at the Russian communications near Erzeroum and further east and south. It belongs, however, to the second sphere of operations to which we may now turn.

(To be continued.)

A recent number of *Le Figaro* contains an article from the pen of Victor Eftimui, a Roumanian poet, now on a visit to Paris. M. Eftimui's article is highly interesting and instructive, the more so because of the frankness with which he writes of his people. We take the following passages from it:—

The undeniable resistance of the Latin peoples, he says, is manifested very strongly among the Roumans. Far removed from the common cradle, isolated among the Slavs who surround them, oppressed by Magyars, Turks, and Phanariotes, and abandoned by Rome because of their religion, they have shown through the centuries an admirable and astonishing Latin tenacity. The Rouman, in spite of all he has suffered, loves brightness, laughter, and song. He is quickly inflamed with enthusiasm. He sings or weeps with all his heart. He is a poet and wit, with marvellous spontaneity. He is good-natured, hospitable, and without rancour, easily forgetting an injury. He has all the good qualities and all the faults of the Latins; has them, indeed, in a higher degree than any other Latin race. One thing in which his Latinity assists him is in finding admirably logical reasons for not having done as he should. He is uncommonly good at explaining why he has not accomplished the work that he ought to have done. He has a charming explanation. He loves the sun, and the sun does not favour work; therefore the Rouman, child of the sun, does not love work any more than his brother, the Neapolitan *lazzarone*. Popular irony puts a by-word in the mouth of him who is forced to seek employment: "I go in search of a master, may Providence ordain that I shall not find one."

But the peasant works, and also his wife. At thirty her beauty fades. She is already old. Her features are withered by the sun, and have borrowed from the earth its colour and ruggedness. Frequent maternity and the hard work of the fields spoil her supple figure. She is a very good mother. The child is sacred. She has four, five, six—ten; "God has sent them," she says, "and He will take charge of their existence." In her poverty she is proud. Some years ago, on the Sinaia road, a great lady's motor-car killed the child of a poor woman. The great lady sought and found the unfortunate mother, and offered her some thousands of francs as consolation. Very dignified in her sorrow, with eyes dry and head erect, the peasant woman replied: "Madam, keep your money. I do not sell the soul of my child."

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Roumania and her Allies.

In a leading article, headed "The King of Roumania's Message," *The Times* refers to the hope expressed by King Ferdinand that Roumania should not meet the fate either of Belgium or of Serbia. "The King," it goes on to say—and every Englishman will say the same—"and his brave soldiers may rest assured that in spite of engrossing preoccupations in the west and on other fronts there is no subject more constantly in the thoughts of the British nation at this juncture than the position of Roumania."

From the moment that Roumania drew the sword the movements of her gallant Armies have been followed with the closest attention and admiration in this country. We rejoiced with her when her troops swept into Transylvania, the land upon which her hopes are centred; we sympathised with her when they encountered temporary reverses, and throughout the vicissitudes of the opening weeks of her campaign the British people has reposed unabated confidence in the prowess and the heroism of the Roumanian Army. We believed, and continue to believe, that the sons of the heroes who won immortal glory upon the blood-stained slopes of the Grivitza Redoubt at Plevna would face reverses with fortitude, and would speedily restore the balance. We regarded the fluctuations of the first stages of the Roumanian operations with calmness, because we knew by painful experience that the Roumanian Army was only undergoing that period of fiery trial which has been the common lot of every belligerent on beginning hostilities. Each nation has had the same experience, and has profited by it. . . . The message of the Allies to Roumania is that her cause is now the cause of us all, that succour is at hand, and that while the nations watch her stubborn resistance with sympathy and understanding the General Staffs of the Allies are rapidly taking steps which will relieve her apprehension. . . . Meanwhile we welcome the clear and stirring exposition of Roumania's motives and policy furnished by King Ferdinand. His message shows to the world that, as his people now fully realise, he is a Roumanian first, and his words breathe the purest spirit of Roumanian patriotism. To King and nation alike we would say in reply that their unfaltering allegiance to the Allied cause is regarded in every Allied country with the deepest gratitude, and we would repeat that Roumanian necessities are receiving earnest and strenuous attention, and that the arms and the resources of the Allies will be so directed as to give Roumania the utmost possible support in her hour of need.

Transylvania or Bulgaria?

The *New Statesman* (October 14), in a note upon Roumania's withdrawal from Transylvania, remarks that her "present plight—which seems to be serious without being anywhere or in any sense desperate—is apparently the outcome of her having ignored the wisdom of the military pundits and allowed political to outweigh military considerations":—

The enthusiasm purchasable by a rapid advance into Transylvania has been dearly bought at the expense of an even more rapid subsequent retreat. . . . M. Take Jonescu, the most prominent of the interventionist leaders in Roumania, has recently expressed to a Russian paper his conviction of the supreme importance of the Balkans and the urgent necessity of concentrating all available forces against Bulgaria, "not isolated small bodies of troops, but a whole army, strong in numbers and artillery, that would cut the connection between Vienna and Constantinople." In this view, M. Jonescu certainly has Western opinion on his side, but unfortunately Roumania did not act upon it. How far that was the fault of her own statesmen, or, on the other hand, was due to Russian representations that an attack pressed northwards would quickly complete the downfall of Austria, is one of those problems which are not likely to be solved until after the war.

Falkenhayn's Strength.

There is some uncertainty regarding the strength of the forces that General von Falkenhayn has at his disposal, and the subject has occupied the attention of several writers. Upon the whole it seems probable that these forces are not so large as the Germans would like to have it believed. The *Morning Post's* military correspondent writes (October 13):—

It is naturally part of the German scheme to exaggerate the results achieved by magnifying rearguard actions into battles; but if Falkenhayn had been as strong as he would like to have it supposed it seems unlikely that he would have spent so much time in preliminary manœuvres before developing an attack on the Vulcan and Rothethurm passes, which, if successful, would have brought about the withdrawal of the Roumanian Second and Northern armies from their advanced positions in order to concentrate for home defence. Falkenhayn's strength is, no doubt, increasing, but the number of his reinforcements will be governed by the activities of the Allies in other theatres of war.

And the *Nation* (October 14) takes a hopeful view of the situation:—

It is impossible to say whether von Falkenhayn is using only a small force and making it perform the operations of a large army by manœuvring it along the lateral railway north of the frontier, or if he actually has the considerable body of troops required for an invasion of Roumania. So far, everything is consistent with the former assumption; but this gambling warfare will avail little when it is met by a really competent general like Averescu. The invasion may not mature. The Germans seem to be acting very cautiously, and the situation elsewhere is not encouraging.

General Lake's Despatch.

Last Friday *The Times* devoted a leading article to a discussion of "The Kut Despatch." The writer remarks that the publication of Sir Percy Lake's despatch "will serve to remind the public that we still have a very large army in Mesopotamia," an army which, it is to be feared, "has undergone severe trials"; and he refers to "the cloud which—rightly or wrongly—has dimmed the reputation of so many generals on the Tigris." As the Mesopotamian Commission is still sitting, it is not, says *The Times*, easy to discuss with complete frankness Sir Percy Lake's despatch.

It must be conceded that it tells more than most of the despatches which have been issued during the war, and yet it leaves a great deal unsaid. No doubt the Commission will throw light upon its omissions.

The story of the failure to eject the Turks from the Umm el-Hannah defile during the operations between January 19 and 23 is described as a pitiable one.

The troops were gallant enough, but their task was impossible. They had to advance across boggy ground entirely destitute of cover, and they were mown down without ever reaching the enemy's trenches. Supports failed to reach the devoted Scottish and Indian infantry which made the first assault, and the Expedition was eventually very definitely repulsed. It was discovered meanwhile that the enemy had constructed four other strong positions on the left bank between Hannah and Kut.

As to the great attack on the Es Sinn position, we read:—

The essence of the scheme was to be surprise. Had it succeeded, there can be no reasonable doubt that Kut would have been relieved the same day, and the whole of the Turkish positions on the left bank would have been turned. General Aylmer was in command, and the two attacking columns were commanded by Generals Kemball and Keary. Sir Percy Lake says that General Aylmer instructed his subordinates that the capture of the great Dujailah Redoubt, the centre of the Es Sinn position, "should be pushed through with the utmost vigour." His words must have fallen on some deaf ears. The main attack was to be made by General Kemball from the south, with General Keary attacking in support from the east. General Keary was in position at daybreak, General Kemball was an hour late. Even then the defences might have been pierced and Kut saved, for, in spite of the lateness of General Kemball's column, the Turkish positions were hardly manned at all. . . . Incredible though it may seem—and the story of Es Sinn is one of the most incredible episodes of the war—three precious hours were wasted. Our troops were compelled to lie for nearly three hours before an almost empty redoubt, and watch the Turks swarming back into it. Sir Percy Lake says time was lost "by waiting for the guns to register and to carry out reconnaissances." We record his statement, and await the further report of the Commission, because it is now very widely known that these points do not tell the whole story. Someone was to blame, and the public have a right to expect that the blame for a series of blunders which gravely compromised our prestige in the Middle East shall be properly apportioned.

The article concludes:—"When every allowance is made for the extraordinary difficulties which confronted the expedition, the story of the first three months of the present year on the Tigris sheds no lustre upon British generalship."

Hungary's Fears—and Hopes.

Last Friday the *Morning Post* published two most interesting letters from its Budapest correspondent. Writing on October 3, he says:—

It seems evident that the depression the invasion of Transylvania caused in Hungary threatened the Army Command with a grave crisis among the Hungarian troops elsewhere, and that they thought that by averting this crisis and by aiming a desperate blow at Roumania they would achieve a double purpose—that of regaining the confidence of the Hungarian portion of the army and of striking terror into the hearts of the Roumanians. The mere fact that their two most able Generals, Falkenhayn

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and Mackensen, have been sent to the Roumanian front points to a punitive expedition against Roumania, to say nothing of the perhaps even more significant fact that purely German and Hungarian units, the best fighting men of the Central Powers, have been concentrated in Transylvania. The Honveds have been specially selected for the purpose, they being the most distinguished regiments, who have been through the thick of fighting on the many fronts within the frontiers of the Monarchy.

The aim of this "punitive expedition" is no doubt the invasion of Roumania from the north and then from the west. The initial successes of the German-Hungarian forces have made a great impression in Hungary, and the sighs of relief are to be heard in the comments on the operations in Transylvania. The battles which are now raging around Nagy Szeben are expected to decide the issue on this sector also, and great hopes are entertained in this regard, although every newspaper report speaks of the stubbornness of the Roumanian attacks and the stout fighting qualities of the Roumanian soldier.

The following day he adds:—

A report in the evening papers to-day speaks of Austro-Hungarian and Bavarian troops having crossed the Roumanian frontier near the Vulkan Pass and entering Roumanian territory for five miles along the mountain ridges. This report has caused greater joy than anything the war ever produced in the way of successes. . . . The heart of the whole nation has been set on "punishing" Roumania, and nothing seems to be too great a price in order to achieve this aim. The hero of Hungary to-day is Falkenhayn, who is to free the country from the invaders and restore Transylvania to Hungary.

The Allies in the Balkans.

The *Independent* (New York), reviewing the events of the week in its issue of October 2, says:—

The Entente Allies are painfully conscious of the advantage the Central Powers won in overrunning Serbia and occupying northern Greece. Every week of time is precious to the Allied Powers, for winter will soon check active operations in the Balkan mountains, as it will on all other battle lines in mountainous or northerly regions, and it may well be winter before the huge composite armies gathered at Salonika have advanced far enough into Bulgaria to threaten the railroads which connect Austria-Hungary with the Ottoman Empire. At present the line of battle, which one might term the "war frontier," follows the Struma river, turns westwardly through Grecian Macedonia as far as Doiran, then follows the Grecian frontier rather closely as far as Albania. The two nations, Greece and Albania, which furnish the principal battlegrounds for the contending national groups, are nominally neutral, but their neutrality is purely formal and official. Individual units of the Greek Army, and to an even greater extent the undisciplined tribesmen of Albania, take whatever side in the fighting their sympathies or their views of national interest incline them to favour.

Articles to Note.

"Patriotism and Oratory: Venizelos and Demosthenes," by W. L. Courtney, in the *Fortnightly Review* (October).

"Why We Want Constantinople: The Case Against the Turk," by A Russian, in *Country Life* (October 14).

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

British Prisoners in Turkey and Bulgaria. Oct. 12.

Mr. HOPE, replying to Mr. MALCOLM, said: British prisoners taken by the Turks in Mesopotamia are detained at the following places:—Afion Kara Hissar, Brusa, Castamouni, Mosul, Yuzgat, Baghdad, Constantinople, Angora, Ras-el-Ain, Adana, Bozanti, Enzeli, Eski Shehir, and Konia. We have also reason to believe that there are British prisoners at Amanus, Aleppo, and Islahia, but complete information as to the whereabouts of all British prisoners captured in Mesopotamia has not yet been received. The United States Embassy were requested on September 18 to ask the United States Embassy at Constantinople by telegraph to press the Turkish Government to supply the full list of the British prisoners of war in Turkey at the earliest possible date. This has not yet been received.

Mr. FORSTER informed Mr. MALCOLM that 537 British officers and 11,641 of other ranks are now estimated to be prisoners in the hands of the Turks. Four hundred and thirty-nine Turkish officers and 9,751 of other ranks have been captured by British forces. Negotiations are in progress for the exchange of those who are incapacitated for further service.

Mr. HOPE, replying to another question put by Mr. MALCOLM, said: A considerable amount of clothing has been supplied to the British prisoners in Bulgaria from various sources, and more is being sent in parcels, which are found to arrive with regularity. An agreement has been arrived at with the Bulgarian Government for the exchange of incapacitated prisoners of war.

Payments to King Constantine.

Mr. GILBERT asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether Great Britain, in conjunction with France and Russia, paid any annual allowance to the King of Greece; if so, what was the amount; and whether, in view of his recent actions, any steps had been taken to discontinue such payments by our Allies and us.

Lord R. CECIL: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The remainder, therefore, does not arise.

The Salonika Expedition.

Mr. DILLON said that for many months past the most sinister rumours had been in circulation as to the Salonika expedition. It had been constantly stated that the British War Office, and certainly the General Staff, had looked all along with an evil eye on the expedition, and had done everything in their power to discourage it. In *The Times* of that day there appeared a most moving and important letter from a Roumanian professor, who made a strong appeal to the people of this country to realise in time how vital was the question of the fate of Roumania. It would be very useful if the Secretary of State for War could say something to convey to the people of Roumania the conviction that this country would strain every nerve to come to their assistance by a strong offensive in Macedonia. It would be an unparalleled disaster were Germany allowed to overrun Roumania. Rumours had been in circulation for a long time that a struggle had been going on behind the scenes between the General Staff in England and certain other influences as to whether the Salonika expedition should be starved and ultimately abandoned. For his part, he believed that the war would be decided in the Balkans, and that if we allowed Roumania to be overrun, success might be denied to us.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: I am afraid I could not possibly answer the hon. member without entering upon subjects which are extremely perilous in their nature. But the Government are fully alive to the necessity of giving every support in their power to the gallant armies of Roumania in the very vicious attack which has been made upon her. We have not the least doubt that Germany is concentrating her strength in the hope of crushing her. She is doing it not merely from the point of view of her own interests, but in a spirit of resentment and vengeance because these brave people have dared to challenge her power so near to her own home. The Allied countries are fully alive to that, and my hon. friend may depend upon it that every effort will be made by this country and by others to protect the Roumanian Army against an effort of that kind.

The Allies and Greece. Oct. 17.

Mr. R. M'NEILL asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in view of the fact that events have vindicated Sir E. Carson's foresight, as expressed in his letter to the Prime Minister of October 12, 1915, with respect to affairs in the Balkans, whether the Government are yet prepared to follow his advice that vigorous efforts should be made to compel Greece to fulfil her treaty obligations.

Lord R. CECIL replied that he did not wish to enter into any discussion as to the political foresight of his right hon. friend. Everyone must judge of that for himself. In time of war the most important advice was that of the naval and military advisers of the Government. It was impossible for him to discuss the present or future action of the Allied Governments in respect of Greece. The Government could not give effect to advice of this kind except in consultation and concert with their Allies.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to another question by Mr. R. M'Neill, said that by Article 3 of the Treaty of 1863 Greece, under the guarantee of the three Courts of England, France, and Russia, formed a Monarchial independent and constitutional State. The instrument did not contain any definition of constitutional government. His hon. friend might rely on the guaranteeing Powers discharging their treaty obligations.

The Mesopotamian Wounded.

In a written reply to questions put by Major ASTOR relating to alleged deficiencies in the arrangements at the Nilgiri Hills stations for the reception of sick and wounded troops from Mesopotamia,

Mr. C. ROBERTS states that in August last the Secretary of State for India telegraphed to the Government of India for a report. As regards Coonoor, the Viceroy replied that there had been small defects of a temporary character, but that these had been promptly remedied, and that the G.O.C. of the Division, in the course of frequent visits, found the invalids contented and happy. As regards Wellington, the Viceroy was satisfied by an exhaustive inspection carried out by the G.O.C. in company with the Governor of Madras that there were nothing more than inconveniences of a temporary character, which were quickly dealt with. The Viceroy added that there was no dearth of comforts or stores, and that private relief was merely supplementing official resources.

Dentists for Mesopotamia. Oct. 18.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE, replying to Sir J. Jardine, said: The Force in Mesopotamia has been supplied with all the dentist and dental mechanics for which it has asked, and the Army Council were quite recently informed by cable that no more were required. The distribution of the dentist and dental mechanics sent out is, of course, a matter for the discretion of the local military authorities.

The Kut Prisoners.

Mr. FORSTER, answering Sir E. Cornwall, said: The total number of British and Indian troops taken prisoners at Kut who have been accounted for is about 2,850 of all ranks. This figure includes natives and also those who have been reported as exchanged or dead. Those traced are distributed over some sixteen places. Information is scanty, but those in camps are believed to be fairly well treated.

M. Venizelos' Government. Oct. 19.

Answering Mr. LYNCH, Lord R. CECIL had nothing to say as to the intention of the Government to recognise the provisional Government established by M. Venizelos. The question was one of agreement between the Allied Powers, and not one in which H.M. Government could take individual action

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The story of a certain British firm which has bravely started a factory here with the purpose of manufacturing in this country a key-article which before the war was entirely in the hands of Germans is deserving of particular attention, chiefly because it serves as an illustration of what British private enterprise can do even in war time. The enterprise of the company is most commendable. But there is a fly in the ointment. Supposing, for instance —and the supposition is by no means fantastic—that after the war, when Germany has acquired again some sort of status among industrial nations, our country is made the dumping ground for the key-article in question. What will be the result? The firm, unable to compete against prices allowing no margin of profit, will go under, and the German industry will regain its monopoly. It is essential that the British Government should take the necessary measures *now* to prevent this, and thus not only assure the company's future, but also liberate us from the bondage of an enemy-controlled key-industry. Needless to say, the German industry will be backed by the "bottomless purse of State aid," and it is against this that we will have to fight, by prohibiting the dumping in this country of the enemy article, and by enabling our home industry to compete against the German one on foreign markets.

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Which brings us to the question of State grants-in-aid. Wherever such are necessary, they should be given; in nine cases out of ten the capital invested would bear substantial interest, and thus prove a profitable investment, besides enabling us to smash a German monopoly. I know that hitherto State grants-in-aid have been foreign—or almost completely so—to our industrial and commercial system, but all this will have to be changed. Prior to the war, for instance, we lost hundreds of glorious opportunities in the Near East because our Government held strictly aloof from aiding—whether morally or materially—British private enterprise. The thought, alone, of any such aid was tabooed by all officials. Then, one day, we woke up to find the enemy firmly ensconced in all points of industrial advantage, and our people so handicapped that, in most cases, they were obliged to withdraw from the fight.

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After protective tariffs protecting the home industry at home, and grants-in-aid (where necessary) to protect it abroad, the most important reform to be introduced is that of our banking system. Banks must in future do more to help our industrial and commercial interests. They must rely less on the bill-broking business. I see that, in this connection, the Unionist War Committee is taking up the cudgels, and I wish it every success. Bankers are averse to acknowledging that they have not helped British industry and commerce to the best of their abilities, but it is notorious that they did not help it one-thousandth part as much as the Dresdner, Diskonto and Deutsche banks helped their compatriots. This is true both as regards home industries and the export trade. The Near East particularly was a long sufferer in this respect, and I sincerely hope that the end of the war will also see the end of our apathy in the Balkans as regards the financial help required by our exporting firms, who will be doing their utmost to keep the flag waving on the eastern confines of Central Europe.

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In conclusion, however, it must be pointed out that in the question of British banks furthering British foreign trade, no serious reform or progress along modern commercial lines can be undertaken until the branches of the German banks in England have been finally liquidated. These, firmly established here as the unscrupulous agents of German trade and the secret enemies of British, did an immense amount of harm, besides acquiring considerable power and prominence in the foreign exchange business. It was hoped, when Germany played us foul in 1914, that these institutions would be liquidated and the enemy thus shorn of his power to do us harm. Basing their actions most naturally on this assumption, many of our leading banking institutions turned their attention to foreign business with a view to freeing us from the German parasite. Thus, as *The Times* points out, "the foreign exchange business of our banks has been trebled, and the insidious influence of the German banks in undermining our foreign trade has been removed—for the time being." But, and this must be emphasised, "the research and the enterprise which our banks have devoted to the subject will be wasted and their further efforts will be discouraged unless the Government adduces clear evidence that it is determined to rout out the influence which in the past the German banks have exercised." So far the Government have not done so, but I hope that, in order to convince them of the necessity to liquidate as rapidily as possible the branches of the German banks trading in this country, no stone will be left unturned by all interested in the freedom of our banks to promote British trade abroad, more particularly in the Near and Middle East.

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The native Press in Egypt is once more agitating for the removal of the ban on the cultivation of tobacco in the country. As a justification of the fresh plea being made the journals point to the difficulty now experienced in obtaining supplies from Greece. As my readers are aware, the best tobacco is obtainable from districts in Macedonia which passed into the hands of the Greeks as a result of the Balkan wars, but have now been graciously ceded to the Bulgars. Permission to grow the fragrant weed in Egypt would manifestly have no effect on the present difficulties in the local tobacco trade, but the statement that the actual stock of tobacco in Egypt is only sufficient to meet requirements for the next six months makes it necessary to consider whether the continued prohibition of tobacco cultivation is justified under the circumstances. Apart from the loss of revenue from Customs dues involved in the departure, the main consideration which the Egyptian Government has, I believe, had in mind in enforcing prohibition was the question of commercial treaties, to wit, with Greece. But nowadays, as one paper points out, even international treaties, let alone commercial treaties, are being interpreted in the interests of the parties likely to suffer, and a way out could surely be found in the present case.

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The shippers of Egyptian onions to this country need hardly fear competition from the British onion grower, but, nevertheless, it will interest them to know that the cultivation of the succulent bulb is being tried this year in Lincolnshire on a bigger scale than hitherto. If successful as a business venture, there is no doubt that increased areas will gradually be put under cultivation. The present venture covers an acreage of about 350 acres, and the crop will vary, at a rough estimate, from five to ten tons an acre, and be worth anything between £30,000—£40,000. The cost per acre is reckoned at £40, leaving a prospective profit of £20,000.

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A writer in the *Egyptian Mail* calls attention to the fact that at the recent exhibition of Egyptian industries held at Alexandria there were an extraordinary number of open infringements of foreign patents. "Primus" stoves and "Crown" corks are two instances which he mentions, but he believes there were several others. The fact is that there are no real patent laws in Egypt, and thus foreign manufacturers are at the mercy of almost any enterprising merchant who cares to imitate their products. If the present endeavours to interest British manufacturers in the trade possibilities of Egypt after the war are to bear fruit, it seems certain that some effective patent law should be enacted, which would afford them ample protection against such infringements.

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Elsewhere is printed a short summary of a report on the trade of Malta for the year 1915, and I draw particular attention to it because in sending a copy of it to the United States Trade Bureau at Washington, the American Consul on the island emphasises the great opportunities that exist there for American enterprise. I have remarked upon the tireless character of American energy before; and though we are very good friends there can be no reason why we should allow them to come in to take away British trade from British subjects. The Consul appears to realise the difficulties imposed through lack of shipping communications; but we must see to it that before Americans can improve their transoceanic carrying facilities we must solidify our own position.

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Our American rivals are not the only danger, however. The Japanese have already "got busy," and the result of their enterprise is evidenced by the increased amount of Japanese goods seen in the shops, especially in the cheaper lines formerly supplied by Germany. It is the same elsewhere. Throughout India, for example, the Japanese trader is very successful; and although the cheap goods with which he floods the markets are very cheap and very nasty, he is making strong headway. Better a Japanese or an American than a Hun, of course; but in spheres in which Britain's influence is predominant there is no reason why British trade should not be supreme as well. British manufacturers must begin to work seriously if they do not want to be left at the post in the race for trade.

COMMENTATOR.

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MALTA'S TRADE IN 1915.

How the War Brought Prosperity.

In a recent issue we dealt at some length with the revenue returns of Malta for the year ending 1915-16. Here is a report showing what were the trade conditions on the island in 1915.

It was a prosperous year, we are told, the prosperity being due to the largely increased sum expended by the Government on war account. The dockyard ran continuously at its maximum capacity, and the large number of steamers which stopped at Valetta for coal and other purposes added greatly to the earnings of those employed in the supply of marine stores. Merchants, too, had the advantage and profit which accrue from a large floating population.

Limited Stocks.

Stocks of all kinds were much depleted at the beginning of 1915 owing to the usual channels of trade having been almost entirely closed, and this was especially true with regard to goods formerly purchased from Germany and Austro-Hungary. However, in the early spring England and France were able to furnish a sufficient quantity of such goods as they had formerly sold this market and, in addition, to supply to a limited extent substitutes for goods previously bought from Germany and Austria-Hungary.

There was a shortage at various times of kerosene, gasoline, and lubricating oils, as well as some of the important articles of food, such as sugar, lard, bacon, butter, condensed milk, and coffee. There has never been a sufficient stock on hand of the following goods: Women's cotton, silk, and lisle hosiery, women's ready-made shoes of good quality, underwear of all grades, writing papers, printing paper, leather and shoe findings, glassware of all kinds, enamelware, chemicals used in the manufacture of aerated waters, notions, etc.

Japanese Invasion.

The Maltese manufacturers of lace, silver filigree work, and cigarettes have enjoyed an exceedingly good year owing to the large number of transients on the island. At times they have had difficulty in filling orders, largely due to inability to secure a sufficient supply of the necessary raw material. This was especially true with regard to lace manufacture, as large quantities of material are always in the hands of the lace makers, who are usually women with household duties to perform and who can only work on the lace at odd times. One firm has more than 900 women employed in the manufacture of lace. They are scattered all over the islands of Malta and Gozo and frequently are not able to deliver their work for long periods.

In the last annual report mention was made of the campaign that was being carried on by Japan to secure Malta business, and the result obtained is evidenced by the increased amount of Japanese goods seen in the shops, especially in the cheaper lines formerly furnished by Germany.

Foreign Trade.

Exclusive of bullion and coin, the total imports for the fiscal year ended March 31 amounted to £2,014,552, while for the preceding year they amounted to £2,452,270, a decrease of £437,718.

Total exports, again excluding bullion, amounted to £897,084, a decrease of £128,431 on the previous year, due to a dropping off in the exportation of coal.

Export Trade.

Potatoes, onions, and cumin seed were the principal articles of export. During the greater portion of the year the exports of onions and potatoes were prohibited, but this restriction caused little hardship on the farmer, for excellent prices were obtainable on the island through the large addition to the normal population.

During the year the principal articles of export were :—

	£
Cheese	6,380
Coffee	60
Fish	3,110
Onions	30,310
Oranges	860
Potatoes	104,441
Lard	60
Spirits	3,026
Cigarettes	20,258
Cigars	2,590
Tea	5,057
Wine	2,837
Cumin Seed	17,450
Cotton goods	6,969
Fruits and vegetables (n.e.s.)	1,276
Flour and semolina	2,107
Coal	344,800
Cotton	1,150
Rags and by-products	1,796
Sponges	431
Metal manufactures	8,680

Agriculture.

In 1915, the total area under cultivation was 41,617 acres. Cereals were raised on 13,816 acres, the slight decrease of 78 acres on the figure for the present year being explained by expansion under onions and cumin seed.

Potatoes were grown on 3,673 acres, as against 4,488 acres in 1914. Owing to the conditions ushered in by the war farmers were undecided whether to plant potatoes to the usual extent or not. At the end of the year, however, a demand for about 2,000 tons from the Regency of Tunis came just in time to turn the scale in favour of normal planting.

The importation of potatoes shows a decrease of 15,608 cwts. of 112 lbs., the quantity imported being 102,654 cwts., of which 62,438 cwts. were used as seed. Onions were planted on 1,703 acres, as against 1,119 acres in the preceding year. The increased area was partly due to record prices obtained last year. Out of 6,180 tons produced last year, 3,931 tons were exported, leaving scarcely sufficient for local supply. Cumin seed was grown on 2,359 acres, as against 1,546 acres the previous year, an increase of 813 acres, in which Gozo also shared. The increase was chiefly due to the exceptional price obtained for the produce the summer of 1915. The produce of this year is estimated at 12,691 cwts of 112 lbs.

The total quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarins gathered last year is estimated at 75,000 dozen, as against 167,000 dozen in 1913-14.

The "fluted-scale insect" which had lately spread to the central parts of the island where orange groves are located, continues to be kept in check by the *Novius Cardinalis*, and no ill-effects are apprehended from the pest.

AMERICANS IN GREECE.

Reporting under date of August 21, the United States Consul-General at Athens stated :—

For some time past the Athens Consulate-General has maintained a card index of the names of local agents of American firms, under a cross-entry system. It has not been possible, however, to make this list complete as it should be, despite a notice concerning it that appeared in *Commerce Reports* some months ago, wherein American commercial houses were requested to notify this office of the names of their representatives. In an endeavour to perfect this list there is now added to the Consulate-General's replies to inquiries from the United States a paragraph somewhat as follows :—"This office keeps a card index of agents of American firms in this territory and endeavours to co-operate with them in building up American trade. Perhaps in the event that you make an agency arrangement for this district you may see proper to notify this office so that inquiries may be referred to your representatives; might it not be in your interest to have your representative call on the writer with a view to discussing the possibilities of the market?" American firms having a representative in the Athens district are again requested to consider the advisability of notifying this office.

Another example of the manner in which the American trade authorities are endeavouring to strengthen their position in the Mediterranean.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 18.

The capture of the town of Petrosheni was of interest to the Roumanians principally on account of the coal of excellent quality which the mines in the vicinity produce. The Government engineer, Puscarin, who was entrusted by the Ministry of Industry to take over the mines, has now returned to Bucharest. He states that the present production of the mines amounts to 50,000 tons annually, and that 3,000 workmen were employed by the Hungarians on them, but on account of the war only 500 labourers remained. These were put to work in shifts by the engineer and his assistants, so that work on the mines can proceed regularly.

Coal Supply.

The possession of these mines is important to Roumania as a regular supply of coal is secured for the country. Hitherto Roumania has been dependent on water-borne coal from Cardiff or Germany, and last winter coal had to be brought from Russia at very heavy cost.

About 400 lighters, flying the German, Austro-Hungarian, Greek, and Roumanian flags, and transporting cereals belonging to the Austro-German Consortium, have been seized in different parts of the Danube.

A quantity of 2,000 wagon-loads (20,000 tons) of coal coming from Germany has also been seized. These will be disposed of by the Import and Export Commission. The consortium in question is naturally in liquidation. It is probable that all grain belonging to the consortium, which has been in trucks or lighters since the day of mobilisation, will be paid for by the Bureau of Liquidation at export prices. Grain in the stations or ports of the Danube not yet loaded for export may be withdrawn by the consignors, but will all be bought for the use of the army.

State Railway Profits.

The profits of the Roumanian State Railways for the month of July were 13,210,080 frs., against 12,538,745 frs. in the same month last year.

The Import Commission met yesterday under the presidency of Mr. Al. Radovich, Minister of Commerce, to examine the question of distribution of the merchandise confiscated and brought from the various localities occupied by the Roumanian armies. The Commission has advised the Government to intervene with the Russian Government with a view to facilitating the importation of goods from and viâ Russia.

SHIPPING NOTES.

The *Sudan Government Gazette* of August 31 publishes the text of Regulations, dated August 2, made under the Harbours and Shipping Ordinance, 1916.

These Regulations, which came into force on September 1, deal, *inter alia*, with pilotage and port dues at Port Sudan; hire of port plant; harbour regulations; licensing of harbour craft; and the authorised passenger tariff.

British firms interested may consult the full text of the above-mentioned Regulations at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The Roumanian steamer Bistritza has been sunk. She was a steamer of 3,688 tons, built at Sunderland last year, and owned at Braila.

The Levant liner Ernest Simon has arrived at Marseilles with 102 refugees from Turkey, sent to France for assisting in manual labour. On the arrival of the steamer the police arrested three stokers for smuggling hashish, 12 kilograms of which were found on board.

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ECONOMIC POSITION OF THE SUDAN.

The Half-Yearly Accounts.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 5.

The half-yearly accounts of the Sudan Government show that the Sudan, like Egypt, is holding its own manfully against the abnormal war conditions, which reasonably might have been expected to affect the country's prosperity. For the half-year ending June 30 the revenue amounted to £E1,001,411, and the expenditure to £E748,302, as against £E736,608 and £E663,024 respectively a year ago. Thus in the six months there has been an improvement of £E264,803 (or over 35 per cent.) in revenue, and an increase of £E85,278 (or 13 per cent.) in expenditure, leaving the position £E179,525 better off than it was a year ago (a surplus of £E253,109, as compared with one of £E73,584 on June 30, 1915).

The chief heads under which increases are registered are:—Provincial receipts by £E70,870, in which are included land tax, which increased by £E11,496; tribute by £E7,473; gum royalty by £E17,042; and animal tax by £E40,871. The two first-named items actually doubled, the last-named quadrupled, whilst gum royalty improved by 50 per cent., Customs by £E27,830 (or 33½ per cent.), import duty by £E13,102, export by £E3,951, and dues collected by Egypt by £E12,298; railways by £E153.008, public transport by £E82,140 (or 38 per cent.), and transport for the Egyptian Army by £E43,402, or to almost treble the figure for the previous year. Post Office and Telegraph receipts increased slightly.

Under expenditure the main items were:—Provincial, which increased by £E5.032 to £E,192,185, central services by £E15,32? to £E42,529, steamers by £E4,656 to £E42,293, and railways by £E56,766 to £E217,687.

It is interesting to note that even compared with June 30, 1914—*i.e.*, a period which was not affected by war conditions—the figures for the past half-year are eminently satisfactory. The revenue is £E154,578 better, and the expenditure is just about the same, the difference being £E624 in favour of the current year. The only items which show any marked diminution compared with June 30, 1914, are:—Import dues and steamer receipts, which are respectively £E10,152 and £E23,133 less; railway receipts are up by £E96,354, of which £E54,582 are for public transport; animal tax has increased by £F34,562, land tax by £E14,465 to nearly treble its former figure, post and telegraph fees by £E5,018 (or 15 per cent.), royalties by 10 per cent., trader's tax and tribute have doubled, export dues have improved by 90 per cent., and dues collected by Egypt on account of the Sudan by £E12,863 (or 25 per cent.), thus somewhat upsetting the drop in import dues. On the expenditure side, which, as stated, is about the same, central services have required £E18,821 more and railways £E8,123 more, whilst steamers have taken £E15,004 less, public works £E10,498 less, education £E3,035 less, and nothing appears as recovered from the Egyptian Government on account of repression of slave trade, which accounted for a deduction of £E7,890 in the first six months of 1914.

This state of affairs is decidedly satisfactory, especially when one notes that in the budgetary estimates for the current year revenue and expenditure were set at £E1,642,000, and that the collections during the first half-year are over 60 per cent. thereof—in 1914 the proportion was only 50 per cent.—and the expenditure is well under half. Of course, it is not possible to know what bills due in the early part of the year have remained outstanding, and so are debitable to the concluding half-year; but it is reasonable to assume that they do not approach the difference in the balance-sheet, which to-day is £E155.202 in favour of 1916, as compared with 1914.

The result so far attained fully bears out the anticipations expressed in the review of the accounts for 1915 published in The Near East of July 28, when it was stated that the increase in the estimates was amply justified by the excellent reports on the agricultural situation and the general improvement in the internal trade. Some of the increase in certain of the receipts, such as railways, animal tax, and royalties, may be due to the raising of the tariffs, but there is little doubt that the improved complexion that has come over all the heads of revenue is due to the amelioration in the economic situation as indicated by the expansion of the country's trade, and we may, I think, look forward to the current year turning out to be one of the best the Sudan has known since its reconquest.

GOOD SUDAN CROPS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, September 28.

Reports from the provinces still indicate exceptional crops, although there has been some damage in places due to excessive rain. Sesame is expected to be well above the average. Of cotton it is too early to speak, whilst of durra there will be a glut in many places.

A small consignment of cattle has arrived from Beni Shangul viâ Kurmuk, and fair prices have been realized. The cattle trade is barely re-opened yet, but the quantities of excellent grazing should ensure fat beasts, and it is simply a question of demand. The market in Egypt seems to rely chiefly on the needs of the European residents, as the local supply suffices for the native wants.

EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

The monthly bulletin of the Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo, dated October 1, gives the condition of the cotton crop in Lower Egypt as 10 per cent. and in Upper Egypt as 4 per cent. below the average. The bulletin adds that the weather was hot during the first half of the month, and promised well for the maturity of more cotton than was anticipated in the last report, but it was rather damp during the second half and generally too cool at night, so that the expected improvement was not the general result.

The pink bollworm attack has considerably increased in intensity, notably in Upper Egypt. Picking is now general, and in some places cotton plants are being removed immediately after. The first picking has been completed in several provinces, but the yield is very uneven, being disappointing in the majority and normal only in a few. In Dakahlia, owing to the general early opening of bolls, the result of the first picking was particularly good, leaving but very little cotton for the second picking. In general the poorer lands have done better than average, whereas the better lands have fallen off to some extent. In the basins, owing to high floods, the crop had to be prematurely picked, and the yield was therefore much below average. In several provinces the ginning outturn is reported to be somewhat low, but this has not yet been taken into account in the crop estimation, as the results may be improved later.

On the whole, the yield of the crop this year is likely to be appreciably below average, the main causes being the abnormally excessive and continued heat in June, followed generally by too copious watering, which prevented the formation of lower branch bolls; the quick maturity of middle bolls before attaining the maximum size; and the damaged condition of the upper or late bolls by pink seed worm. The too rapid maturity of middle bolls, upon which the crop depended this year, was doubtless due to lack of water towards the end of July and the beginning of August.

EGYPT'S TOBACCO IMPORTS.

The Greek steamer Dagni brought to Alexandria lately 4,640 bales of tobacco from Greece for six firms in Egypt, of which the Matossian Company alone received 1,991 bales.

Greece has been for over a year the only country from which Egypt imported Oriental tobacco. During the last year it supplied to that country 5.198,298 kilos to the value of £E571,597. Before the war, when Turkey and Russia supplied tobacco to Egypt, the Greek exports of the same article were much less than the above figures. In 1914 Greece shipped to Egypt 3,378,116 kilos, and in 1913 3.282.043 kilos, against 1,720,225 and 2,628,274 kilos exported by Turkey in the same years.

TRADE NOTES.

Liquidations.

Mr. A. J. Lowe, Alexandria, has been appointed receiver of the business of Mr. Antoine Leban, Alexandria, with instructions to liquidate the same.

The licence granted to Mr. Antoine Leban has been cancelled, and the liquidation of his business will be carried on by the receiver whose appointment is mentioned above.

Mr. E. C. Widdows, Gresham House, Cairo, has been appointed receiver of the business of the firm of Bohm, Friedrich and Heymann, with instructions to liquidate the same. The licence granted to the firm of Bohm, Friedrich and Heymann has been cancelled, and the liquidation of the business will be carried on by the receiver.

Openings.

The Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior (Personnel and Equipment Department), invites tenders for the supply of uniforms, cloth, white and khaki drill, saddlery, accoutrements, furniture, enamel ware, leather, boots, paints, oils, tarbushes, cotton shirts and drawers, blankets (woollen), and miscellaneous stores. (December 10.)

The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of drugs, dressings, sundries, etc., necessary for Central Stores for one year from April 1, 1917, to March 31, 1918. (November 25.)

The same Department invites tenders for the supply of equipment, clothing, etc., necessary for Central Stores for one year from April 1, 1917, to March 31, 1918. (November 30.)

Export Prohibitions.

A consolidated and amended Proclamation, dated June 22, 1916, has been issued by the Government of Cyprus, which prohibits the exportation of various articles to certain countries. It is provided in the Proclamation that nothing contained therein shall affect the prohibition of the exportation of goods contained in any Law or Regulation of the Colony. The exportation of the following goods is entirely prohibited by various laws of the Colony, viz.:—All timber, charcoal, and firewood, being the produce of Cyprus; bark, tar, pitch and resin; manure; antiquities; game; skins or eggs of game or wild birds. The Proclamation has since been amended by Proclamations dated July 12 and 25, August 2 and 18, and September 6, 1916. A supplement to the *Board of Trade Journal* of October 12 publishes lists specifying the articles the exportation of which is prohibited from the Colony, according to the latest information received by the Board of Trade.

The same supplement to the *Board of Trade Journal* publishes a revised and consolidated list of articles, dated April 5, 1916, the exportation of which from Egypt is prohibited or restricted. This list has since been slightly modified and the corrections have been included in the list given. In the list of prohibited exports no mention is made of the administrative measures (such as the requiring of British Consular certificates of destination) which have been taken by the Customs authorities to prevent goods from reaching the enemy through neutral countries. These measures are in force for *all* goods exported to neutral countries adjacent to enemy countries. The list is liable to modification at any moment, owing to the requirements of the military authorities.

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PRODUCE REPORT.

London, October 19.

Currants.

There has been a strong demand during this past week, and all kinds are practically cleared; in fact, for the first time yesterday there was no spot business done owing, simply, to the absence of stocks. A steamer with 1,200 tons arrived yesterday, and another is due. Pyrgos, in bags, was sold at 69s. to 70s.; Amalias, quarter cases, 74s. to 76s.; Gulf, 77s. to 78s.; Vostizza, 80s. to 82s. Smalls are dearer; some, in bags, were sold at 78s., and others, in cases, at 80s.

Sultanas.

The demand has been very good, with business done mostly in Afghan and Cretan fruit, the former selling at 91s. to 93s., and the latter at 92s. to 95s. Northern Indian fruit is quoted 90s. to 92s., and Australian 101s. to 103s. Greeks, new crop, will arrive after November 1, whilst old fruit is selling at the rate of 100s. to 105s.

Seeds.

Linseed is firm, and more or less against buyers. London-Calcutta spot was sold to-day at 80s., afloat also 80s., while Oct.-Nov. was offered at 81s. 3d. and Nov.-Dec. 83s., with few buyers. Bombay, small grain, Oct.-Nov., 81s. 6d., and Nov.-Dec. 83s. Rapeseed is very firm at recent full rates: Brown Cawnpore, Oct.-Jan., to London, is offered at 68s. 6d.; bold Ferozepore, prompt, 71s. 6d. Cotton-seed is quiet and rather easier: Sakelarides, loading, £14 7s. 6d.; Egyptian to Hull, new, afloat, £14 15s.; and Oct., £14 10s. Bombay to Hull, spot, £12 15s. Rangoon beans are steady. Spot is quoted £27, afloat £26 15s., Oct.-Nov. £27 5s., Nov.-Dec. £28, and Dec.-Jan. £30, c.i.f.

Oils.

Linseed oil is in fair request at stiffer rates: Spot, pipes, £40 5s.; barrels, £40 17s. 6d.; Oct., £40 15s.; Nov.-Dec., £41 10s. Rape oil is firmly held: English refined, in barrels, spot, £49 to £52. Cotton oil is firm, but in limited request: Crude pipes, spot, £39 10s.; refined pale, pipes, £42; barrels, £43; and sweet, barrels, £49 to £52.

Oilcakes.

Linseed cakes: The demand is very good, with quotations in favour of sellers. Best London made is offered sparingly at £15. East Indian seed, pures, are quoted at £14 5s. to £14 10s. Cotton cakes, Egyptian, on spot, are not offered, but Oct.-Nov. shipments are quoted about £10 10s. per ton, ex ship, and English, from Bombay seed, at £10 12s. 6d. to £11.

Locust Beans.

The scarcity continues, and only small quantities of kibbled are obtainable at £12 per ton. Cyprus locust beans are selling at the Liverpool market £11 10s. to £11 15s., ex store, net.

Tobacco.

Considerable business has been done during the last two weeks at extremely high prices. Turkish is quoted 1s. 6d. to 15s. per lb.; Latakia, 1s. 6d. to 5s.; Greek, 1s. to 5s. (The duty on these kinds varies from 5s. 6d. to 6s. 2d. per lb., according to moisture contained in every 100 lbs.)

POTATO DISEASE IN CYPRUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nicosia, October 4.

Dismay has been caused in parts of the island where potatoes are largely grown owing to the appearance of two parasites which eat the leaves and the roots respectively of the new crops. There has been a large extension of the cultivation of this tuber in the present year. This evil will, no doubt, be promptly investigated by the Agricultural Department.

The price of potatoes has risen in the cheapest markets to 3 and 3½ piastres (4d. and 4½d.) the oke for foreign (generally called French) kinds, and to 2½ and 3 piastres for native. It is represented that the export of the vegetable should be at once prohibited. It is also urged that all exportation of sheep and pigs should cease, as otherwise there will inevitably be a shortage of meat and of fats, which are so necessary for cooking, especially as the importation of "butter" and lard has been greatly restricted.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Petrol Substitutes.

The decision of an English magistrate a few days ago that all petrol substitutes come under the definition of "motor spirit," and, therefore, cannot be used without license, is being widely discussed by users. The official view is that the decision was correct, while the Owner-drivers' Branch of the London and Provincial Vehicle Workers' Union expressed indignation at the decision. Only a few weeks ago, as we mentioned in these columns at the time, the union discovered a substitute, which proved satisfactory after severe tests, and which a number of taxi-cab drivers put into immediate use. "We have taken a month to get the machinery, and we are proposing to put the substitute on the market in big quantities," said the officials of the union, "and if any of our members are prosecuted for using it we are prepared to fight it out." In the meantime, the petrol famine and the apparent mishandling of the liquid fuel problem is rapidly disorganising road transport throughout the country, and it appears that the electric-driven vehicles have the best opportunity at present. There is a demand for them for all purposes, but, unfortunately, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain such vehicles of British manufacture at the present moment, and the Board of Trade has been approached with a view to allow their importation.

The Petrol Problem.

Apropos our remarks on electric cars in these notes last week, it may be mentioned that in Algiers, Tunis, some parts of Egypt, Greece, and elsewhere certain motor-car service communications with inland districts have been stopped for want of petrol, and the old camel, horse, and mule service is revived; while in Athens the people are crying as vigorously for war as for water. The Mayor of the latter town, in order to relieve the sufferings of certain thickly populated neighbourhoods, which, owing to the distance from the existing mains, and the insufficiency of water in the only reservoir of the town, could not obtain even the necessary water for drinking, had arranged a regular water auto-car service by which the suffering inhabitants receive a daily supply of water. During the scarcity of petrol this water-car service has been stopped, and a water "revolution" may now be just as probable as any other. But that is not all. The Mayor, after praiseworthy efforts, and personal sacrifices, succeeded in obtaining a considerable quantity of water from a new source near Athens, which will relieve the situation until the great scheme for the water supply of Athens is realised. Now that supply of water has to be stopped, for there is no petrol to work the pumping engines, and the employment of an electric pumping plant is contemplated, British manufacturers who happen to have in stock such plants would do well to communicate with Mr. Benachi, Mayor of Athens, who, by the way, is said to be a great friend of M. Venizelos and pro-Entente.

A Zeppelin Alarm.

It is well known that in all light-restricted areas when Zeppelins are sighted the town's gas is lowered to half or quarter pressure. Based on this standing order, a device has been invented which can be connected to an ordinary gas burner at any convenient place in the house, and when the gas is lowered it rings an electric bell, giving thus a timely warning of the coming of Zeppelins. The device consists of a metal cylinder containing a rubber bladder, which is so arranged that while the gas is turned on the bladder is inflated and in that condition keeps apart the contacts of an electric bell with which the device is connected. When at the coming of Zeppelins the town's gas is lowered to half or quarter pressure, the rubber bladder is deflated, and, dropping gradually, allows two metal prongs above it to fall on a disc containing mercury, when a perfect contact is made and the electric bell starts ringing.

An Air Hoist.

We have had occasion in previous notes to allude to the great difficulties experienced in the working of mines and quarries, and in the construction of public works, throughout the East, through the want of efficient and labour-saving hoisting apparatus. Primitive lifting devices and very old-fashioned hoists are still in use in some very important mines and quarries, whose shares are not unknown on the European Stock Exchanges. An air hoist which was recently shown at work will undoubtedly interest proprietors and contractors in the East. It is designed to solve the question of how to raise and lower timber and rock economically and quickly, and is specially useful because of the ease with which it can be set up or taken down, or transported from point to point, and the great tonnage it will handle in a limited time, thus economising labour. It is equipped with an inverted cone similar to that found on rock drill shells, which permits mounting the hoist on a 4½ in. double-screw column in exactly the same manner as a rock drill. By means of the column arm to which it is clamped the hoist can be set up as high or as low down on the column as desired, and swung in any direction, either close to the column or some feet away from it. It is built to meet underground conditions, and is a compact and sturdy machine, light enough to make it easy to handle and operate, yet strong and powerful enough to do a great deal of work. The hoist is operated by a reversible pneumatic motor through a chain of gears cut from solid steel and hardened. This gearing is so designed that a brake is unnecessary; it instantly and positively locks, whether in raising or lowering the load, the moment the motor stops, and it is impossible for the load to slip, even though the air is cut off for a whole day.

No Waste from Liquorice Root.

There are several places in the Near East where liquorice is produced, and until recently a considerable trade was done with America and countries in the Continent. Some years ago there were large liquorice mills in some parts of Greece, Asia Minor, principally in Smyrna, and in some of the Ægean islands, where the juicy substance was obtained from the root of the liquorice; but more recently it has been found difficult to compete with the American mills, and most of the native-owned mills were closed, and the roots are now exported. With the great scarcity of wood at the present time it will be of interest to liquorice growers to hear that, according to a recent report in the American Press, waste liquorice root is being utilised for the manufacture of "boards" for box-making. After extraction of the liquorice the crushed root was formerly considered a waste product and destroyed; but under a new process it can now be made into chemical wood pulp and pressed into a board that is said to have satisfactory resisting qualities and strength.

There has been a marked development lately in the foreign markets for Japanese superphosphate fertilizers. An Osaka firm is reported to have secured an order for 2,000 tons, half for Russia and half for India, and further orders are said to be in sight from the former country, besides one for several thousand tons from Port Said. An investigation is in progress to see whether there are sufficient stocks to meet the demand.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The despatch by parcel post of cigarettes to Switzerland has been suspended until further notice in Egypt.

Herr Alfred Lohmann, director of the Ozeanreederei, has received a gold medal from the City of Bremen in commemoration of the return of the Deutschland, and for his achievements in "establishing new trade relations with the Orient and with countries beyond the seas."

It is interesting to note, in connection with the recent official announcement urging more British firms to enter the cotton trade, that Messrs. J. Rolo and Co., the well-known merchants of Alexandria, have recently established a cotton branch. Messrs. J. Rolo and Co. have appointed as their representative at Manchester Mr. O. F. Waterfield, a former Anglo-Egyptian.

Captain Richard Whieldon Barnett, Captain attached to the General Staff, chairman of the Oilfields Finance Corporation, deputy chairman of Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, and a director of several other oil companies, chairman of the St. Pancras Conservative Association, was the only candidate nominated on Monday for the West St. Pancras Parliamentary vacancy, and was duly declared elected.

After many years of suggestion, the Greek Government on Saturday announced that the Vice-Consulate at Newcastle had been raised to the fuller dignity of Consulate, says the *Newcastle Daily Journal* (October 16). Mr. Scholfield, the previous Vice-Consul, had asked for this, seeing the great importance of Newcastle and the Tyne in connection with Greek shipping. Mr. Leonard Macarthy, the new Consul, and who succeeded Mr. Scholfield, just received the announcement that he had been raised to the rank of Consul an hour or so before he had the privilege of welcoming Prince Nicholas of Greece at the quayside, where he landed from a Norwegian mail boat *en route* from Russia.

Roumania's appearance as a belligerent Power probably will not seriously affect economic conditions in Switzerland, says an American Consular report. Since the outbreak of hostilities in Europe, not only Russian, but Roumanian grain and cereal shipments to Switzerland have reached insignificant proportions. Switzerland long ago was compelled to cover the shortage by increased purchases in the American market. It will doubtless continue to do so, and the same is true of its purchases of petroleum, benzine, and unrefined machine oils, which have been entering the country from Roumanian sources in unprecedented quantities. If Roumania's entrance into the war is felt at all by the Swiss people, it will be felt in this particular field.

An Egyptian subject named Mahommed F. Leheta, residing at Birmingham, was fined £2 at Llandudno for entering the prohibited area of Carnarvonshire without the permission of the Chief Constable. It appeared that Mr. Leheta went to spend a short holiday at the Craigydon Boarding House, and gave the usual notice to the Birmingham police, but overlooked the fact that as an Egyptian subject, and, therefore, though Egypt is under British protection, an alien, he ought to have obtained the permission of the Chief Constable of the county to which he intended to travel. The case had been adjourned from the previous sitting of the Court in order that the defendant might attend, but a letter was now received from him stating that he was shortly to leave for Egypt, and for that reason he asked to be excused the journey to Llandudno.

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ALEXANDRIA PRIZE COURT.

The Deutsches Kohlen Depot.

This was a claim by the Crown for the confiscation as a good and lawful prize of a large number of tugs, motor launches and steel lighters, together with freight due, the property of the Deutsches Kohlen Company, an enemy firm in course of liquidation by the order of the military authorities.

Mr. A. S. Preston appeared as H.M. Procurator for the Crown; Mr. G. A. W. Booth for the Licensing Officer; Mr. C. H. Perrott for the liquidators of the Deutsches Kohlen Company.

The hearing took place before his Honour Judge Grain on August 28, September 8, 9, and 30.

The arguments largely turned upon the interpretation of the Hague Conventions No. VI. art. 1 and XI. art. 3, and involved a discussion on the position in international law of a small craft employed in local trade. Further questions that arose for the purposes of the case, were whether the property of the Deutsches Kohlen Company should be regarded as that of an alien enemy, the property sought to be confiscated being in the possession of the Egyptian branch of the company and having been used during the period of the war by the military authorities, notwithstanding an agreement between the British Coaling Company and the Deutsches Kohlen Company for the exclusive use of the craft of the latter.

The Court took time to consider its judgment, which was as follows,—

The Deutsches Kohlen Depot of Port Said is a German company registered at Hamburg, and their business was supplying coal to ships passing through Port Said; they also had a contract with the British Coaling Company to supply them with lighters and tugs for the purpose of enabling that company also to supply coal to ships.

After the outbreak of war the company appears to have been allowed to continue trading unmolested for some time, and in the evidence it is stated that as late as October, 1914, they were still having neutral steamers consigned to them for coaling, or "bunkering," as it is called in the trade.

Somewhere about the end of 1914 the naval and military authorities began to requisition some of the lighters and tugs, and continued doing so up to the present time. The German company has also been supplying the British Coaling Company with lighters and tugs up to the present time under a contract entered into on April 4, 1913.

Shortly after the outbreak of war a neutral subject was appointed as manager at Port Said in place of the former German subject.

Although in the evidence it is stated that the property of the German depot was requisitioned by the naval and military authorities, it appears to be more a case of hire than requisition, as no trace of any formal requisition can be discovered; and on November 7, 1914, a letter from the manager of the depot addressed to Major Elgood, War Department, was sent tendering prices for the hire of plant, and a further letter about prices was written on November 14, 1914, to the depot by the military authorities.

On October 30, 1915, a licence was granted to the depot by the Licensing Officer to carry on business to the extent of carrying out the contract with the British Coaling Company, and "for the liquidation of outstanding business, and, in particular, of claims against steamship companies for which the licences acted as agents in Egypt before the war." But since the outbreak of war no money appears to have been paid either by the military and naval authorities or the British Coaling Company for the hire of plant and craft. Consequently, there is a considerable sum of money now due to the Deutsches Kohlen Depot from all three parties.

On April, 29, 1916, Mr. Lloyd Jones was appointed liquidator of the depot. On August 8, 1916, a writ was issued against the "ships and floating craft" of the Deutsches Kohlen Depot.

The Procurator now asks that the Court shall condemn as prize and make an order for confiscation of these ships and floating craft, viz., four steam tugs, seven motor boats, and seventy-four wooden and steel lighters belonging to the Deutsches Kohlen Depot, or, in the alternative, if the Court came to the conclusion that the ships are within the Sixth Hague Convention to make an order for detention till the end of the war.

He further asks that the amount of money due by the naval and military authorities and the British Coaling Company shall be paid to the Prize Court.

With regard to the lighters, the Procurator argues that they are not ships, and that, therefore, neither the Hague Convention No. VI. nor No. XI. applies, and quotes the preamble to Convention No. VI, viz.: "Anxious to ensure the security of international commerce, etc.," and suggests that it governs the various articles which follow, that lighters are not merchant ships engaged in "international commerce" within the meaning of the Convention. He suggests that the ships must be such as to make voyages and travel from port to port, and urges that it would be ridiculous to give the lighters "days of grace" and a pass, because they could not move out of the port. He claims that these lighters are enemy goods in port, and, therefore, can be confiscated under The Roumanian case, Trehern's Prize Cases Vol. I. pp. 75, 536, and the Achaia (No. 2) case, Trehern Vol I. p. 635.

As regards the money due from October, 1914, to the present time, the Procurator claims that the captor and Crown stand in the same position as the person whose property has been captured, and such sums as were due to the original owners now become due to the Crown.

He states that this amount due for hire is in the same category as freight dues, that it is money due to the ship and the owners of the ship. Mr. Booth, who appears for the Government War Trade Department, and Mr. Perrott, who appears for the liquidators of the Deutsches Kohlen Depot appointed by the General Officer Commanding in Egypt, oppose the contentions of the Procurator and argue that these lighters are ships engaged in commerce, that they come within the Hague Convention XI., art. 3, and are "small boats engaged in local trade," and are exempt from capture, and that they undoubtedly come under the Hague Convention No. VI., and ought to be given days of grace and a pass. That, if that was not done, an order for detention only can be made. On the question of the confiscation to the Crown of the money due for hire, they urge that it stands in quite a different position to freight, as freight merely becomes payable to the Crown when the Crown completes the contract, it is money becoming due after the ship is in possession of the Crown. This hire money became due and payable long before the lighters came into the possession of the Crown, and it was a mere chance that it had not been paid before. And they further suggest that this Court has no jurisdiction with regard to this sum of money, as the whole transaction was complete, and the money payable before the lighters were taken as prize. They ask that the money shall be handed to the liquidator and an order made for the lighters to be released to the liquidator, or, in the alternative, an order for detention only.

The first question to be decided is under what classification are these lighters to be placed. Are they ships? If so, are they merchant ships within the Sixth Hague Convention?

The definition of a ship in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, sec. 742, is: '"Ship" includes every description of vessel used in navigation not propelled by oars.'

I do not know whether these particular lighters go out to sea or not, but they are similar to the lighters which are used for the purpose of loading and unloading ships in open ports where, in some cases, they have to go a considerable distance out to sea. And these particular lighters are constantly being navigated about the port of Port Said.

In the case Mayor of Southport *v.* Morris (1893), I.Q.B., 358, Lord Coleridge, C.J., decided that a small passenger steamer plying on an artificial lake "having regard to the size of the sheet of water on which it was used, it was not a vessel used in navigation." But an artificial inland lake is quite a different matter to a large port like Port Said.

In *ex parte*, Ferguson (1871), L.R. 6, Q.B., 280, a cobble 24 feet long, 7 feet beam, mast and bowsprit could be unshipped and oars used. Vessel fitted for oars, used for herring fishing, going twenty miles out to sea, when sea not too heavy, was decided to be a ship, and Lord Blackburn, in the course of his judgment, said, "whenever a vessel does go to sea, whether it be decked or not decked, or whether it goes to sea for the purpose of fishing or anything else, it would be a ship."

What, then, is the meaning of the word "ship"? It is this, that any vessel that substantially goes to sea is a ship.

These lighters certainly do not go to sea by their own propulsion, but lighters of identical style and build are towed out to sea loaded with merchandise by tugs for the purpose of supplying ships engaged in international commerce.

In the case Gapp *v.* Bond (1887) 19, Q.B.D., 200, a dumb barge propelled by oars, plying on the River Thames carrying goods, wares, and merchandise was decided to be a vessel within Bill of Sales Act, 1878, Lord Justice Fry stated: "A ship it clearly is not, but it appears to me to be a vessel." Lord Justice Fry, in stating it was not a "ship," probably had the Shipping Act definition in his mind, viz.: "Not propelled with oars."

In Abbott's Law of Merchant Ships and Seamen, 14 edit., the meaning of the word ship is discussed as follows:—

"The word 'ship' is not used either in the Act or decisions dealing with merchant shipping in any technical sense, but covers every description of vessel which is used in navigation, or for the purposes of maritime commerce, so long as that vessel is not propelled by oars alone. The true criterion appears to be that the vessel being propelled otherwise than by oars is used for the transport of things or persons from place to place, and it appears to be immaterial whether such a vessel goes to sea or not. She may be a ship, although she is used entirely in inland waters."

In H.M. Court for Zanzibar (in Prize), 1915, Murison J. says: "There is a further point which was not raised in argument before me, but to which I ought, I think, to refer. There may be some doubt whether a lighter is a ship within the meaning of the word as used in prize and Admiralty law. The word 'ship' is defined in the Naval Prize Act, 1864, as including a vessel or boat. A lighter is, at any rate, a 'vessel.' I hold, in any event, that this lighter is an enemy vessel subject to detention," and he held that the Sixth Hague Convention applied.

In the Territorial Water Jurisdiction Act, 1878 (41 and 42), Vic. C. 73, S. 7, there is also a definition of ship, viz.: "Ship" includes every description of ship, boat, or other floating craft, and "floating craft" is the phrase used by the Procurator in his writ for the confiscation of these crafts.

In the case of The Mac, L.R. 7, Prob. Div., p. 126 (1882), the Court of Appeal went somewhat fully into what was included under the word "ship."

The Mac was a barge technically called as "hopper barge," and was used for dredging purposes, and could not go to sea, and was propelled by towing.

Lord Coleridge, C.J., said: "I think it immaterial to consider whatever the hopper barge was used for in navigation within the meaning of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854; because that enactment directs that the word 'ship' shall include every description of vessel used in navigation 'not propelled by oars,' it does not exclude other meaning of the word."

"She falls within the definition cited in Todd's Johnson's dictionary."

"Cotton L.J., states 'a ship is a general term for artificial structures floating on water. I think the proper meaning is sometimes hollowed out.'"

Although these cases and definitions refer to divers Acts of Parliament and none refer directly to cases in this Prize Court, except the case from Zanzibar, nevertheless they give a general idea of the meaning of the word "ship" accepted by various tribunals, and I am of opinion that I cannot hold otherwise than that a lighter comes under the generally accepted definition of a ship. The next question to consider is, are they "merchant" ships. They are undoubtedly engaged in

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maritime commerce, the particular ones now before the Court are mostly used for coal, but lighters are also used for the loading and unloading of merchandise, and I dare say some of these were also used for that purpose. Moreover, in coaling the various merchant ships passing through Port Said, they were directly engaged in making maritime commerce possible. I therefore find that these are merchant ships within the meaning of the Hague Convention.

It has been urged by counsel, on behalf of the Deutsches Kohlen Depot, that not only do these lighters come under the Sixth Hague Convention, but also under the Eleventh Hague Convention, viz. : Chapter II., Art. 3, "Vessels employed exclusively in coast fisheries or small boats employed in local trade . . . are exempt from capture."

In Hall's International Law (6th ed.), p. 468, discussing this article, with regard to fishing boats, it is stated : "It is indisputable that coasting fishery is the sole means of livelihood of a very large number of families as inoffensive as cultivators of the soil or mechanics and that seizure of boats, while inflicting extreme hardship on their owners, is as a measure of general application wholly ineffective against the hostile State."

Although this statement is made concerning the exemption of fishing boats, nevertheless I consider that it equally applies to the "small boats employed in local trade" which are classed with the fishing boats in the article of the Hague Convention No. XI.," and that the "boats engaged in local trade" which were contemplated when the Convention was signed were such boats as passed to and from small villages, fishing ports, and small local towns on the coast, belonging to poor men engaged in earning their living by carrying food, etc., for those places. And the seizure of this class of ship would, "while inflicting extreme hardship on their owners, be as a measure of general application wholly ineffective against the hostile State."

In this case we have a very different state of facts. Instead of the poor owners gaining a precarious livelihood and assisting other poor people to gain the means of existence, we have a rich and powerful company engaged in giving the greatest assistance to what was the extensive maritime commerce of Germany.

I am, therefore, of opinion that these lighters and tugs do not come within the category of "small boats employed in local trade" which were intended to be included in Article 3, Chapter II., of the Eleventh Hague Convention.

It has occurred to me that possibly these lighters would not come under the "days of grace" article of the Sixth Hague Convention, because they were absolutely unmolested from the outbreak of war, and continued to ply their trade, as far as possible, till very nearly the end of 1914. We have it in evidence that in October, 1914, they were still engaged in coaling neutral vessels. Therefore, there was no necessity to give them "days of grace" or "passes," as the Deutsches Kohlen Depot certainly had more than two months (which were a very good equivalent for three days' grace) in which they could have sold them, the proceeds being acquired by the Deutsches Kohlen Depot, which was still carrying on its business. Certainly, no passes were offered, nor would they have been much good if they had been, because it is not likely that four German steam tugs and seven motor-boats towing seventy-four German lighters would have arrived safely at a German or neutral port.

But this point (which may have no sound basis) was not argued or suggested in the course of the arguments before me, and the Procurator in the event of the Court finding that these lighters are merchant ships asks for an order for detention which was the order asked for in "The St. Tudno," which was a tender that had also been carrying on business after war had broken out. I therefore make an Order in the terms of the "Chile" case (1914 P. 217) for the detention of these four steam tugs, seven motor boats, and 74 lighters.

There remains one more point raised by the Procurator to be decided, namely, am I to make an order for the detention of the proceeds of the hiring of these craft before they came into the hands of the Prize Court, or is it a sum of money due to the Liquidators of the Deutsches Kohlen Depot over which this Court has no control? The Procurator argues that this money is equivalent to freight, at least that it is governed by the same rules, and stated that "it did not matter what you called it, whether freight or not; it was money due to the ship."

But how in this case can one parcel out the amount of money due to each lighter. Some of the lighters which had helped to earn the money are not even in the possession of the Prize Court as they have been sunk or broken up, and some of these now before the Court may not have been amongst those hired.

On behalf of the War Trade Department and the Liquidators it is argued that freight becomes due to the Crown and captors merely because they complete the contract after the ship has come into their possession; while this contract of hiring was complete long before the Prize Court had obtained possession.

In "The Fortuna" (No. 1) E.P.C. vol. I., p. 304 Sir William Scott (Lord Stowell) found that captor was only entitled to freight because he had completed the contract. In such case (carrying the cargo to the port of destination) I apprehend the rule to be that the captor is entitled to freight on the same principle on which he would be held not to be entitled when he does not proceed and perform the original voyage. The specific contract is performed in the one case, and not performed in the other.

And in the "Der Mohr" (No. 2) E.P.C. vol. I., p. 395, the captor was held liable to pay freight due to the vessel after capture. The vessel had been decreed to be restored to her owners, and after capture she was lost by the negligence of the captors. They were held liable because it was the captors' duty to complete the contract and obtain the freight for the vessel, but through negligence the contract was not completed.

But in this case there is no contract to complete. The whole transaction was completed before the Prize Court had anything to do with these lighters.

I agree with the views taken by the War Trade Department and the Liquidators on this point, and I am of opinion that I cannot make an Order concerning the money due for the hire of these craft before they came into possession of the Prize Court.

SHORTAGE OF SMALL COINS IN BULGARIA.

The economic position and the state of Government credit in Bulgaria may be gauged from the fact that coins are being hoarded by the people, whereby the value of Treasury notes is being depreciated. Newspapers in Bulgaria are paying great attention to this in their columns. According to the *Narod*, of Sofia, "small coins for change are gradually disappearing, this being especially marked in villages, where wild and scandalous speculation in small coins is the rule. Although there is plenty of small change, it is rarely that any is seen. Unscrupulous and grasping individuals are collecting them in order to bleed the people. A certain class of merchants, in whose business small coins are an absolute necessity, are offering a good premium for changing notes. Egg dealers, for instance, are offering premiums of 4, 5, and 6 lews for changing notes of 20 lews, upon which they are quite satisfied to receive coinage to the amount of 16, 15, or even 14 lews. This works out at a premium of 20, 25, and 30 per cent. Intending purchasers of small articles are met with the reply that the shopkeeper has 'no small things and no goods.'"

In order to facilitate the circulation of small coins, the National Bank has recently printed and put into circulation new Treasury notes of 2 lews (silver value). These notes are rather larger than those of 1 lew, the dimensions being 11 cm. by 7 cm.

The *Times'* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula telegraphs from Bucharest that the maize harvest has begun throughout Roumania and that the crop is of average quality.

GERMAN EXPLOITATION OF TURKEY.

At the Empire, Old Market Street, Bristol, on Sunday evening, a lecture was delivered by the Rev. Canon J. T. Parfitt, M.A., Canon of Jerusalem, on the subject of his experiences during twenty years' residence in Baghdad and Syria. The lecturer explained the condition of the country as he found it upon his first arrival, incidents of his journey, and of the perfunctory quarantine proceedings of the Turkish officials after the judicious use of "palm oil." Long experience of the Turk and his ways was to know something also of the Germans, their pushful tactics, and their utterly ruthless methods; and numerous facts illustrating these points were given in detail. He had early accepted an appointment as honorary chaplain to the German Consulate, and in this capacity officiated at German weddings, baptisms, etc., and was invited frequently to dinners and other public and private gatherings, where he heard much of the aims, expectations, and intentions of the rapidly-growing Prussian communities. In early days little attention was paid to these things, but later the stern reality of these efforts forced themselves into notice, and to-day the Teutonic invasion of the Turkish Empire was practically complete. There were few Germans in Turkey twenty years ago, but since then their commercial, engineering, and other enterprises had startlingly developed. The lecturer spoke of the immense importance of Aleppo and of the Baghdad Railway scheme, intended to link Berlin in a direct line with the Persian Gulf, and by the aid of maps the strategic importance of the German plans were pointed out. In the light of the present-day facts, German intentions could be well understood, involving their possession of Constantinople as a naval and military centre, with the Dardanelles and Bosphorus made permanently impregnable; and these plans also involved the commercial ruin of Russia, the control of the Suez Canal, and our expulsion from Egypt. If the German plans had succeeded our bread would probably have cost us eighteenpence a loaf, instead of the present comparatively moderate cost. The lecturer spoke with warm approval of British achievements in Persia, and of our enterprise, generally resulting in the magnificent development of commercial and other undertakings, instancing the Admiralty oil wells, the Euphrates barrage and irrigation, and the growth of the wheat, wool, liquorice, and date industries, giving employment to large numbers of the native population. Mesopotamia, he added, is remarkably fertile, and in due course will probably become one of the finest wheat-growing countries of the world.

NOTICE.

Société Anonyme pour la Fabrication des Cigarettes Egyptiennes marque HADJES NESSIM en liquidation.

Offers for the purchase of the following items of Stock and House Property will be received in the name of EDWARD D. JOYCE, P.O.B. 206, Alexandria (Egypt), Receiver of the above Company, up till 8 a.m. on the 15th of NOVEMBER, 1916 :—

(*a*) The TRADE MARK belonging to the Company, together with all the Stock of Tin Boxes, Labels, Cigarette Paper, etc., on which the Trade Mark is printed.

(*b*) The BUILDING situated No. 12-14, Rue Abou El Dardar, Alexandria (Egypt), belonging to the Company.

Details of the above can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, 12-14, Rue Abou El Dardar, Alexandria, between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon, on any day except Sundays, from this date to the 13th of NOVEMBER, 1916.

Offers must be made in writing, under registered cover, to the above mentioned P.O. address, and must be accompanied by a deposit in Cash of 10 per cent. of the amount offered.

Offers may be made for items A and B separately.

The Receiver is not bound to accept the best or any offer made.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, E.C.

This week, again, there is very little to report. Prices, where changed, are mostly lower, but Salt and Sodas provide an exception to this rule. They have been a good market on fairly large buying orders from Egypt; only about 1,500 shares have changed hands, however, as holders are rather inclined to wait for higher prices. The present price—19s., at which they are closing firm to-night (Wednesday)—is a rise of 9d. since a week ago. Some small transactions in Agriculturals have taken place in the neighbourhood of 4 9-16, at which price the few shares on offer have been absorbed. A few Delta Lights have been done at 5¼, and Delta Lands are rather quieter at 9s. 3d. Khedivial Mails have dropped about 1s. 6d. to 25s. 6d. on some small sales in a market devoid of support. National Banks, after changing hands down to 12⅜, close a firmer market at 12 7-16, but this figure is still ¼ lower than last week.

In Greek securities the market is absolutely nominal. Prices are quoted lower at 50 to 53 for 1881, 1884, and 1890, 46 to 49 for Monopoly, 40 to 42 for Rente, 63 to 65 for 1902, 60 to 65 for 1910, and 72 to 76 for 1914; but there are no real sellers, and any change for the better in Greece, leading to buying orders from Athens, would soon put prices up again, and this without bringing anything but insignificant quantities of stock to market. In Currant Bonds stock is offered at 90.

COMPANY NOTES.

Anglo-Roumanian Petroleum.

The report to December 31, 1915, states that the gross profit for the year amounted to £2,761, and, after deducting London expenses and debenture interest, there remains £76. The board have decided to write off £7,457 on account of depreciation, and consequently the accounts for the year show a loss of £7,381. After allowing for the amount brought forward from 1914, there remains £1,017, which it is proposed to carry forward. The production of crude oil for the year was 13,200 tons, against 13,585 tons for 1914. The unsatisfactory condition of the market for crude oil referred to in last year's report continued for the period under review, the average price obtained being about 50 per cent. less than in 1913 and 40 per cent. less than in 1914. The continuance of the European war has caused development operations to be almost impossible, and the limited local consumption of crude oil made it very difficult to dispose of even sufficient to cover expenses; the demand, however, has recently improved, and the price has considerably advanced.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, week, 21 tons; previous week, 2,327 tons. Hurgada, 692 tons, against 731 tons.

Baku Russian.—Week ended October 14, 84,100 poods. Price of crude oil, 45 copecks per pood.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended 14th inst., 56,200 poods. Price of crude, 45 copecks per pood.

Ural Caspian.—Week ended 12th inst., 147,819 poods (2,384 tons).

Dividends, etc.

Egyptian Unified Bonds.—The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due 1st prox. The necessary lists can be procured on application at the Dividend Pay Office.

Alexandria Central Buildings.—Dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent., or 5s. 6d. per share, payable at the offices of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Alexandria.

THE SUDAN TIMES.

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STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27, 1915.	Price Oct. 13.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909..	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4% 1909 ..	99	78	75
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	62½	62½
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan ..	93⅛	71⅜	71½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	78	77¼
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	69	66½xd
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82⅛	67	65xd
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80⅜	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	54	51½
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	54	51½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	48½	47½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	42	41
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	52½	51½
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	49½	49
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902 ..	77	67	62½
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	74	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82⅛	55	55
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	72½	72½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	77½	77½
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	xd	xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855..	103	85	85
Do. 4 %, 1891	94⅛	78	78
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82⅛	—	
Do. 4 % Unified	79	52	52
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65⅛	37½	37½
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4⅛	4⅛	4⅛
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	6⅛	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red...	83	69½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	12	12
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens.	£2	2	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	6⅛	6⅛
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6½	6½
Ionian Bank, Limited.....	3⅞	3xd	3⅜
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	5	5
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	12¼	12½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	5	5
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5½	5½
Do. do 5 % Debs., Red.	98	88½	88½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅜	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	10	10
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	11½	11½
Do do. 4 % 1st Deb ..	87	59½	59½
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb...	101	55	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10⅞	10⅞
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds..	61	55xd	55xd
LAND.			
Abonkir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1⅛	15/-	15/-
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	91	91
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	¼	¼	¼
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2¼	2¼
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	6	6
Do. Pref.	4⅜	3½	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	9 6	9 3
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	87	87
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98		
Do and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	¼	¼
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	⅜	⅜
,, ,, Founders	¼	¼	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	96	96
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	7½	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	75	76
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	8/9	8/9
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	¼	¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	⅞	1
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-/9	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11¾	11¾
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	12/6	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1⅛	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	-	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	25/7½	25,9
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	95	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1¼	18/3	19/-
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	27/3	25,6
Do. do. Prefs.....	3⅜	3½	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	90	89	89
Sues Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2⅛	1½	1½

OIL.

	Price on Oct. 12.	Oct. 19.
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	10/6	9/6
Anglo-Persian	20/3	20/3
European Oilfields	4/-	3 9
Roumanian.....	15/3	14/3

PARIS BOURSE.

	Oct. 12.	Oct. 19.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	460	470
Canal de Suez	4630	4580
Credit Foncier Egyptien	660	633
Turkish Unified 4%	61	62
Egyptian Unified 4%	86.75	86.65
Serbian, 1895.....	63	63

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON SEPTEMBER 29.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt .....£	12¼	to	12⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie.. .....Frs.	85	,,	86
Alexandria Water Co. .....£	11⅞	,,	12
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra .....L.E.	5⅛	,,	5⅜
,, priv.....L.E.	3⅜	,,	3½
Lots Turcs, oblig. .....Frs.	130	,,	—
Bons de Panama.....Frs.	104	,,	105
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New) Frs.	£0	,,	61
,, Privilégiée Frs.	85	,,	90
Cheikh Fadl.....Frs.	75	,,	76
Urbaines et Rurales .....£	2⅛	,,	2⅜
Comptoir Financier et Commercial....£	⅜	,,	⅝
Building Lands of Egypt .....£	⅜	,,	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte .....L.E.	10/-	,,	12/-
Société des Immeubles .....L.E.	4	,,	4⅛
Bonded Warehouses .....L.E.	4⅜	,,	5
Unifiée .....L.E.	83	,,	83½
Privilégiée	72	,,	72½
Land Bank of Egypt .....£	4⅜	,,	4⅝
,, Fondateur .....£	25	,,	26
Pressage et dépôts .....£	29	,,	29½
Nungovich Hotels .....£	2⅛	,,	2⅜
Agricultural Bank of Egypt.....£	4⅛	,,	4⅜
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.....	3⅝	,,	3⅞
,, Ord.....£	21	,,	22
Alex. and Ramleh Railway .....£	3⅜	,,	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railways .....£	5⅛	,,	5⅜
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire .....Frs.	104	,,	106
,, Jouissance....Frs.	155	,,	156
Egyptian Markets	24/6	,,	24/9
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv..Frs.	210	,,	220
Div....Frs.	140	,,	145
Brasseries d'Egypte .....Frs.	119	,,	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	18/3	,,	—
Crédit Foncier Egyptien .....Frs.	596	,,	—
,, 1886 Oblig. .....Frs.	304	,,	—
,, 1903 ,, ...Frs.	244	,,	—
,, 1911 ,, ...Frs.	254	,,	—
Delta Lands	⅜	,,	⅞
Port Said Salt	33/9	,,	34/-
Cotton Ginners	⅛	,,	¼
New Egyptian Co.....	7,6	,,	8/-
United Lands .....P.T.	—	,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.	27/-	,,	—
,, Fond.....£	5	,,	—

BRITISH COLONIAL PETROLEUM.

The anomaly of a company entitled British Colonial Petroleum Corporation owning properties solely in Roumania is explained by the fact that it originally operated in Nigeria. The original venture was a failure, says the *Financial News*, and the practically derelict concern came into new hands, which, in taking it over, saved the expense of forming a new company to run a small Roumanian prospect. The capital was reorganised, and now consists of £100,000 in 1s. shares, of which 404,500 are issued. When Treasury sanction is given, further shares will be issued as purchase consideration, raising the issued capital to 722,380 shares, or £36,119. It will be seen, therefore, that the concern is quite a small affair. The production from May 15, 1914, to April 30, 1916, was 22,958 tons, valued at £43,665, obtained from two wells, in spite of various interruptions. The report for the period mentioned gives expenditure in Roumania at £35,453, leaving a working profit of £8,211. London expenses absorbed £1,077; directors' fees (unpaid) are entered at £867; £1,915 is allocated to depreciation, and the balance of £4,352 is carried forward. The balance-sheet shows a severe shortage of cash, and further capital must be raised if the properties (15,000 square metres at Tsintea and 18,600 square metres at Bordeni) are to be exploited. The properties are held under lease, and the royalties payable in oil are rather high.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1915. Week ended Oct. 14.	1916.* Week ended Oct. 12.
Cattle markets	792 ..	251
General markets	391 ..	172
Cattle markets closed	1 ..	2
Receipts (£).....	1,183 ..	423
Total from commencement of year (£).....	40,016 ..	41,002

* Bairam Holiday.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 286.—Vol. XI. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Rapid and far from satisfactory developments have taken place during the past week in the Roumanian campaign. At a moment when attention was mainly directed towards the Carpathians von Mackensen launched a new offensive in the Dobruja, before which the Russo-Roumanian force had to fall back and concentrate its efforts on saving the bridge-head at Cernavoda. Constanza, the chief Roumanian port on the Black Sea, was abandoned and half the railway between the Danube and the coast fell at once into the enemy's hands. The Allied line was bent back, resting on Rasova on the Danube and bearing north-east across the Dobruja. Bulgarian cavalry pressed on north of the railway, evidently with the purpose of turning the Russo-Roumanian position, and the fall of Caramurat was reported. There still seemed some hope that our Allies would be able to defend the famous King Carol I. Bridge, and a natural desire to protect that valuable structure would prompt them to sacrifice territory in the east and north of the Dobruja. But the fall of Rasova brought enemy guns near enough to the bridge-head to make it untenable, and the capture of Cernavoda, which is now announced, was not altogether unexpected.

It would be useless to seek to disguise the fact that the Allied cause has received a serious set-back in the Dobruja. By itself the fall of Constanza, however regrettable, would not necessarily have impaired Roumania's powers of resistance. But now that the enemy has captured the whole of the railway from the port to the bridge-head, the blow is a severe one. In the first place the rapidity of von Mackensen's sweep opens up an uncomfortable vista, in view of the assurances that the positions guarding the railway line were exceptionally strong. Again, the swampy nature of the whole region between Cernavoda and Feteshti, while rendering an invasion of Muntenia at this point unlikely, carries with it the corresponding disadvantage of rendering the task of withdrawing the Russo-Roumanian troops the more difficult. The reported capture of several locomotives and two hundred wagons at Mejidia points to a hitch in the Roumanian evacuation, and will cause fuller news of the fate of the Allied force holding Cernavoda to be awaited with some anxiety.

The Russo-Roumanian force has withdrawn to the northern portion of the Dobruja. Here it can receive further Russian reinforcements, and eventually, we may hope, be in a position to check von Mackensen's advance. For the moment the latter retains the power of the offensive, and for this reason the situation must be regarded as critical. The Roumanians must reconcile themselves to the destruction of the railway bridge, which the enemy can be relied upon to carry out, if the Allied force has not already done so. The Austro-German command can hardly anticipate a set of conditions under which the bridge would now be of more use to them than to the Roumanians. With the arrival of General Berthelot the Roumanian General Staff will have received a welcome accession of strength, and if our new Allies can hold their own for a week or ten days, all may yet be well.

In the Carpathians the most noticeable event is the capture of Predeal, the Roumanian frontier town south of Brasso. Here the enemy is astride the railway which leads down the Prahova Valley, past Sinaia, to the centre of the oilfields and to Bucharest. He is still in the mountains, and the long foothills lend themselves to defence as much as the actual frontier, if the Roumanians have time to consolidate their positions. But the ground slopes steadily in favour of the invading force. Predeal, ninety miles from Bucharest, is 3,400 ft. above sea-level; Sinaia, twelve miles away, the Roumanian Simla, is less than 2,800 ft.; Campina, eighteen miles nearer the capital, where the railway enters the oil-bearing district at one of its most productive parts, stands at an altitude of 1,300 ft. The enemy, if he is to be held at all, must be stopped before he has proceeded far down the Prahova Valley. No other pass in the Carpathians offers such a favourable avenue of advance to the Austro-German forces. At every other point the configuration of the country makes progress towards Bucharest, even when the plain is reached, a difficult matter. The assistance to be rendered to the Roumanians, therefore, is needed very urgently.

The weather has chosen to favour the enemy at a particularly inopportune moment for the Allies. Just when the forces in Macedonia ought to be making a supreme effort, in order to relieve the pressure in the Dobruja, the advance has been almost entirely stopped by heavy rains. On the left wing little progress would seem to have been made towards Monastir since the capture of Brod by the Serbians. The Bulgarians have been reinforced by some German troops, and the combined force has attempted some unsuccessful counter-attacks on the Allied line. Thus the process of attrition continues, but the general military situation calls

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for more effective measures. Fortunately, the ease with which the enemy's attacks are broken by the Allies' artillery fire points to the latter's strength in an arm which will stand them in good stead when the advance can be resumed. On the right wing the Struma is reported to be in flood, and although the British line seemed to be advanced well beyond the river, difficulties attending the despatch of supplies and reinforcements may prevent a fresh move in this quarter until the weather conditions improve. In connection with these Macedonian operations the steady progress of an Italian force in Albania must not be overlooked. A detachment has now occupied Liaskoviki, fifty miles south by west of Lake Prespa, on which the extreme left of the Allied front at present rests, and its cavalry is in touch with the cavalry of the Salonika force. For the purposes of a general advance into Serbia and Bulgaria, it will be necessary to have the Allied left adequately protected. To achieve this the Austrians must be driven out of Albania.

The substitution of deeds for words is having the desired effect in Athens. As pointed out in these columns months ago, the Greek Government required to be told what it had to do—not merely to be left to its own devices, and in intervals of being sent to Coventry receiving suggestions in regard to what it was not to do. Admiral du Fournet's bluejackets have brought about a marked improvement in the situation. There have been skirmishes in the streets, for the Reservists' Leagues—whose abolition the Allies demanded in June, but took no steps to enforce—are still at large; and now and then the Greek Government tries to ride the high horse, as when it suggests that interference with the anti-Ententist press would be unconstitutional. But the Allied Ministers are now in touch with Professor Lambros's Government, and are received by King Constantine. This sudden rise in the political barometer was celebrated by a *communiqué* published on the authority of the French Minister. It was to the effect that "the situation had been greatly cleared as the result of his Majesty's expression of his feelings towards the Entente, and of the French Minister's assurances regarding the disposition of the Allies with a view to the re-establishment of relations of confidence with the Greek Government on the basis of benevolent neutrality." Although it would be rash to attempt to translate this diplomatic utterance into ordinary language, we will risk the suggestion that it is meant to hint at the possibility of King Constantine becoming a reformed character on condition that he is not expected to fight.

Such a solution of the Greek *impasse* was recommended before the situation was complicated by Greece's domestic differences. At the present time it is at best only a half-solution. There ought to be no question of the Greek Army officially taking part in the war at this stage, for the good reason that it is of no military value, and could not hope to become an efficient war machine, unless the Entente Powers were prepared to supply it with funds and munitions. Such funds and munitions, it may be pointed out, could be disposed of to better effect elsewhere. King Constantine's qualms about having to fight ought to have been dispelled long ago. If at the same time the direct measures now employed by Admiral du Fournet to impress upon the Greek Government that the Allies are in earnest had also been adopted, the Allied Army of the East would have been spared many anxieties.

As things are, King Constantine's conversion—always provided the circumlocutory *communiqué* means what it is careful not to say—comes late in the day. It finds two Governments functioning in Greece, one at Athens, the other at Salonika. The King's difficulties, therefore, are not confined to his relations with the Allies, but are with his own people as well. At no time have we felt inclined to take the Greek situation too seriously; it acquired its worst character as a result of the unfortunate way in which it was handled by the Allied Governments. It undoubtedly called for more vigorous action on the part of the Allies at a much earlier stage; but until the charge was brought against King Constantine of mobilizing troops for the purpose of attacking the Salonika army in the rear, his offences seemed mainly the outcome of Potsdam-headedness and petty-mindedness. Now, as soon as a sufficiently periphrastic statement can be drafted we may be told that the Allies are satisfied that the force which was being collected in Thessaly was not intended to strike the Salonika army in the back, or that if it were, the King was not a party to the plot. So far so good. But the Allied Governments, in rejoicing over King Constantine's repentance, must not overlook the existence of the Provisional Government and of the large section of the Greek people which has dissociated itself from the King and his ways. The Entente Powers are mainly responsible for Greece's domestic difficulties, and they must continue to intervene in Greek affairs until a satisfactory settlement has been reached. An olive branch has already been held out from the north. If King Constantine will grasp it, and if he is not obsessed by an undignified hatred of M. Venizelos, all may yet be well with Greece. The Allies, however, should regard it as part of their duties to see that, if reconciliation is to be the order of the day, all sections of the Greek people are brought under the same umbrella.

Purely imaginary accounts of discontent or disturbances in various parts of the British Empire have been part of Germany's stock-in-trade for heartening her own people during the progress of the war or for impressing neutrals. The Turks have proved apt disciples of German methods, and the Constantinople Press has contained many picturesque statements of events which never happened. Among these may be mentioned articles on riots in Cyprus, dealing *inter alia* with the supposed discontent of the Moslem inhabitants with British rule. Little attention has been paid to these lucubrations in the English Press, but it may be opportune to state that there has not been the slightest disturbance of any kind in Cyprus since its annexation to the British Empire in November, 1914. The people of the island are peaceful and prosperous, and whether of Greek or Turkish origin have been found to yield a ready and cheerful obedience to the British Government.

From a report which appears elsewhere in this issue it will be seen that the Serbian Society has held a successful inaugural meeting at the Mansion House under the chairmanship of the Lord Mayor. Lord Cromer, the president, made it clear that the society was not animated in any degree by hostility to Italy or the Italians. It is well that the statement should have been unequivocally made, for the point is one that was bound to be raised sooner or later. The Serbian Society very rightly believes in the importance of a united Southern Slav State as a permanent safeguard of European freedom. Another association exists to win support for a united Southern Slav State, and its tenets would seem to be frequently urged without much consideration for Italian susceptibilities. Some people, therefore, might wonder whether the Southern Slav idea was incompatible with a good understanding with Italy. Those who have studied the question impartially hold that there is no reason why a friendly agreement should not be reached between the Southern Slavs and the Italians. The Serbian Society is of this opinion, too, and, although, as Lord Cromer pointed out, it does not aspire to the rôle, or think that Great Britain should aspire to the rôle, of being arbitrators between Slavs and Italians, it does believe in the wisdom of making the British public *au fait* with the facts. A welcome note was struck at the meeting by Sir Edward Carson, who reminded his audience that "when the Allied Powers, after the victory they were determined to win, set themselves to the re-writing of the map of Europe the interference of Germany, Austria, Turkey, and Bulgaria would be eliminated." The point is often overlooked, sometimes, we are tempted to believe, deliberately. So many people imagine that peace terms will be a matter of bargaining, oblivious of the fact that if the enemy is entitled to do any bargaining, the Allies will not have then won the victory they have set themselves to gain.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 12.

The Kourban Bairam Feast.

The Feast of Kourban Bairam, which came to an end yesterday, has passed off quite quietly throughout the country. No reception was held at Alexandria, where the Sultan is still officially in residence, as his Highness spent the holiday on his estates at Gabares. The Ministers and the Sultania Princes proceeded thither on the first day of the feast, in order to present their loyal wishes to the Sovereign, but for the rest of those who are habitually received on this occasion by him a register was kept open at Abdin and Ras-el-Tin Palaces.

The English School in Cairo.

The English School, the proposed foundation of which I announced some little while back, was duly opened on the 2nd inst. Over one hundred pupils have been entered, and this unexpected response has given much pleasure to the promoters, who see in it a good augury for the eventual success of their excellent project.

The Ghaffir Tax.

About a year ago I reported that a Proclamation had been issued by the military authorities ordering all and sundry to pay the ghaffir-cess whenever they were asked to do so, and intimating that any refusal to comply with any such demand would be considered as a military offence, and would render them liable to punishment by a military court, in addition to the usual civil penalties. The reason for this action was, as explained at the time, that the tax, which was intended to meet the cost of upkeep of the ghaffir (night watchmen) force, had never been accepted by the Powers, owing to the opposition set up by Germany and Austria, and that, as foreigners in the towns to a great extent refused to pay the cess, the maintenance of the force had become a serious and wholly unjustified charge on the Government.

No one raised any objection to this expedient for getting out of the difficulty and forcing the persons who specifically benefited from the protection afforded by that force to pay their due share of its upkeep. Unfortunately the Proclamation did not lay down whether the tax had to be borne by, and was therefore recoverable—by means of forced sale of property, if necessary—from the landlord or the tenant. Many disputes have arisen, and it has nearly always happened that the tenant has been forced to pay the tax, often under protest, for the simple reason that his property, *i.e.*, his furniture, etc., was more easily saleable than that of his landlord. The position is so obviously unsatisfactory that it is to be hoped that before long some definite and authoritative pronouncement will be made on the point as to who is liable for the tax. The Proclamation also provided no special machinery for its enforcement under martial law or for the obtaining of redress in the case of wrongful seizure or arbitrary action on the part of the civil authorities who have been entrusted with the collection of the tax. In this connection I would draw attention to the fact that the methods at present employed for distraining the property of defaulting tenants would appear to leave much to be desired, and that it is highly desirable that the native police should not be allowed to have sole control of these operations, especially where foreign residents are concerned.

The New Coinage.

The new coinage has nearly all arrived in the country, and we may soon expect to see it in circulation. Probably its issue will be delayed until the end of this month, as the Mohammedan New Year, the date of which the new coins bear, falls on the 28th inst. Strange to relate, the Indian rupee, which was made currency last March, to meet a shortage, has almost entirely disappeared from circulation. This is not due to the fact that the Government has been withdrawing the rupees preparatory to returning them to India; for I understand that the amount in the hands of the Ministry of Finance is very small. Nor is this disappearance explained by the theory propounded recently by certain "authorities" out here, that owing to the rise in the silver market the rupee, which contained proportionately more of that metal than the Egyptian coins, was being melted down by the silversmiths. I am assured that while the value of the silver in the rupee as compared to its face value is, as a matter of fact, higher than in the Egyptian coins, the rise in the market could in nowise make it worth while to buy rupees and melt them down. The true explanation of this disappearance of the rupee from circulation would, in the opinion of those who are in a position to know, appear to be that the *fellaheen* have taken a liking for the foreign coin, which is certainly attractive in design, and that they are hoarding all they can get hold of instead of taking, as usual for this purpose, the Egyptian silver coins in default of gold.

SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, October 5.

H.E. the Governor-General and Sirdar arrived from Erkowit on the 3rd inst., accompanied by Lady Wingate and his Staff. He is not expected to return to Erkowit again this year.

Colonel Stack, C.M.G., and Mrs. Stack are expected to arrive at Khartoum from Cairo this mail. Major Moir, the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, is also arriving with Mrs. Moir. Dr. Crispin, the Director of the Sudan Medical Department, is on the same train, as is also Captain Dumbell, of the Slavery Repression Department. Mr. Dun, the Advocate-General, is also arriving from England. Others coming by the same train are Mr. Hussey, Inspector of Sennar, and Mr. Hume, who was previously in the Legation at Addis Abeba, and has latterly been working as Inspector at Gallabat.

The Feast of Kourban Bairam is at hand. There is a succession of public holidays from Friday to the following Wednesday. A levée will be held on the 9th, at the Palace.

The Nile still continues to keep extremely high, although the fall has actually begun. Still the river is now three and a-half feet higher at Khartoum than it was on the same date last year, whilst at Roseires it is as much as nine feet above last year's level.

A swarm of locusts came through Khartoum on the 4th, and caused some damage to gardens.

Prince Waldemar of Prussia left for Constantinople last week on a special mission from the Kaiser. He will present a sword of honour to the Sultan.

A Sofia telegram announces that an ordinary session of the Bulgarian Sobranje has been convoked for October 28.

Some 300 Bulgarian prisoners taken by the Serbs have arrived in Salonika. They appeared to be in good condition, and gave the impression that they were pleased that they had seen an end of the fighting.

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SUDAN OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Under ordinary conditions a large number of Sudan officials would now be absent on leave; but the few who are away from their posts are granted leave almost entirely owing to medical advice. Sir Reginald Wingate, however, with extraordinary devotion to duty, has not quitted the Sudan since the outbreak of war. His friends would like to see him take a little holiday; for though he shows no sign of weariness or breakdown in health, it is not difficult to imagine even such a sound and vigorous constitution as his feeling the strain of more than two years of constant mental anxiety and burden of responsibility. Sir Reginald Wingate, now in his fifty-sixth year, deserves well of his country, to whose service he has given of his best. There are none among his subordinates who do not deeply respect him, while those who have been brought into more personal contact with him have learned to love him for his brilliant qualities, his personal sympathy, and his profound sense of justice and consideration. Thus the condition of his health is not alone of moment to him, but to all who serve under him.

Mr. S. A. Wood, the Assistant-Director of Forests, as well as his colleague, Mr. S. Skirmunt, the Deputy Assistant-Director, are for leave.

Captain C. McKey, Director of Customs, who has seen over fourteen years' service under the Sudan Government, has recently returned to Port Sudan from absence on leave. Mr. M. F. Simpson, Assistant-Director in the Education Department, is expected to return to duty, after a brief absence from Khartoum, towards the beginning of next month (November). Mr. H. H. King, the brilliant young entomologist under the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories, who has rendered such signal services to science by his investigations, especially in connection with tropical diseases, has returned to his post at the Gordon College. He has been absent upon medical grounds.

A considerable number of officials connected with the Legal Department (Kanuni) have been away during the last few months, but the majority of them have either already returned, or will shortly return, to their posts. Among those who are back in Khartoum are Mr. W. Sterry, the Chief Justice; Mr. H. St. George Peacock, a Judge of the High Court; and Captain F. Burgess, the Police Magistrate at Khartoum. Mr. R. K. Winter, a Provincial District Judge, has likewise recently returned, while Mr. G. W. Williamson, a Judge of the High Court at Khartoum, is expected back during the second or third week of November. Mr. B. H. Bell, the District Judge at El Obeid, is due to return to the Sudan a day or so before Christmas. He has been away under medical advice.

Miss C. A. Palmer, Miss M. Wise, and Miss E. Ellison, all of the "Dawa," or Medical Department, have been, and still are, working in connection with the Sudan Nursing Fund, and are stationed at Khartoum.

Dr. H. C. Squires, Senior Medical Inspector of the Sudan, who has been absent for a short period from the country, is due to return to Khartoum early in November. Dr. Squires has been eight years in the service of the Government.

Three members of the Public Works Department—the Director, Major M. Ralston Kennedy; Mr. F. H. Cobb, one of the five District Engineers; and Mr. G. B. Bridgman, the Architect—who have been absent upon medical grounds, are expected back at their various offices during November. Others, including Captain H. Claxton and Captain R. W. Knollys, District Engineers, and Captain Allen Smith, Electrical Engineer, are absent upon temporary duty.

Mr. A. J. C. Huddleston, who has been acting as Governor of the Berber Province during the absence on leave of Mr. C. P. Browne, will return to his post as Senior Inspector of that Province upon the arrival from England of Mr. Browne in the early days of next month. The First Inspector, Mr. E. W. Drummond Hay, who has also been paying a short visit to England, was due back at his post in the middle of this month. Mr. Drummond Hay has over fifteen years' experience of service under the Sudan Administration. Mr. F. P. Osborne, the District Judge of Berber Province, has got back to his work.

Mr. R. A. Bence-Pembroke, a Second Inspector of the Khartoum Province, is doing temporary duty at Nahud, while Captain H. A. MacMichael, the Senior Inspector of the same province, has been temporarily sent to El Fasher, the capital of our newest acquisition—the former Sultanate of Darfur. Mr. J. A. Gillan, an official (Second Inspector), in the employ of the Kordofan Provincial Government, is also at El Fasher, together with Captain F. Atterbury, from the Repression of Slavery Department.

The two Senior Inspectors of the Provinces of the Upper Nile and the White Nile—Captain C. H. Stigand and Mr. V. R. Woodland—are acting as temporary Governors of their respective provinces. During the absence on leave of Colonel R. C. R. Owen, Governor of the Province of Mongalla, his place has been filled by Captain H. C. Smith, the Senior Inspector of the province. Captain Smith has been but little over four years in the service of the Sudan Administration. Colonel Owen has served for more than thirteen years, having joined the Government in June of 1903.

Of the forty odd official members of the Railway Department there have been, or still are, some thirteen absent upon medical grounds, while four are away on temporary duty. Among the first-mentioned have been Mr. A. C. Parker, Superintendent of Accounts; Mr. F. G. A. Pinckney, one of the District Engineers; Mr. H. Walmsley, who fills a similar position; and the Hon. H. G. G. Pelham, the Assistant Traffic Manager.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, October 9.

Receptions at Government House.

The first of the receptions of Sir John and Lady Clauson, after their return to Nicosia, will take place on Wednesday, November 1, after which they are announced for the first Wednesday of every month, from 4 to 7 p.m., during the winter months.

The Legislative Council.

(1) Non-Mohammedan Elections. In each of the electoral divisions of Nicosia-Kyrenia and Larnaca-Famagusta there are seven candidates for the three seats. In the Limassol-Papho division there are four nominations. (2) Mohammedan Elections. For the Nicosia-Kyrenia division Irfan Bey is unopposed. In the Larnaca-Famagusta division there are three nominations for the one seat, and in the Limassol-Papho division two contest the seat.

The Hellenic Consul.

The Consul for Greece, M. P. Pareskevopoulos, will shortly leave the island to take up an appointment in the Foreign Office at Athens. This Consul has shown considerable activity, having taken a greater part in local Greek affairs than most of his predecessors. There appears to be no need that the post, when vacated, should be filled, as there is but a very small handful of Hellenic subjects in Cyprus. The bulk of the Greek-speaking Cypriots had been Ottoman subjects up to the date of the annexation by Great Britain in 1914. A very few indeed acquired Hellenic nationality, as the Ottoman law which regulates naturalisation is very stringent.

THE SERBIAN SOCIETY: INAUGURAL MEETING.

The Earl of Cromer and Sir Edward Carson were the principal speakers at a meeting held at the Mansion House last Friday to inaugurate the Serbian Society of Great Britain. Other speakers were Mr. Wickham Steed and the Lord Mayor, who presided, while among those present were Dr. R. M. Burrows, Dr. Seton-Watson, and Mr. T. P. O'Connor.

In the course of some remarks opening the proceedings, the Lord Mayor said that the aims of the Serbian Society were educational and constructively political. It desired to bring home to the people of the British Commonwealth a sense of the importance of Serbia as a "key" country to the political structure of Europe, not only the Serbia of the past, but still more the united Jugoslavia of the future.

Lord Cromer said that the Serbian Society might be regarded as a portion of the machinery now being forged over the greater part of Europe, in order to resist the onslaught of Germany, Austria, King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, and the poor, bewildered Turks, with whom he had been associated during the greater part of his life, and who, in spite of the defects of their Government, were a manly and virile race. Sixty years ago the British nation had poured out its blood and treasure in order to put the Turks upon their legs again; but this had been in vain, for the Turks were resolutely determined to commit political suicide. The Serbian Society consisted of people who thought that the best means of securing in permanence the objects for which the Entente was fighting, would be to establish a solid block composed of non-Teutonic people, who would act as an insuperable barrier to Teutonic aggression in the future. The Southern Slavs were adapted to form this barrier. It had been whispered that the Society was latently hostile towards Italy; but he believed its attitude was in the best interests of that country. There was no reason why Italy should not have her natural wish gratified for a naval supremacy in the Adriatic, while at the same time all reasonable aspirations of the Southern Slavs were met.

Mr. Wickham Steed said the Society was not a Southern Slav Society: it was a British one. It held no brief for any extremist view, and was not identified with any programme yet put forward.

Sir Edward Carson said that he was a member of the Cabinet when the Bulgarians began to invade Serbia, and he remembered very well the statement afterwards made by Sir Edward Grey in the House of Commons, that we were prepared to give to our friends in the Balkans all the support in our power in the manner that would be most welcome to them, in concert with our Allies, without reserve and without qualification. But when the Bulgarians entered Serbia we were not prepared to help drive back the invader, and nothing could be more pathetic than the story of the Serbian nation waiting for the British Army that never came. Speaking on behalf of the British Government, he could assure Serbia that her independence was regarded as one of the essential objects of the Allied Powers. Our first duty was to assure her of the restoration of her independence; but even with that Serbia's part in the war would have been in vain if we did not make use of the victory which we were determined to attain to settle the Southern Slav question. He hoped that when we came to redraw the map of Europe we should mould the Southern Slavs into a great unity, whether by federated states or by what other form of government he did not know, but they must be formulated into a complete union. In this settlement Montenegro, the smallest, and one of the first of our Allies, must not be lost sight of.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, October 4.

The Revolutionary Movement.

The details of M. Venizelos' departure from Athens, together with all the leaders of the Liberal Party, are no doubt known to your readers already, and need not, therefore, be recounted here. He has gone to place himself at the head of the movement which alone can save this country, and it is to be hoped he will succeed. His success will depend largely on the development of events in the Balkans, where a favourable turn, dispelling the fears of the German phantom, will give courage to those inclined to hang back. As it is, volunteers and officers are leaving for Salonika every day. But for the strict measures taken by the Government these recruits would have been far more numerous, especially in the Navy. Almost all the commanders of the armoured cruisers have been deprived of their commands, and to make more sure of things, essential parts of the ships' machinery have been removed.

The reservists' leagues, which continue their activities with impunity, have prevented volunteers from departing for Salonika, with the result that the latter have had to apply to the French Legation to protect them when setting out; and this has led to conflicts between the reservists and the French sailors. These reservists, inspired by the Germanophil clique that organised their leagues, seek daily to create "incidents," with the evident object of provoking conflicts with the French, conflicts that would lead up to a disembarkation of forces and an occupation, hoping thus to inflame the Greeks against the Entente, and to prevent the abandonment of neutrality. They also continue to exhort the King to remain firm, stating that they will not take part in the war even if he himself should call upon them to do so. Their activities have been encouraged by M. Rouphos, Minister of the Interior in the Cabinet that has just resigned. M. Rouphos one day ordered the Prefect of Police to give up the keys of the reservists' premises—which had been handed over to him when the Powers ordered the closing of these premises—to the proprietors. Thus the leagues, which had been dispersed, have commenced to act and to meet again regularly. In these circumstances it is not surprising that Admiral Dartige du Fournet has sent an ultimatum to the Greek Government, on the expiration of which he will proceed to a disembarkation in order to deliver the country from its military oppressors.

Fall of the Cabinet.

Thus we see another Cabinet fall, after being in power for barely three weeks. The presence in this Cabinet of M. Rouphos—who had, over his own signature, written articles most insulting to the Entente—and of two other rabid anti-Ententists rendered its recognition by the Entente quite impossible; and the situation was aggravated by the scandalous action of M. Rouphos referred to above. Yet the Cabinet expected recognition by the Entente Ministers, and when the latter failed to accord it, it opened negotiations through the Greek Ministers in Paris and London. The suggestion it put forward was that Greece should declare war upon Bulgaria, after a period to be agreed upon, which should be utilized for the reconstitution of the Greek Army at the expense of the Entente Powers; but should the balance of power in the Balkans undergo such a change in the meantime that Greece's intervention could not re-establish it, or be of any use, Greece should be freed from the obligation to go to war. No reply being vouchsafed to these proposals, the Cabinet next instructed M. Romanos, the Minister in Paris, to sound M. Briand. The latter replied quite frankly that the Entente would only accept Greek co-operation if King Constantine should personally propose to abandon neutrality unconditionally, and immediately proceed to mobilize, and declare war on Bulgaria. The Entente Powers would then be able to satisfy Greek ambitions up to a point, but only on condition that the new policy should be applied by a Cabinet in which they could repose confidence.

The French suggestion, then, debarred the Cabinet from remaining in office. Nevertheless, almost all its members declared in favour of abandoning neutrality; but the King opposed this step, declaring that Greece must have time to prepare her military forces. Such a proposal might have been accepted if the Entente had confidence in Greece, as formerly; but after recent events the Entente could hardly be so simple as to make an advance for the reorganization of the Greek Army, with the prospect of finding itself three or four months later confronted with fresh excuses. The most likely means the intriguers would employ would be to continue to inform the people, as they have been doing up to now, that the abandonment of neutrality was demanded by the Entente. Then, when the general mobilization was declared, the reservists would not respond, declaring openly—as those of Patras have done already—that they would not even obey the King, since the mobilization was forced on the country from abroad.

A Germanophil Proposal.

There are, however, worse things than this which the Entente might fear on the part of Greece, without being taxable with too great suspicion; for it is quite well aware that more than once there has been some idea of attacking its forces at Salonika. In fact, I am in a position to state that quite recently, while M. Kalogeropoulos was in power, M. Gounaris, evidently with the approval of the other members of the clique, suggested that the King should withdraw to Larissa, and that he should assemble in Thessaly an army of from 90,000 to 100,000 men, with which he should attack the Allies in the rear.

One day—it was Wednesday, September 27—that is to say, while the Kalogeropoulos Cabinet was in office, a rumour spread that mobilization had been decided upon; and naturally everybody concluded that it had been determined to abandon the policy of neutrality. But the next day the rumour was denied, and nobody could understand what had actually taken place. Two days later, however, a journal that is usually very well informed announced that the Government had, in fact, decided to mobilize seventeen classes of the Reserve—not, however, to co-operate with the Allies, but in order to deal with the national movement, and to suppress it by armed force. Now, since it is certain that in such an event they would have found themselves confronted by the Allied Fleet, it seems clear that they had determined to follow the plan of M. Gounaris, as indicated above. But as soon as the Entente Ministers got wind of the proposal to mobilize, they notified the Government, indirectly, that such a step would be contrary to the terms of their Note of June 21. Thus the plan was hit on the head. But the incident serves to show the disposition of the Germanophil clique, and whether M. Briand was wrong in counselling Greece to give proof positive of its sincerity.

Vain Hopes.

In point of fact, if the Greek Government had seriously contemplated abandoning its "neutrality," it would have done so long ago. But it is still playing the same old comedy that was begun by M. Gounaris in February of last year. Again, as soon as the Germanophils saw that M. Zaimis was bent upon a policy of action, they stirred up the Reservist Leagues, which, armed with the State's rifles, terrorised the country, to prevent mobilization; and forced M. Zaimis to resign. Now the Kalogeropoulist party, which represents the real Germanophil party (the Theotokists) in Greece, has just declared for a policy of action, as have all the most important generals and political men, with the exception of M. Gounaris and, perhaps, M. Skouloudis; and yet it is pretended that the people do not wish for war. Meanwhile, the members of the military leagues are allowed to prevent manifestations of the popular feeling by indulging in all kinds of excesses in order to intimidate the people.

All indications tend to show that the new Cabinet that is to be formed will continue to play the same old comedy, for the sole purpose of temporising. The only real hope for this country is that the Powers that have protected it up to the present will intervene more energetically, and encourage the national movement at the head of which M. Venizelos has placed himself. Only the success of that movement can save Greece from the Germano-Bulgarian peril.

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NEWS FROM SYRIA.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 14.

A young man belonging to a good family in Damascus, who had the courage to seek safety in flight by way of the Syrian Desert, and was helped by the Bedouin tribes in his adventurous journey, has just arrived here. He gives the following account of conditions in Syria when he left it, about three months ago.

The prices of the following articles, then ruling, serve to illustrate the economic distress from which the country is suffering:—A tin of petroleum cost £5, an oke of sugar 2 mejidehs, an oke of grape molasses 20 piastres, an oke of rice the same, an oke of boiled butter 40 piastres, an oke of bread ¼, or sometimes ½, a mejideh, an unprecedented price in the economic annals of Damascus. Electric lamp-bulbs were fetching £1 each, a fact that proves that the much-vaunted Berlin-Constantinople Express did not mark the beginning of an era of economic prosperity for Turkey, as it has thus far been able to cope only with the transport of military requirements. The excessive prices of other articles of import, such as cloth, leather, etc., bear out this fact. Previous reports as to the excellence of the crops are confirmed, but as the Government has prohibited the storing of any quantities under severe penalties, and has taken stringent measures to lay hands on the produce of the land, it is very much feared that famine will continue to prevail.

Gold coins are extremely rare, and whenever seen they are quickly seized by the police and exchanged for paper money, which was steadily depreciating, until, in early June, the enormous fall of 50 per cent. of the gold value was reached. This tends to confirm the reports received from various sources that the Turkish pound in paper money was being exchanged at El Arish for about one-fourth of its value in silver coins.

In order further to drain the pecuniary resources of the country, the Turks are continuing to accept the military exemption tax, but this is now valid for one year only, so that people will soon be paying the tax for the third time if their means admit. The battalion of Dervishes and Kadirieh at Damascus is entrusted with the task of tracking fugitives and searching persons to see whether they are in possession of the proper Government receipts, or certificates of exemption on medical grounds. Those who are found to be not in possession of such documents are bound with ropes and dragged off to the military authorities for investigation and eventual trial. Often well-dressed gentlemen were to be seen led away thus through the streets in company with vagabonds in rags, so that these Dervishes have come to be regarded as the terror of the citizens.

Youths of seventeen, and elderly men up to fifty-five, are now liable to service, and even men of sixty, looking strong and healthy, are compelled to present themselves before the military authorities, who enrol them, if on examination they are found fit for military duty. This may explain the Turkish Government's capacity to send such strong reinforcements to the Bulgarian and Austro-German fronts.

As previously reported, supplies of medicines and drugs are practically exhausted. As, however much the transport of munitions and armament may absorb railway tonnage, sufficient room could always be provided for the carriage of goods that occupy such little space, the only plausible explanation of this shortage is that druggists do not dare to pass any orders for fear of the goods being requisitioned by the military authorities. The consequence is that epidemic diseases, such as typhoid, have been working havoc among the population, whose powers of resistance have been diminished by underfeeding. The informant cited the case of one family, related to him, that alone lost ten of its members from typhoid. The well-known Sheikh Ali el Kuzbari, who delivered the famous oration on the occasion of the Kaiser's visit to Damascus, and who received a special invitation to Berlin after the war, is one of the victims. Cholera had broken out just before my informant left Damascus.

MOROCCO NOTES.

RAISULI'S POLICY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, October 14.

In the Spanish zone the chief interest lies around the interesting, unscrupulous personality of Raisuli, whose peculiar ability in playing a double or treble game, assisted by circumstances, has once more gained for him a position of some importance.

In the course of the operations undertaken during the summer by the Spanish forces to open up communications between the Laraiche and Tetuan districts, and, if fortune favoured, to subdue the tribe which occupies the country immediately opposite Gibraltar, a large part of the fighting fell to the lot of Spain's ally, Raisuli. When the little campaign came to a seemingly premature end Raisuli remained in possession of the chief part of the modest success obtained—the control of the most important part of the Tangier-Tetuan road, opened once more to traffic. This fact, in addition to his other present advantages, Raisuli evidently intends to turn to the best possible advantage, and he is now in various ways emphasising the value of his services to Spain and his ability, if he wish to exert it, to adopt independent action.

Strengthened by assistance received from Spain; with a certain number of men enlisted for the service of that country, but obedient to his orders; the only man who seems able at present to induce the tribes to take combined action in any direction; the recipient, it is believed, of large subsidies from the German agents who swarm in the Spanish zone—subsidies which, whatever their object, he will certainly use as suits him best—he no doubt believes that he has before him a fascinating choice of courses. He appears to be weighing the advantages obtainable from Spain against those which an attempt to make himself the independent ruler of the tribes which refuse to accept Spain's domination might procure. His lineage and the importance attached to it by the tribes greatly increase the strength of his position. Meanwhile he asserts the right of controlling an important means of communication between Spain's northern and western areas of occupation, and takes every opportunity of flaunting his strength and independence.

In most countries such a condition of affairs might be expected to lead to rapid developments. In the Spanish zone nothing—not even possibilities of disturbance—ever develops rapidly or fully. From time to time events occur which give rise to hopes or fears. The hopes die out, and the fears never become sufficiently acute to lead to energetic attempts at improvement. Fortunately Tangier is not affected by the course of affairs in the Spanish zone, except—and it is an important exception—in its trade and communications with the interior.

"WAKING UP" IN MESOPOTAMIA.

The following extracts are from a letter written by an officer serving in Mesopotamia to a relative. They will be read with pleasure as showing that our forces in that region are by no means disheartened by all the trials through which they have had to pass during the terrible hot season:

"Thank goodness, the cold weather seems near us at last. Our nights are getting cold and the early mornings are beautiful. Our army is waking up again like a huge black bear wakes up from its winter sleep. In our case it is a case of waking out of a deadly dull lethargy caused by the heat. It is an extraordinary climate, this. You literally almost die in summer and gradually recover again in winter. The dying process is not pleasant. On all sides you see men white-faced, thin, worn out and regular wrecks, beginning to put on colour, weight, and cheerfulness. It is something like a flower bursting into bloom. Keenness for work and fighting comes with health, too." The writer concludes with the hope that the Mesopotamia Force may take its "share in the all-round 'bump' which we appear to be giving the Germans."

News has been received that the party sent out to the Dobruja by the Scottish Women's Hospitals has been doing splendid work. The members are nursing the Serbians who joined the Russian Army, when the Russians released them from Austrian captivity.

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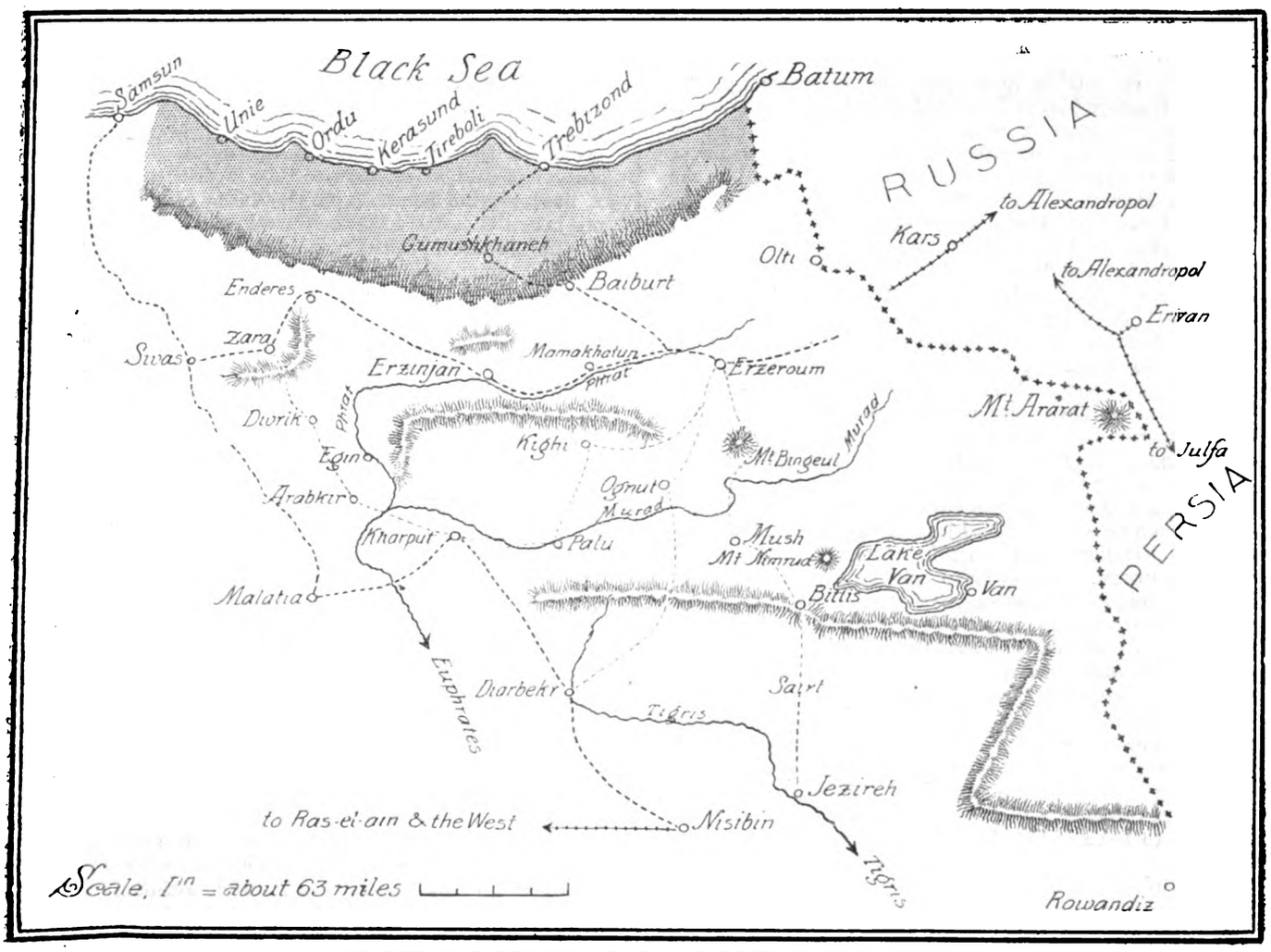
THE RUSSIAN ADVANCE IN THE CAUCASUS AND THE TURKISH COUNTER-STROKE.

(From a Correspondent.)

I.—Operations in the Country of Lake Van and the Basin of the Murad.

The three Empires of Russia, Turkey, and Persia meet where the mountains of Greater and Lesser Ararat rise from a lofty tableland, known on its Persian side as the Iranian plateau, the altitude of which varies from 4,000 ft. to 6,000 ft. above sea-level. Lake Urmi on the Persian side of the frontier is over 4,000 ft. above the sea, Lake Van in Turkey is over 5,000 ft., while in the neighbourhood of Erzeroum the plateau attains a mean height of about 6,000 ft. To the south of the Russian frontier towards Van and to the south-west towards Bitlis and Mush the country is, for those regions, comparatively easy. It is broken and hilly, and great mountains, rising to heights of 10,000 ft. or more, are thrown up from its surface; but amongst the hills lie fertile plains, communicating with each other and extending away to the south to the Armenian continuation of the Taurus range, on the far side of which lie the plains of Mesopotamia. Wheeled transport is in common use in these parts, and the recent news that British armoured cars have been able to operate there with success shows that, even in the absence of made roads, the country is not difficult to traverse in summer. For the protection of his communications it was necessary for the Grand Duke to dominate the plateau country, and to secure the points at which access to it from the plains of Mesopotamia was possible, before the ordinary season for campaigning should begin.

On the extreme east the Van plateau can be approached from Persia, as the frontier hills south of Ararat form no serious obstacle to a force moving from the direction of the Persian Highlands, to which the Turks had access by way of Rowandiz and the passes near that place. (The neutrality of Persia, it need scarcely be said, did not seriously trouble the plans of either of the belligerents.) From Rowandiz westwards the country south of Lake Van is a mass of high and difficult mountains crossed only by rough tracks. This region is well known to the traveller, and has of recent years been regarded with some interest as the headquarters of the Chaldæan Christians; but it is wild and rugged and unsuitable for the advance of large armies. The first practicable pass is that at Bitlis, south-west of the lake, where a narrow and beautiful gorge, through which the Bitlis River flows, leads down from the plateau to the plains. For many years the Turks have been fitfully engaged in the construction of a roadway along the hillsides by the river, and it is probable that the various completed lengths had been linked up into a good through route before the war broke out. At its lower end the pass can be approached either from Jezireh and Sairt to the south (approximately the route taken by Xenophon and the Ten Thousand), or from Diarbekr to the south-west. The town of Bitlis lies at the upper or northern end of the pass, and it was necessary to guard against the risk of Turkish troops debouching from the pass on to the tableland above. Fifty miles north-west of Bitlis, and approached from it by an easy road along the foot of the northern slopes of the hills, lies the town of Mush, at the farther end of a large plain, once covered with prosperous Armenian villages. Mush can be reached from Diarbekr by difficult but not impracticable routes, and fifty miles farther west the Murad, which flows through the plain north of Mush, is crossed by the main route from Diarbekr to Erzeroum viâ Oghnut—a route not likely to be taken by armed forces in winter on account of the height of the passes which it traverses, but apparently quite practicable in summer. To the west of this point the valley of the Murad becomes excessively difficult as far as the neighbourhood of Palu, half-way to the important town of Kharput. No direct advance of the Turks by the valley of the Murad was, therefore, to be feared; but from Palu and from Kharput routes lead to Kighi, some thirty-five miles west of Oghnut, and



SKETCH MAP SHOWING FIELD OF RUSSIAN OPERATIONS

(The shaded portion indicates area in which th ranges run mos Nort and South.

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thence to Erzeroum. How far these routes may have been improved in recent years we do not know; but the whole course of this campaign in Armenia shows that now as in the past the military mind does not admit the word "impossible" in its calculations. When the armies of the Grand Duke advance in winter into a country hitherto considered unsuitable for military operations at that season; when armoured cars successfully harry the Kurds in their roadless haunts, we must be slow to question the ability of the Turks to place and support large armies in places hitherto described as difficult of negotiation even by the solitary and lightly equipped traveller. We know, too, that it has been in contemplation to improve the communications of Erzeroum with the south, and it is very possible that the movement of troops towards that place from Diarbekr or Kharput is not so difficult as the descriptions of the country would at first suggest.

The position that had to be provided for was, therefore, this. After passing Erzeroum the Russians would be protected on the south by the high range that here borders the valley of the Phrat. But near Erzeroum and east of it their communications would be exposed to attack by way of the Van plateau or of the valley of the Murad—attacks that might come:—

(*a*) Viâ Rowandiz and the Persian frontier.

(*b*) Viâ Bitlis and Mush.

(*c*) Viâ Oghnut and Kighi.

The *communiqués* are silent as to any special precautions taken in the direction of Rowandiz at the time of the dash on Erzeroum. At that season it was probably sufficient to maintain a watch on the passes, and there were no collisions with Turkish troops of sufficient importance to be reported. The main Russian operations in Persia were then far to the south, in the country round Ispahan, Hamadan, and Kermanshah, whence the Turk was being gradually driven towards his own frontier. This tract is outside the area on the sketch, but as the operations were connected with those in the north, and are of interest to us from their bearing on our own position in the Tigris valley, a short digression may conveniently be made to note the main dates and incidents. Russia has already in the war shown a chivalrous readiness to accept risks for the assistance of her Allies when in difficulties, and it is only reasonable to assume that in acting on the Persian frontier east of Baghdad one of her motives was to relieve the pressure on our expedition in the valley of the Tigris, and to impede the retreat of the Turks should that expedition be successful. In December she occupied Hamadan, in February Kermanshah, and in March Ispahan. Her troops then pushed on from Kermanshah to the frontier, which they reached, at Kasr-i-Shirin, on May 10, too late unfortunately to affect the situation at Kut, which had fallen in the end of April. It is improbable that this move was more than a demonstration; though had we been able to advance on Baghdad we should doubtless have been joined there by the Russian light troops, a party of whom, making their way through the much more difficult country to the south, rode into General Gorringe's camp about May 20. This dashing exploit—for the distance, either from Kermanshah or from Kasr-i-Shirin to Kut, is 150 miles as the crow flies—is a fine example of what can be accomplished by a hardy body of cavalry, skilfully handled, ready to take risks, and able to live on the country. It may have been of no military value in itself, but its success suggests that had our organisation in Mesopotamia allowed of an equally enterprising use of the excellent light cavalry of India, the Turkish commander might have been seriously alarmed for the safety of his communications.

With the fall of Kut the balance of power in south-western Persia turned against the Russians, and there was no longer any reason for the maintenance of their exposed position on the frontier. They withdrew, or were forced back, and in the end of June the Turks claimed to have inflicted on them a severe defeat near Kermanshah, and to have compelled the abandonment of that place. This news was substantially accurate; and a further Turkish advance followed on Hamadan, the Russians being apparently driven to the north of that place. In August Russian military critics considered that the Turkish offensive in these regions was at last exhausted and on the point of collapsing. The truth may, perhaps, be that the Russians had now no important military object to gain in the south, and that some withdrawal of their troops was desirable to cope with a Turkish advance further north. The Turkish advance has been checked, but the latest accounts give no indication of its collapse, and fighting still goes on to the north of Hamadan.

This digression has taken us far from points (*a*), (*b*), and (*c*) mentioned above; and it is now proposed to deal with these in turn.

(*To be continued.*)

ISLES OF PEACE.

In the cold, terse phrases which are characteristic of our official reports of battle, the Secretary of the War Office announced the capture of 175 Senussi and much material of war this week. The operations which resulted in these captures were undertaken from the Oases of Dakhla and Baharia in the Libyan desert. Thus it comes about that after many tranquil years of peace the tide of war has risen at the bidding of a modern Attila to flow over those fair lands. In the olden days these jewels of the Libyan desert were the object of frequent attacks by roving Arabs, but more recently they had fallen upon easy times, and, although the veiled authority of the Senussi was always with them, their people and their days were secure and prosperous. Far from the valley of the Nile, until recent years the only communication with these oases was by way of the old caravan route across the desert, a tedious journey, and one seldom attempted by the majority of their inhabitants. It was sufficient to them that the harvests were good and plentiful; for news of the outside world they cared little; they were content to live and die in the limited fields of green which flamed like emeralds in the vast of the desert's gold.

A few years ago, however, an enterprising Westerner conceived the idea of connecting the Libyan Oases with the valley of the Nile by railway, and a company was formed for this purpose and for the development of the Great Oasis of Kharga. The railway, which presented considerable engineering difficulties, was eventually constructed, and it altered the whole character of the oases at one stroke. Even after this railway was built, however, the Senussi continued to levy taxes upon the people in the teeth of the Government. An amusing story was told in relation to this fact a few years ago. A business-like Sheikh from the valley of the Nile, having heard that his credulous brethren of the oases were in the habit of contributing to the treasury of the Senussi, journeyed to Kharga by train, and proceeded to collect taxes in the name of the great Senussi himself. That he got away with his spoil was the merest matter of luck, for as his train steamed out of the station on his return journey, the legitimate tax-collector of the Senussi rode into the town from the opposite direction!

The Oasis of Kharga itself is a place of considerable historical interest, for it was to this distant place that Nestorius was banished in the early days of Christianity, and the town still possesses some remarkably well-preserved remains of what is reputed to be one of the earliest Christian cemeteries in existence. From the valley of the Nile the railway follows a rising track for many miles, after which it traverses a desolate plateau for some distance before descending through the wild and rocky gorges which lead to the oasis. How well the oasis is hidden may be gathered from the fact that when the railway was in course of construction a surveyor, missing a few of the survey pegs ahead, passed the entrance to the gorge by a few yards, and was lost for hours in the barren desert beyond. The entrance to this gorge, wild and magnificent as it nears the oasis, was barely ten yards in width at the point where its first cleft opened from the Libyan desert to lead to the fertile valley below. The village of Kharga is for the most part constructed beneath the ground, although latterly other houses have been built in the ordinary way above the surface. The sub-terrestrial character of the former

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dwellings was made necessary by reason of the raiding Arabs, to which allusion has already been made, and despite the advent of the railway with its civilising influences, the place was, until quite recently, one of the most primitive and attractive spots in all Egypt.

Change, however, has come suddenly, and the group of oases of which this is the chief has now seen warfare in its most up-to-date guise. It is strange indeed to think that the inhabitants of this remote spot have seen more of war and destruction than many of us who dwell in Europe. Notwithstanding the terse sentences in which we are informed of this latest little battle, we are given an insight into its conditions; and we know that the latest appliances of war have been pressed into the service of our fighting men side by side with the famous Camel Corps. Armoured cars, we are told, operated with the Camel Corps to sweep the oases clean. Armoured cars—devils to pant with stinking breath side by side with the ancient ones of Egypt. It is not a new picture in this war, but its strangeness is enhanced by the surroundings in which this latest combat was staged. One can imagine our Camel Corps fighting sternly to a finish with hordes of well-mounted Senussi; one can accept the rifle and even artillery as legitimate to warfare in the desert Isles of Peace; but the motor-car is too much. And yet, perhaps, some day our children's children will read of this encounter, and, comparing it with incidents of their own day, will cry that romance is dead. Mr. Kipling has shown us how to-day regards the romance of yesterday; it may be that steel-proof cars spitting death across the desert may one day seem the acme of romantic warfare.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE SORROWS OF SERBIA.*

The special correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, whose adventures and misadventures in the Balkans last year are here recounted, was seldom near enough to the fighting line in Serbia to describe from his own observation the engagements that resulted in the rout of King Peter's army. He arrived at Nish from Salonika early in October, and was there when Mackensen forced the passage of the Danube and occupied Belgrade. He stayed at Nish till October 12, if not longer, by which time the Bulgarians had crossed the frontier. As soon, indeed, as the German plan of operations became clear, he determined to make an effort to reach the battlefield on the Danube front; but after watching from a hill near Palanka the enemy beginning to pour into the Morava valley, he hurried back to Nish, being anxious, we gather, about the safety of his baggage. The only important intelligence he obtained on this occasion was given to him, during the return journey, by a Serbian officer. It is much the same with his descriptions of the fighting which followed. As often as not he was looking for his baggage, and he was always a considerable distance from the localities where a rearguard action was being fought. What he has to tell, therefore, about the retreat of the Serbians to the Albanian frontier is based on what other people saw. He was at Pristina when, early in November, in a forlorn hope, they attacked the Bulgarian lines in the Katchanik Pass; but he was not allowed to accompany the troops. During the retreat through the Albanian mountains he travelled for the most part with the Headquarters Staff; and though his experiences of the hardship and perils of the way were disagreeable enough, they probably afford only a faint indication of the awful sufferings and losses undergone by the bulk of the army.

The fact is that, like the majority of special correspondents during the first two years of the war, Mr. Gordon-Smith could relate little, so far as the actual operations are concerned, beyond what he heard, or what he inferred from the information given him. Nevertheless, his narrative may prove to be at once the most trustworthy as well as the most circumstantial history we shall have, for some time to come, of the disaster that befell the army and nation of Serbia. Its accuracy is guaranteed by M. Boshkovitch, who has written a preface to the book. This well-known diplomatist, described in the text as the present Serbian Minister in London, and on the title-page as having formerly held that position, fully endorses the author's vehement denunciation of the attitude of the Allied Powers toward Serbia up to the time of the German invasion. When on his way to the Balkans from Switzerland, Mr. Gordon-Smith saw the Greek Minister to the Italian Court, who assured him as a positive fact that Bulgaria was pledged up to the hilt to Germany, and was preparing night and day to join her in arms. Yet the Greek Government, he said, were told by the Allied Powers that Bulgaria, the most loyal and upright nation in the world, would most certainly support their cause. "We know," said M. Coromilos, "that the contrary is the case; but MM. Sazanoff, Delcassé, and Sir Edward Grey turn a deaf ear to all we say." This was in August, 1915. Ten days later M. Venizelos, when the author called on him in Athens, confirmed every word of his colleague's statement. What is more, the Greek Premier, as he was then, spoke of the Allied Powers as dragging on negotiations with the worst enemy of Greece and Serbia when, he declared, a child might see that they were being fooled by the wily Radoslavoff and his German-born sovereign. Mr. Gordon-Smith evidently thinks that our Foreign Office ought some weeks earlier to have perceived that it was being hoodwinked. It was in July, 1915, according to his reckoning, that Serbia, convinced of the imminence of a renewed onslaught by Austria, now actively backed up by Germany, appealed to the Allies for military aid. All they could do, we are told, was to say they would get Bulgaria to assist her neighbour; and from this moment, the author maintains, must be dated the worst military and diplomatic blunder perpetrated by us and our partners. Curiously enough, however, what he styles "the crowning error" was still to come. Directly after the Bulgarians began mobilising, the Chief of the Serbian Staff telegraphed to London, Paris, and Petrograd begging for permission to invade Bulgaria straight away, and the Allies put a veto on an adventure which, in the author's judgment, might have been carried through with ease and success. Having thus, he writes, tied the unfortunate Serbia hand and foot, the Allies looked on helplessly while the Central European Powers and their Bulgarian accomplice proceeded to cut her throat.

All this, however, does not bring us any nearer to a final solution of questions that were so hotly debated a year ago in Parliament, on the platform, and in the Press. Nor has the author attempted to review, in the light of such evidence as he collected in the Balkans, the statements made by Mr. Asquith, Viscount Grey, and other Ministers, when the action or inaction of the Allied Powers was first challenged. His book contains nothing in the shape of documents or other authentic testimony that would add weight to adverse criticism of their policy or dispose of arguments in favour of it. Nor will it be thought, perhaps, that this is altogether an opportune moment for reopening the whole controversy; least of all for reiterating charges which can neither be proved nor disproved till all the material facts are disclosed, as they certainly will not be as long as the war lasts

* "Through the Serbian Campaign: The Great Retreat of the Serbian Army." By Gordon Gordon-Smith. (London: Hutchinson and Co., 12s. 6d. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Experiences of a Woman Doctor in Serbia. By Dr. Caroline Matthews. (Mills and Boon. 5s. net.)

Austro-Hungarian Atrocities: Report. (Report upon the atrocities committed by the Austro-Hungarian Army during the First Invasion of Serbia, submitted to the Serbian Government by R. A. Reiss, D.Sc., Professor at the University of Lausanne.) English Translation by F. S. Copeland. (Simpkin, Marshall and Co. 5s. net.)

The Gate of Asia: A Journey from the Persian Gulf to the Black Sea. By William Warfield. (G. P. Putnam's Sons. $2.50 net.)

The Lost Cities of Ceylon. By G. E. Mitton. (John Murray. 10s. 6d. net.)

Histoire Yougoslave. (Paris: Plon-Nourrit et Cie. 50 centimes.)

A LEVANT COMPLAINT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—In his sympathetic review of my book "The Truth About the Dardanelles" your reviewer refers to that dreadful stomach complaint, which was so prevalent at Gallipoli, as one familiar to those who have lived around the Levant. I confess I was very interested and surprised at his assertion that visitors invariably suffer in this way during the first year. As this point is so important—how many conflicting medical terms and explanations there were I have shown in my book—perhaps he will tell us a little more about it.—I am, etc.,

SYDNEY A. MOSELEY.

The Press Club, St. Bride's House, Salisbury Square, E.C., October 18, 1916.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Oct. 27	1916. Oct. 14	Friday	1334. Julhijja 29	5677. Tishri 30
			1335 Moharrem	Hesvan
28	15	Saturday.....	1	1
29	16	Sunday	2	2
30	17	Monday	3	3
31	18	Tuesday	4	4
Nov. 1	19	Wednesday ..	5	5
2	20	Thursday	6	6

Sunday is the birthday of the Queen of Roumania, who is a daughter of the late Duke of Edinburgh, and was born in 1875.

Sir Henry McMahon, British High Commissioner in Egypt, left Alexandria for Cairo on the 11th inst., accompanied by the officials of the Residency. An official farewell was held at the Bab el Gedid station, and on his arrival at Cairo Sir Henry was met by General Sir Archibald Murray, Lord Edward Cecil, and many members of the diplomatic body and Ministry.

Lady Maxwell, who is still in very delicate health, has returned to 7, Grosvenor Place from the Royal Hospital, Dublin.

Sir Ronald and the Hon. Lady Graham arrived at 28, Bruton Street, on Monday, from Cairo.

Prince Bibesco, of the Roumanian Legation, left London last week for Marlow.

Princess Zoe Sturdza has left for Bucharest, where she purposes helping in hospital work.

Our Bucharest Correspondent informs us that Lady Barclay and Mrs. Rook Carnegie are working in the Roumanian Military Hospital there.

Prince Nicholas of Greece left London on Wednesday for the Continent.

H.E. the Serbian Minister and Madame Yovanovitch have now taken up their residence at the Legation.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Lieutenant E. A. C. Lloyd, Yeomanry, the eldest son of Ernest O. Lloyd and Mrs. Lloyd, of 68, Warwick Square, and Charlotte Edith Annette, second daughter of Vice-Admiral Ernest T. Troubridge, C.B., C.M.G., and the late Mrs. Troubridge.

Lewa J. F. Carroll Pasha, Principal Medical Officer, Egyptian Army, who was slightly indisposed, has completely recovered, and has returned to Khartoum.

In a Supplement to the *London Gazette*, issued on the 19th inst., it is announced that the King has given orders for the following promotion:—To be K.C.B., Major-General Charles Vere Ferrer Townshend, C.B., D.S.O.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Percy Z. Cox, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., who is mentioned in General Sir Percy Lake's despatch as one of the political officers whom he desires to bring to special notice for services rendered in the course of the operations in Mesopotamia from January 19 to April 30, has an extraordinary and intimate acquaintance with the Persian Gulf region and its somewhat involved politics. He has served as Consul at Muskat and as Consul-General at Bushire; and since the beginning of the operations in Irak he has rendered invaluable services with the forces.

Lieutenant-Colonel S. G. Knox, C.I.E., another "political" officer mentioned by General Lake, has also served at Muskat and Bushire. He was at Muskat from 1911 to 1914, and was sent to Bushire in 1914, as Acting Consul-General.

Mr. H. R. Dobbs, C.I.E., a third "political" mentioned in the same despatch, entered the Indian Civil Service in 1892. He was appointed Consul-General at Baghdad in 1914, but was prevented from taking up the duties of his post by the outbreak of war with Turkey.

Mr. R. W. Bullard, also mentioned by General Lake, was Acting-Consul at Busreh when war broke out with Turkey. He did good service there in very difficult circumstances, winning golden opinions from all the British community. He had previously served at Beyrout, Bitlis, and Erzeroum.

A correspondent writes:—The British colony in Baghdad—or formerly in Baghdad—has done its share in this war. In addition to Lieutenant-Commander C. H. Cowley, R.N.V.R., whose fine service and brave death have already been chronicled in THE NEAR EAST, General Lake included in his list of "special notices," Sub-Lieutenant R. Cowley, R.N.V.R. Then in the list forwarded by General Townshend of those who performed distinguished services during the defence of Kut-el-Amarah one notices with much pleasure the names of three "civilians with the force": Mr. T. D. Cree, of Messrs. Blockey, Cree, and Co., Mr. A. W. M. Tod, of Messrs. Lynch Bros., and Mr. T. Dexter. Unless I am very much mistaken, the last-named formerly served in the old R.I.M. Comet as an engineer. All three of these gentlemen had a knowledge of the country and of the Arabs that must have been very useful to General Townshend, and it is pleasant to see their names on such a list.

A service in memory of Captain George Ronald Lane, Adjutant, Coldstream Guards, only son of Major-General Sir Ronald Lane, formerly G.O.C. in Egypt, and Lady Lane, was held on Saturday at Kelsale parish church, Suffolk. Captain Lane was born on February 27, 1894, and spent much of his boyhood in Egypt. He was killed on September 15.

The inaugural meeting of the Serbian Society of Great Britain was held last Friday afternoon at the Mansion House, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor presiding. Amongst those present were:—The Earl of Cromer, O.M., G.C.B., Sir Edward Carson, K.C., M.P., Mr. J. Annan Bryce, M.P., Mr. R. W. Seton-Watson, D.Litt., Mr. John Buchan, Mr. R. M. Burrows, D.Litt., Sir Arthur Evans, LL.D., F.R.S., the Rev. H. J. Fynes-Clinton, Mr. J. A. Grant, M.P., Lady Grogan, Major-General Sir Ivor J. C. Herbert, Bart., M.P., Mr. H. J. Mackinder, M.P., Mr. Ronald McNeill, M.P., Admiral of the Fleet the Hon. Sir Hedworth Meux, G.C.B., M.P., Mr. H. Wickham Steed, Mr. J. St. Leo Strachey, Mr. Stephen Walsh, M.P., Mrs. Carrington Wilde, Mr. E. Hilton Young, M.P., Lord Henry Bentinck, the Roumanian Minister, the Serbian Minister, Sir Philip Magnus, the Master of University College, Oxford, Dr. C. W. Prothero, Sir Frederick Cawley, Lord and Lady Haversham, Sir James and Lady Frazer, Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace, Commander Carlyon Bellairs, Colonel Sir J. Roper Parkington, the Right Hon. W. H. Dickinson, Sir John Rolleston, Rev. Hugh Chapman, Sir W. E. Treacher, Sir Henry Dalziel, Mr. Hugh Law, Lord Cecil Manners, Captain Douglas B. Hall, Dr. R. O. Moon, Mr. Arthur Lynch, M.P., Mr. Arthur Serena, and Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P. A report of the meeting will be found elsewhere.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ross and Miss Ross are leaving London to-morrow on their return to Alexandria.

The Serbian Minister has written to Mr. Sidney Ball, chairman of the Serbian Committee in Oxford, expressing his gratitude to all those who are taking so much care of the Serbian refugee boys there. These boys, says his Excellency, through the distress of their country, have now the exceptional opportunity of studying in the first University City in the world. He also writes that he was deeply impressed by all he saw on the occasion of his recent visit.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. V. O. Hewett, South Wales Borderers, whose name appears in the list of wounded, had seen service in the Sudan. He rejoined for the war.

The Anglican and Eastern Association, an organisation that seeks to promote a re-union of the Anglican and Eastern Churches, celebrated its tenth anniversary last Wednesday. In connection with this a processional Litany, with prayer for unity, was chanted in the Church of St. Augustine, Queen's Gate. At this service the Roumanian Minister was officially present.

Among the sums received for "Our Day" at the headquarters of the British Red Cross Society is £8,400 from the British community in the Sudan, the Egyptian and Sudanese officers and soldiers of the Egyptian Army, officials of the military and civil departments, sheikhs and notables, and in fact all creeds and communities in the Sudan.

In connection with the Roumanian Flag Day (yesterday), the following message from Mr. Asquith was received at the organising offices:—

"I cannot doubt that the response to the appeal on behalf of the National Roumanian Relief Fund will bear striking witness to the sympathy and admiration which we feel for our latest Ally, who is fighting valiantly both for the general cause of freedom and civilisation, and for the fulfilment of her own just and historic claim to national unity."

Lieut.-Col. Percy Wilfred Machell, C.M.G., D.S.O., Border Regt., of Crackenthorpe Hall, Appleby, Westmorland, and the Naval and Military Club, Piccadilly, who saw considerable service in Egypt, and who was killed in France while leading his men to the attack on July 1, left property of the value of £23,018.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The *Egyptian Gazette* (October 10) says:—We understand that Mr. Langley, Director-General of the State Domains Administration, has declined the post of Under Secretary of State for Agriculture, vacated by Mr. Haines, who has been appointed Adviser to the Ministry of Interior. In order to induce him to accept the post, the Government suggested to him the transfer to the Ministry of Agriculture of the administration of the 160,000 cultivable feddans which are now being administered by the State Domains Department so as to make his responsibilities greater, but it is doubtful whether he will accept the post even with this condition. In case he declines this post finally, it is thought that the offer will be made to Mr. McKillop, Chief Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, who in turn would be replaced by Mr. Hopkins, Inspector at the Ministry of Finance.

The governing body of the School of Oriental Studies, London Institution, have appointed Mr. Edward Denison Ross, C.I.E., Ph.D., to be director of the school. Dr. Ross, who is forty-five years of age, studied Oriental languages in Paris and Strassburg, and has travelled extensively in the East. For several years he was principal of the College for Moslem Education in Calcutta, and he has held important positions under the Government of India.

SEC.-LIEUT. GEOFFREY N. P. D'ERF WHEELER, Dorset Regiment, missing, September 26-30. Any information will be most thankfully received by his mother, Mrs. d'Erf Wheeler, 97, Comeragh Road, West Kensington.

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Διερμηνεῖς κ.λ.π. Διδάκτρα μέτρια.
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Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (October 9):—

During the absence of Mr. Thorne, President of the District Court, Larnaca, his place will be filled by Mr. A. L. S. Stuart, Judge at Limassol.

During the absence on leave of Mr. Bros, President of the District Court of Kyrenia, the duties of judge in that district will be carried out by Mr. J. R. Holmes, who presides over the Nicosia District Court.

Colonel Tartarinoff, the Russian Military Attaché at Bucharest, has been appointed Russian Delegate with the Roumanian Staff; and Staff-Colonel Politzine has been appointed Military Attaché in his stead. Commander Zarine is appointed Naval Attaché.

Miralai J. R. Bassett Bey, Governor Upper Nile Province, and Miralai N. B. de Forth Bey, Officer Commanding Arab Battalion, have been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army on reversion to their British units. They have been granted the Order of the Nile (Third Class), on the occasion of their retirement.

Mr. F. C. C. Balfour, Inspector Nuba Mountains Province, has been transferred to Kassala Province.

Mr. T. A. Leach, Inspector Khartoum Province, has been promoted Senior Inspector and transferred to Kassala Province.

Mr. Norman Wilkinson, Inspector, Repression of Slave Department, Sudan Government, has been retired on pension and replaced by Mr. Aylmer Wylly, Commandant of the Red Sea Province Police. Mr. Wylly will continue to perform the duties of Commandant of Police at the same time.

Bimbashi (temporary Kaimakam) H. S. Hearn, Department of Ordnance, Egyptian Army, has been confirmed in his temporary rank from July 16, 1916, and has been granted the temporary rank of Miralai.

Bimbashi E. D. F. Gee, Artillery, has been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam. He has been appointed second in command, Artillery.

Bimbashi H. T. R. S. Wright, 14th Sudanese, has been transferred to the 13th Sudanese.

OBITUARY.

Sir Henry Benbow, K.C.B., D.S.O., died last Friday at Osborne House, Eastbourne, aged seventy-eight. He entered the Navy in 1861, as an Assistant Engineer, and rose to Chief Engineer in 1879. He served with the Naval Brigade in the Gordon Relief Expedition, 1884-5, and received the medal and bronze star. When the Safia's boiler was disabled by a shot from Wad Habeshi Fort he effected repairs under a heavy fire. For this service he was thanked personally by Lord Wolseley, who presented him with a silver cigarette case as a mark of appreciation of his courage and resource; and was mentioned in despatches.

A correspondent writes:—"The many friends in this country of the Rev. Marcellus Bowen, D.D., and Mrs. Bowen, of the American Bible House, Stamboul, Constantinople, will grieve to hear of the death of Dr. Bowen at Vevey, Switzerland. He was seized with paralysis on October 2, and never regained consciousness, passing away on October 4, after forty-eight hours' illness. Dr. Bowen was beloved of all who knew him for the sweetness and geniality of his disposition, for the charm and graciousness of his manner, for his unselfish devotion to duty, and for his warm-hearted loyalty to his friends. The hearts of all will assuredly go out with loving sympathy to Mrs. Bowen and her daughter, Mrs. Ferguson, in their overwhelming sorrow."

A telegram from Teheran states that M. Mornard, the former Treasurer-General of Persia, has died of appendicitis.

M. Jacques Joseph Mornard, whose death at Teheran is reported, became Treasurer-General for Persia in June, 1912. Along with other Belgian subjects, he had previously been employed in the Persian Customs Department, of which he rose to be Administrator-General. On Mr. Morgan Shuster's retirement from the agitated field of Persian politics, the British and Russian Ministers, Sir George Barclay and M. Sazanoff, strongly recommended M. Mornard for the vacant post; and the Regent ultimately sanctioned the appointment, though six months elapsed before it was officially announced. With the American financial expert M. Mornard's relations had been strained almost to breaking point; but as the Belgian Administrator-General of Customs had a long experience of local conditions, whilst Mr. Morgan was new to the country, it is probable that, as often as they differed, the older hand was in the right.

On becoming Treasurer-General M. Mornard strengthened the European element in the supervising staff of his new department, and was not content till there was a Belgian controller of finance at all the chief centres of the administration. One result was that the inland revenue during his first year of office showed an increase of over 40 per cent. His position, however, was a difficult one, for it was no simple matter to satisfy the needs of the Persian Government and at the same time to administer the finances in accordance with principles regarded as vital by Great Britain and Russia. In July, 1914, M. Mornard resigned the Treasurership, although under the terms of his contract he might have held it three years longer. That he could have put Persian finance on a firmer footing during the troubles which, since his retirement, have distracted the country is not at all likely.

Captain J. A. Mereweather, who was killed in action on September 30, was a member of the firm of John Peel and Co., Minia, Egypt. In January, 1915, he worked for a short time with the Canal Transport Corps, after which he came home and obtained a commission in the Rifle Brigade. He was the son of Judge Mereweather of Sydney, Australia, and was trained for the Bar.

The death is reported as having taken place at Gambela, on September 25, of Mr. G. W. Dawson, of the Customs Department. He joined the Sudan Government in 1912.

A Reuter's message from Bombay announces the death there on Monday of Sir Jacob Sassoon, chief partner in the well-known firm of D. Sassoon and Co.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

KNABENSHUE.—On October 6, at the American Diplomatic Agency, Cairo, the wife of Paul Knabenshue, American Chargé d'Affaires, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

AGIUS—NOEL.—On October 21, at St. Dominic's Priory, Haverstock Hill, N.W., Captain Arthur J. Agius, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Agius, 3, Belsize Grove, Hampstead, N.W., to Evelyn Violet Marie (Dolly), younger daughter of the late Ludovic Henri Noël and Madame Noël, "Pavelly," 45, Compayne Gardens, Hampstead, N.W.

EDMONDS—JOHNSON.—On October 19, at the British Consulate, Alexandria, subsequently at All Saints', Ramleh, William Stanley Edmonds, of The Levant Consular Service, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edmonds, of Lymington, Hants, to Alice Lindo Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Johnson, The Mount, Beer, Devon.

DEATHS.

ALDERSON.—Accidentally killed during bombing practice, on October 19, 2nd Lieutenant the Rev. Alexander George J. Alderson M.A., Machine Gun Corps, youngest and dearly-loved son of the late Dr. Alderson and Mrs. Alderson, Aboukir House, Bournemouth, aged 36. Formerly master at Sherborne School.

HOOD.—Killed in action, on October 12, Second-Lieut. T. Hood, Suffolk Regt., formerly of Gharbieh Land Company, Egypt.

We regret that two printers' errors crept into the paragraph which was published in these columns last week referring to Second-Lieutenant C. J. Buch. Lieutenant Buch's name was Justus, not Justin; and it was in Cairo, not in Paris, that he spent eight years before coming home to England to join the Army.

On and after Monday, October 30, the address of the Wounded Allies Relief Committee, Sardinia House, Kingsway, W.C., will be changed to 8, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W., kindly lent to the Committee by Lord Ilchester.

"Domestic Life in Egypt—the Home of the Bey," will be the subject of a lecture to be given by Syed Ehsan El-Bakry on Monday evening, December 11, before the Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-Arts, at 39, Upper Bedford Place, London, W.C. In January next he will speak before the same society on "Glimpses of Arabic Poetry."

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1916.

CRITICAL DAYS IN ROUMANIA.

The military situation in Roumania is critical. The force under von Mackensen, following up an offensive launched only a few days previously, has been able almost at one sweep to occupy the railway from Cernavoda to Constantza. Our Allies, realising in time the seriousness of this new menace, at once evacuated Constantza, and in so doing, we may hope, were able to withdraw all or most of the stores of grain and oil which at ordinary times are to be found there. The loss of Constantza is without doubt a blow to Roumania; still more so is the loss of the bridgehead guarding the Cernavoda viaduct and bridge, the great work, eleven miles in length, which carries the railway across the two principal channels of the river and the low-lying ground on either side. Apart from the monetary loss entailed in the destruction of this magnificent enterprise—the bridge over the main channel is 750 metres long, and with the other bridges and viaducts cost £1,400,000 to build—the interruption of access to the Black Sea by this route must prove a considerable handicap to Roumania for some time to come. Moreover, we must not ignore the fact that von Mackensen's thrust is liable to gain in importance the more it coincides with von Falkenhayn's advance over the Carpathians. The number of passes into which the Austro-German forces have penetrated has grown during the last few days. They have not yet emerged on to the foothills below; but the tendency of the Roumanian army seems to be to give ground. Its valour and fighting capacity have already been established, and it can be relied upon to achieve all that is humanly possible. Its lack of success in the Carpathians points to its being outmanœuvred rather than beaten in actual encounter. We must, therefore, wait for the strengthening of the Roumanian General Staff that has now taken place to be reflected in our Allies' strategy.

In the meantime we shall do well not to lose sight of the services which Roumania has rendered to the Allied cause. It is true that strenuous efforts have now to be made to rescue her from a precarious position, but during her eight weeks' campaign she has attracted to herself not only large numbers of the enemy, but also two of Germany's most prominent leaders, von Falkenhayn and von Mackensen. Her entry into the war has caused these troops to be withdrawn from other fronts, or has depleted to a corresponding extent the enemy's reserves. It may be difficult for the moment to trace the effect of this movement of troops in other theatres; but even if they were all taken from the eastern front, where the approach of winter may allow the German positions to be held with reduced strength, these men cannot well be drafted back again, and that front or another remains weakened for the next advance on the part of the Allies. Moreover, the end of the Roumanian campaign is not yet. The greater the preliminary success of the enemy's thrust the more he will stand committed to an enterprise which must still further drain his resources. Up to a certain point the Roumanians do well to fall back before von Falkenhayn and von Mackensen, provided they exact some toll upon them for their advance and have strong positions ready for defence in the rear. By this strategy the tendency of the attack must be to lose its vigour as its lines of communication lengthen. But Roumania, on the other hand, is not Russia with unlimited territory that can be evacuated without exposing any vital part to the enemy's occupation. Less than two hundred miles separate one section of von Falkenhayn's troops from von Mackensen, or about twice the distance the latter has penetrated into the Dobruja. But between the two enemy forces flows the Danube, and is to be found the whole strength of Roumania, which has been only slightly impaired by having to yield ground to superior numbers. The battleground in this part of Europe is essentially open, in the sense that it is not dominated by unbroken lines of strongly fortified trenches confronting one another. Fluctuations in the battle-line can be brought about in a short space of time. For this reason the tables may yet be turned on von Mackensen's troops without the lengthy preparations which are required for a successful offensive on the eastern or western fronts.

The Roumanians add to the obligations under which the Allies remain to them by meeting their reverses in a spirit of quiet and dignified confidence. It is typical of the splendid *camaraderie* of the Allied countries that they should feel more anxious for one another than they would for themselves in similar circumstances. There is no need, however, to exaggerate the feeling and thereby hearten the enemy with the belief that he has now found out where he is most dreaded. By her entry into the war Roumania showed that she had satisfied herself that the Allied cause must triumph in the end. Temporary reverses on the field of battle, even when she is the victim, will not avail to shake her assurance; for she knows that, whatever may happen to the Roumanian army, the final verdict of the war will be recorded by the Allies on German soil. In these circumstances the peoples of the Allied countries will be content for the time being with the official declaration that all necessary measures have been taken to enable the Russo-Roumanian army to maintain its freedom of action and continue its resistance. The British public has shown its readiness to shoulder its responsibility to its new Ally by setting apart a day for the needs of the National Roumanian Relief Fund. London's Roumanian Flag Day was observed yesterday. The fund was started in Edinburgh, when Roumania intervened in the war, for the purpose of presenting motor-ambulances and hospital equipment to Queen Marie, a daughter of the Duke of Edinburgh. It has grown into a general Relief Fund, subscribed by the people of the United Kingdom. The association with the movement of Queen Marie serves to call attention to the special ties which bind the Roumanians to Great Britain, apart from their association in a common alliance. From the time of her first arrival in her adopted country Princess Marie of Edinburgh won Roumanian hearts by the freshness of her essentially English character. She has proved herself no less English in playing her part as Roumania's Queen in the war. All the help that the British can give through her to the Roumanians should strengthen yet more the hold which King Ferdinand and his Consort have on the affections of their people.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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FROM SHIRAZ TO LIBERTY.

(From a Correspondent.)

The arrest of the British Consul and the entire British community at Shiraz having been described in a previous article, it may interest some readers to follow their subsequent adventures. It was on November 10, 1915, that they left Shiraz, and they arrived at Borasjun on November 17, after an uncomfortable and at times somewhat exciting journey. The prisoners, as already mentioned, suffered much inconvenience from having had to pack in such haste and having been able to take so few things with them. Part of their baggage was pilfered by the gendarmes on the road; and these delightful guardians of law and order—and of the "independence of Persia"—did not make the journey any more pleasant for their captives by their conduct at the khans, where the officers appropriated the best rooms to their own use, and left the English, ladies included, to shift as best they could. Nor was it an easy matter for the party to secure provisions.

The most unpleasant incident of the journey occurred at Kazerun, where the travellers arrived three days after leaving Shiraz. This place had a not entirely enviable reputation, and on this occasion it acted up to it. Large numbers of people had assembled on the road outside the town to witness the arrival of the party; and it soon became apparent that the mob was "out for fun" at the expense of the prisoners. As the cavalcade proceeded there was a good deal of yelling and shouting, in which the women certainly did their full share; and gradually gaining courage from the sound of their own voices, the roughs closed in on the procession, and indulged in a good deal of horseplay. The *kajavehs* in which the ladies of the party were travelling came in for particular attention, but though one of the ladies was old and in very indifferent health, while the two daughters of the manager of the Bank of Persia were mere girls, the younger being under ten, the demonstrators did not have the satisfaction of arousing any alarm on their part. The men of the party had every reason to be proud of the calmness shown by the ladies, for the intention to be unpleasant was perfectly obvious; and though, on the representation of Major O'Connor to the gendarmerie, some show was made of keeping the mob in order, it was a very farcical attempt. That the demonstration was organized—on the instigation of the pro-Germans, of course—cannot be doubted. It terminated only when the party reached the quarters allotted to it in the town. Kazerun is like to remain an unpleasant memory for all the members of the party, and in days to come the better-class Persians will probably blush for what took place there on this occasion.

It was at Kazerun, too, that all the horses of the party were commandeered by order of the Committee. This entailed a considerable delay while mules and donkeys were obtained to replace the stolen animals. But the substitutes were forthcoming at last, and on them the party completed the journey to Borasjun. Here another incident of an unpleasant character occurred. The Moharrem Festival was in progress, and the usual processions of excited people were parading the streets, when suddenly, for no particular reason apparently, one of the parties endeavoured to force a way into the prisoners' quarters. Fortunately, the gendarmes, for once in a way realizing their responsibility for the safety of the party, interposed, and the rush was checked.

At Borasjun Herr Wassmuss had been awaiting the party's arrival, and he now announced that the Indian *sowars* were to remain there, while the English, men and women, were to proceed elsewhere. This was, of course, not in accordance with the terms of surrender accorded by the "Committee," but argument was useless, and the prisoners were taken off to a village (Semal) some fourteen miles south of Borasjun. Here the party was split up. The ladies were sent on to Bushire, under escort of Wassmuss and some gendarmes, while the men were marched off to Ahram under an escort of Tangistani tribesmen. Most of the ladies, it may be mentioned, survived their trying experiences; but Mrs. Smith, wife of Mr. Smith, of the Indo-European Telegraph, died shortly after reaching England at the beginning of this year.

At Ahram the men were confined in a building of two rooms, with a courtyard attached, and were closely guarded at all times. In December their number was added to by the arrival of Dr. Azzopardy, and shortly afterwards by that of Mr. Christmas, of the Indo-European Telegraph, and his wife, who had been arrested on the Ispahan road. Mrs. Christmas was forwarded to Bushire, but her husband was detained at Ahram.

At first the prisoners were allowed to take a certain amount of exercise outside their compound, but early in May this privilege was withdrawn, and thereafter they suffered considerably from close confinement. With the advent of hot weather their troubles increased, and several of the party became seriously ill. At the end of April Mr. Pettigrew, of the Indo-European Telegraph staff, died, and six or seven weeks later Dr. Azzopardy was sent down to Bushire, his captors recognizing that his health was so bad that to hold him prisoner longer might prove fatal.

Upon the whole the prisoners were not badly treated. The close confinement and the lack of decent food were their greatest trials. They were supplied with rice and fowls by their guards, and were allowed to purchase milk, eggs, and so forth; while two Persian servants who had accompanied them from Shiraz were allowed to cook for them and generally wait upon them

During this time Major O'Connor had been allowed to communicate with the British authorities at Bushire, and negotiations had been in progress for the exchange of the prisoners, as suggested in the "Committee's" ultimatum. Major O'Connor had also lost no opportunity of endeavouring to inculcate some sense into the two chieftains who were in charge of the prisoners; and though Herr Wassmuss, who was most of the time at Ahram, did his best to nullify the effects of the Consul's diplomacy, he failed. The whole story of that time cannot be told as yet, but it is satisfactory to state that Wassmuss was outmanœuvred.

On August 7 the party was conducted to a point not far from Bushire, escorted by a strong guard, for exchange, as had been by now arranged. But now a hitch arose. One of the Persian prisoners was not forthcoming, owing to some misunderstandings; and for a short time it looked as if all the prisoners would have to return to durance vile. Eventually, however, it was arranged that Major O'Connor should remain as a hostage, in the hands of the Tangistanis, and the other members of the party—five in number—were duly exchanged. Happily, the missing prisoner arrived soon afterwards, and on August 20 Major O'Connor was set at liberty and reached Bushire.

Thus ended a very minor incident of the war, but one which is unlikely to be forgotten by any of those who took part in it. In its own small way it serves as an example of the methods pursued by our enemies, methods of treachery, bribery, and utter contempt for honour and decency. But, it is satisfactory to add, there was nothing about it of which any Englishman need feel ashamed.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I was looking through a collection of Serbian proverbs the other day when I came across one that struck me as peculiarly apt at the present time: "Victory is won not by shining arms, but by brave hearts." This might well be noted by the author of the "mailed fist" and "shining armour" phrases. So might another in the same collection: "What is taken by force is cursed." And, finally, I would commend to the "supermen" the Serbian equivalent of "The mills of God grind slowly, but they grind exceeding small," which is: "God does not settle His accounts with men every Saturday, but the day comes on which He does settle them." That is a fine saying, and one to keep up the heart of the Serbians; but it is not likely to be very popular with the Bullies in the Balkans, I suppose.

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A letter received from an officer who has been serving on the Tigris for some time gives a lot of interesting particulars about the life of our troops out there, especially about their all too rare periods of relaxation. I should like to quote from it at length, but, for various reasons, must resist the temptation. However, one or two extracts can do no harm. Writing of a period when he was stationed at a point on the Shatt-el-Arab, above Busreh, he says:—"Time was very hard to kill. We paraded every morning at 5 a.m. and worked them [the men] two hours. They bathed every day in the creeks, and three times a week I lectured the N.C.O.'s during the heat of the day on the war, especially the events in Mesopotamia. I think they took a real interest in this. During lectures on outposts and kindred subjects they generally go to sleep—those in the background, at any rate. . . . Otherwise there were no amusements, except bridge and reading. Busreh is too distant to visit except on business. . . ." The heat at this point was, says the writer, almost unbearable, especially when the breeze failed; but his men "were constantly on guard, and sometimes fatigue, for as long as eight hours a day." This, he adds, "seems hard" on them. Knowing the climate, I can only agree with him.

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Though a keen disciple of Isaac Walton, the writer found the fishing in the Shatt-el-Arab "very uninteresting, as bait of *atta* and meat was as likely to bring up a *goonch*, or tortoise, or possibly a young shark, which, owing to their weight and size, were landed rarely, and usually took away bait, hook, trace, and all." He deems himself lucky in not having hooked a shark. Then he adds that one afternoon he "shot a partridge, one of a covey of four. The remainder forsook the locality and never returned. When my men found that I had a gun and cartridges they became a perfect nuisance, and on one occasion I saw Lance-Naik —— enfilade three doves, after careful stalking and adoption of an inconspicuous fire position (with rest). He then came up to me and reported casualties in the manner beloved of the Indian Guard Havildar. This is the usual *modus operandi*. They never shoot birds flying, nor waste a shot." Later, just below Amarah, he reports that he and a companion went ashore in the evening "and —— shot a black partridge in the pitch dark. I didn't know how he saw it even." From Amarah onwards "the banks were thick with partridges and sand grouse. I have never seen so many; and tortoises basked on the edge of the water. It was too hot to go shooting ashore, so we took shots at them with rifles. I hit a blue bird and one partridge, and we knocked over innumerable tortoises. The latter, when the bullet hits the bank beneath them, are cast 10 ft. and more into the air. It is almost incredible."

***

To return to the fishing. The officer is pleased to be able to confirm his opinion that the Indian *mahseer* is existent in the Tigris, a fact which had been denied apparently by no less an authority than the *Fishing Gazette*. One day he purchased one of these game fish, weighing 11 lbs., from an Arab below Amarah; and on another occasion one of his men caught one of 13 lbs. "on a line, with *atta*, just behind Sanayat." This place, as far as I can make out, is the Sanna-i-yat of unpleasant memories; and apparently the writer got some fishing—which he describes as "very doubtful"—even in the intervals of occasional scraps with the enemy.

***

What he writes about the Arabs' methods of fishing will probably be new to some of my readers. So I will conclude these extracts by quoting it:—"The Arabs are very good at harpooning fish with a trident, and practise it from their youth up. I saw one boy get seven in fifteen minutes, two of which were some ten yards off. Of course, fish swim near the surface in muddy water, and their wash is often faintly visible. The best way of catching fish in muddy water is by a circular net, weighted by lead at the edges. This is thrown so as to land flat on the water; the edges sink faster than the centre, and any fish enclosed in the centre is trapped when the net is drawn up by a rope attached to the centre of the net. The Arabs are adept at this method." Here, again, I can endorse the writer's description and opinions from my personal observation. The weighted net is—or was—also used extensively on the Bahr Yusuf Canal in Egypt, where the fisherman sometimes stands on a raft consisting merely of a bundle of reeds—a feat which seems to me to add much to the skill of the performance.

***

The Greek Navy, like the Greek Army, has suffered a good deal as a result of the pro-German intrigues at Athens; but its friends hope that it will soon efface the memory of these bad days and free itself entirely from the evil influences under which it has fallen to some extent. For the Greeks are good sailors. More than any other people of the Levant, perhaps, they have the Sea Spirit in them; and in their struggle for independence from Turkish rule that spirit showed up well. The achievements of Constantine Canaris, from the island of Psara, and of Miaoulis, from rocky Hydra, are not unknown—especially the daring feat of the former (which was described at the time in the poems of Victor Hugo), when the young sailor, Canaris, entered the harbour of Chios by night and, with a small fire ship, destroyed the Turkish admiral's flagship and other ships of war.

***

These thoughts were suggested to me by hearing recently from a Greek friend of an interesting tradition concerning the origin of the present blue and white striped Greek flag. I had never heard it before, but my friend tells me that it was once narrated publicly by the late Greek Ambassador at Constantinople, M. Condouriotis, at a national fête. And this is the story. "Once, during the great struggle for independence, Admiral Miaoulis found himself in a very tight place, and wishing to distinguish his ship from the enemy's, he, on the spur of the moment, evolved a new flag. Hastily, he cut from his white shirt and his voluminous blue breeches some strips, joined them together, and hoisted them as his ensign." And that, according to my friend, is the true origin of the flag now flown by the Navy and the Mercantile Marine of Greece. Here, it seems to me, is a subject not unsuited to the genius of the cinema playwright. In these days of "disrobing" plays it ought certainly to "catch on."

CORSAIR.

PERSIAN PAINTINGS OF THE MIDDLE AGES.

Last Friday, before the Oriental Circle of the Lyceum Club in Piccadilly, Professor T. W. Arnold read a paper on Persian painting in the period contemporary with that from Giotto to Raphael. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides photographed from the illuminations of old Persian manuscripts, and these in their turn had in some cases been copied, in all probability, from wall paintings. They illustrated scenes from Persian legends or the Mohammedan mythology. The lecturer explained that it was questioned whether the injunction of the Koran forbidding the Faithful to make any graven image extended to pictures as well as statues; in any case such ordinances were not very faithfully observed at the courts of the Turki princes who were the patrons of most of the painters whose works were shown. In those days, in Professor Arnold's opinion, Persian painting compared favourably with that of Italy, but the quantity was relatively very small. In the earlier pictures a pronounced Chinese influence could be seen, but this decreased as time went on. About the close of the period selected the reigning monarch sent a painter to study in Rome, and European methods were introduced, but the result was unfortunate.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

German Hopes in Roumania.

The military correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette*, in an article entitled "Roumania's Service to the Allies," expresses the opinion that before embarking on their vigorous campaign against Roumania the Germans had made up their minds that their defensive on the other fronts could hold, "at all events for the time they judged necessary." He continues:—

For there is a time-limit here. If we look closely at the German operations against Roumania, we shall not be long in deducing from the general haste that has marked them that the immediate object is not, as usually inferred, to subjugate the country. That with Roumania's contiguity to Russia would be a heavy undertaking, and even with the best of luck, the *best* of generals, and an attacking force greater than the Roumanians, reinforced by Russia, could put into the field, would take months. No, the immediate purpose is to hustle the Roumanians into a peace. It would be a peace, of course, in which Germany would have all the advantages. But hints which have lately, under official inspiration, appeared in the German Press indicate the calculation that entry of German troops into Roumania would suffice to create an anti-war party strong enough to pull down the present Ministry.

Subtle as the thing appears at first sight to be, the flaws are glaring. The primary consideration is time. This effort against Roumania must be carried out rapidly. Otherwise the risks, not in the least diminished, but on the contrary always growing elsewhere, may be heavily and speedily aggravated. In brief, it is a dangerous throw, though unavoidable. And now, as it is after the event, we may note the reason for the Roumanian retirement. The Germans hoped to defeat the Roumanians in Transylvania in detail, and to effect considerable captures of men, guns, and munitions on the Transylvanian side of the mountains. They might then have been able to force the passes with comparatively little difficulty. But the stroke failed. Notwithstanding all that has been written in German papers about the battle of Hermamstadt being a second Sedan, Falkenhayn missed his quarry. In eluding him, the Roumanians not merely gained a military advantage; they gained what here matters most of all—time. In brief, they have been acting not independently but in concert with the rest of the Allied forces. . . . The effects of the Roumanian intervention remain, and Germany has jeopardised her defensive up to now without positive results.

Two Sovereigns.

In an article entitled "The (Anti-) Patriot King," the *Spectator* (October 21) refers to certain rumours regarding the reasons why the Powers have tolerated King Constantine's tricks and quibbles so long:—

People have been asking here and in Paris, and indeed in the world generally, why the Allies have been so tender to King Constantine, and why he and his obsequious courtiers and puppet politicians have been allowed to play such fantastic tricks before high Heaven—why, in a word, he has been permitted to hamstring the Government, the Army, and the Navy of the unfortunate country which circumstances, and a Consort who seems to have inherited the family failing in regard to "scraps of paper" and the faith of treaties, have delivered into his hands.—*Quicquid delirant reges, plectuntur Achivi.*—Why did not the Allies stop all this nonsense months ago and establish a republic, or some other form of popular government, with that true patriot and wise statesman, M. Venizelos, at its head?

The *Spectator* disclaims any intention of attempting to answer this question, but it points out that "believers in the divine right of Kings, if they still exist, could hardly have been so mad as to try to fight the last fight of monarchy on so bad a case as that afforded by Greece."

To begin with, the present Greek dynasty was established too short a time ago. Again, it was patently called into existence by the will of the Hellenic people. Finally, the international instruments on which the Greek throne is founded specifically guarantee Constitutional Monarchy in Greece. If any people can legally get rid of an unconstitutional King, it is the Greeks. It is not on such Kings as those of Greece or Bulgaria that the defenders of monarchy, if they are wise, will base their case. The thing is so evident as hardly to need argument. Then comes a telling comparison between King Constantine and King Ferdinand of Roumania:—

Who can doubt, in spite of the immediate accidents of the war—merely local and temporary as we are certain they are—whether Ferdinand of Roumania or King Constantine of Greece has the firmer seat upon his throne? The King of Roumania has played the true part of a Constitutional Monarch. He has acted the part of the patriot and the democratic King. The fact that he is a member of the Hohenzollern family, and that Roumania was before the war a member of the Triple Alliance, though with a limited liability, might have seemed to afford excuses for an attempt to play the game played by the Greek monarch, or at any rate for the maintenance of neutrality and the sterilization of his kingdom. King Ferdinand made no attempt to seize them. Instead he at once recognized that his duty lay in thinking not of his personal or dynastic position, but of the will of the people over whose destiny he presides. When that will was clearly shown he not only made no attempt to hold Roumania back, but loyally accepted the part of interpreter of his people's wishes. Who can doubt that it is he who has given strength to the monarchical principle in Europe, and not his Greek brother?

The Drag on the Wheel.

A point in regard to King Constantine and his hold upon his people that should not be forgotten at the present time is brought out in an article in the *New Statesman* (October 21), entitled "The Greek Entanglements." The writer says, truly:—

It is a relevant circumstance, and one that cannot be left out of future account in deciding how far Greece shares her Sovereign's responsibility, that King Constantine's violent action nowhere evoked more than verbal protests, and that he remained, in spite of it, what he had for some time been—one of the two most popular individuals in his kingdom.

Later, dealing with the revolutionary movement led by M. Venizelos, the writer of the article, who has been discussing the various difficulties of the Allies in their dealings with Greece, says:—

The birth of this movement opened a new vista of hopeful possibilities for the Allies; but at the same time its growth has rendered the general election formula impracticable. For the formula of the revolutionaries, who are our friends, is to gather men to the colours and organise them into a new army to fight against the Bulgars and Turks; and unless we are to thwart our friends' plan we cannot go on with the demand for a general election, of which complete demobilisation is the condition precedent. Under all these circumstances we seem to have entirely reverted to the policy of meeting difficulties piecemeal as they arise.

He concludes his article by expressing the opinion that the best hope of a solution of the difficulties of the situation lies in the expansion of the Venizelist movement.

This proceeds rapidly in its own areas, and receives some accessions daily from Old Greece. But for obvious reasons the Allies cannot push it. It must move with its own momentum. On its spreading fast enough depends not only the immediate future of the Allies' relations with the Greek people, but also in great measure the ultimate international future of Greece in a Europe which the victorious Allies will reshape.

Italy and Serbia.

The *Manchester Guardian* published on Saturday an interesting article, "Serbia and Italy," from a correspondent who analyses Italian feeling on the vexed subject of Italian and Serbian interests in the Adriatic. The rival aspirations of the two nations, he declares, "are likely to furnish one of the earlier difficulties that will arise at the conclusion of peace," and "the aspirations and difficulties are accentuated by the press." Examining the attitude of the Italian journals, he concludes that "the truest record of Italian public opinion is to be found in the *Corriere della Sera*, which has not taken up an anti-Serbian policy either on strictly Italo-Serbian relations or on the question of the Adriatic, or on that of Dalmatia." He continues:—

The views and spirit of the *Corriere* on the Dalmatian question are those of the great majority of the Italian people. The nationalist agitation has failed to carry the public, which is content to leave the whole question to the Government. An address to the Ministry embodying the opinion of the Moderates—that is to say, of the most intelligent elements of the public—has been drawn up. In the Ministry itself a very strong body is alive to the necessity of keeping Italian and Slav feelings in harmony. It is this moderate element in the Ministry and in public opinion which deserves support among the Allies. The best end is certainly not served by the action of French writers such as Denys, Vellay, and Chevrin, who back the extreme Slav party and dispute the right of Italy not only to Dalmatia (which they may reasonably do) but also to Trieste and Istria, and thus give the Italian extremists a handle against both the Slavs and the French.

He adds that "it is not sufficiently recognised how considerable in Italy is the party which is willing to recognize the Serbian claim to Dalmatia," and he deplores the lack of opportunity to discuss the whole matter freely. The Moderate party in Italy, he declares, "has, unluckily, no Serbo-Croatian counterpart":—

In Italy it is manifest in a hundred directions—in the admirable book of Signor Prezzolini on Dalmatia, recognizing the Serbo-Croatian claims; in the *Unità*, a very able independent journal directed by the historian Salvemini and the Marchese di Viti di Marco, and in certain articles in the *Secolo* and the *Azione Socialista*. But no Serbo-Croatian writer or newspaper has, I believe, shown the slightest inclination to recognize the Italian claim on Trieste and Istria. Here lies the chief difficulty in the work of sincerely moderate politicians in Italy. If the Italian extremists are to be prevented from capturing the public, it would be very useful to see some indication of a corresponding

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movement on the Serbian side. Otherwise the nationalists on both sides, with their popular Imperialistic catchwords, might well render the situation impossible.

Moslem Courts in Egypt.

The article entitled "The Mohammedan Law Courts of Egypt," which Sir Malcolm McIlwraith contributes to the October *Nineteenth Century*, gives an encouraging account of progress. The reform of these courts and the abolition of abuses has not been an entirely simple task, but it has gone forward steadily in the teeth of all opposition; and though, as Sir Malcolm writes, "it is not suggested that the millennium has arrived," the marked improvement effected gives ground for high hopes of radical improvement in the future. "Gradually the unsatisfactory elements which still remain in this branch of judicial administration will doubtless be weeded out and replaced by the most honest and intelligent elements which can be found among the young graduates from the Cadis' School and the Azhar." We quote the concluding paragraph of the article:—

Thus the outlook for suitors in Egyptian courts is more hopeful than it has ever been before in modern times. I say suitors generally, because it must not be forgotten that to the mass of the people it is not the Mixed Tribunals nor the Native Courts, but the Mehkemehs—the Egyptian Court of Chancery—which really count. A man may easily go through life without ever having to bring a law-suit on a matter of business or without coming within reach of the criminal law. But he can scarcely avoid contact, all his life, with the courts which deal with marriage, divorce, wills, successions, guardianship, family settlements, and such-like matters. To rich and poor alike, therefore, purity and the absence of corruption in such courts is a matter of paramount importance. And yet, unhappily, precisely because their sphere of influence is so far-reaching and their character and constitution such as to render British control so difficult by reason of the religious susceptibilities involved, they have hitherto been the happy hunting-ground of the powerful and the unscrupulous, and have constituted by far the least satisfactory branch of the Anglo-Egyptian Administration. It may be confidently anticipated that a new and brighter era has now dawned for them and all connected with them, and that Egypt, under the beneficent sway of its present enlightened Sovereign and with the aid of his very able Ministers, may ere long be able to claim that her religious courts are as honest and efficient as those which are more directly controlled by European influence.

Guiding Principles.

The *Nation*, referring to anti-Venizelist demonstrations in Greece, and especially to the maltreatment of two Venizelists by the soldiers and the crowd, sounds a note of warning against the use of coercion.

This incident, so far from suggesting to us the advisability of fresh coercion, conveys its warning as to the reaction which these measures must have on the prospects of M. Venizelos now and hereafter. If it seems to a section of the Greek people that in a domestic feud the Powers are interfering by drastic and humiliating measures to support one party against the other, there will inevitably be a rally against the party which will be accused of calling in the foreigner.

The warning is no doubt a sound one, in so far as the pro-Germans are sure to make the most of any opportunity given them. But most people will be of opinion that the only way to meet the tactics of the Germanophils in Greece is by affording active support to the friends of the Allies. As to the Greeks and their Sovereign, the *Nation* says:—

Greece has played a mean part, and the King is, to our thinking, a brutal and evil influence in Greece. None the less, he has his backing, and we imagine that (outside the islands, which are safe) a great part of the Greek people, and especially most of the Reservists, are only anxious to avoid the risks of war. They are not so much pro-German as neutralist. Their motive is prudence or fear. It is their right to be guided by that. M. Venizelos has our esteem and our warm good wishes, but it is best for him to win his battle by Greek opinion, or, at the worst, by Greek arms.

Articles to Note.

"German Penetration in Rumania," by D. Mitrany; "The Mediæval Serbian Empire," by William Miller; and "Egypt and Palestine," by Albert M. Hyamson, in the *Quarterly Review* (October).

"Greece and the Germans," in *Land and Water* (October 19).

"The Danube and its Crossings" (illustrated), in the *Sphere* (October 21).

"Between the Rivers," in the *Globe* (October 23).

The London County Council is recommended by the Education Committee to allow Serbian refugees to be admitted without payment of fees to the Council's secondary schools.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Allies and Roumania. Oct. 19.

Mr. Bonar Law, replying for the Prime Minister to Major Hunt, said: The situation in Roumania has been for some time past the subject of careful consideration by ourselves and our Allies in concert, and everything which is possible is being done.

Sir E. Carson: When may we expect some information and statement by the Government as regards Roumania, having regard to the general anxiety that prevails?

Mr. Bonar Law: I do not think that it would be desirable or advantageous in any way to make a statement as to what is being done militarily in regard to the matter. As soon as it is possible to make any statement the Government will be glad to do so.

The Balkans Operations.

Mr. Bonar Law informed Mr. Lynch that it was quite untrue that considerations of a secondary order had been allowed to intervene in regard to the situation in Greece and the military operations in the Balkans, to the detriment of the Allies' chances of success.

Mesopotamian Pension Hardships.

Mr. Hogge asked the Secretary to the Local Government Board whether widows and dependents of soldiers who had died in Mesopotamia were excluded from participating in the benefits of the Statutory Committee.

Mr. Hayes Fisher: The Statutory Committee have obtained a legal opinion to the effect that payments by them "can only be made in favour of members of the forces paid out of the public funds of the United Kingdom and their dependents." Hence the answer to the question appears to be that the widows and dependents of soldiers who have fallen in Mesopotamia can participate in the funds administered by the Statutory Committee if the soldiers were paid out of the public funds of the United Kingdom, but not otherwise.

Sir E. Carson, in view of the urgency of the matter, asked if the right hon. gentleman would bring it before the Secretary for India and have immediate provision made.

Mr. Hayes Fisher said he was very sympathetic towards those cases, and he would address a letter to the Secretary for India and the head of the Government, asking whether there was any intention of providing for the victims of the Mesopotamian campaign in the same manner as the victims of other campaigns.

Bulgaria's British Prisoners. Oct. 20.

Mr. Forster informs Sir E. Cornwall, in a written reply, that, according to the latest information, nearly 450 British have been captured by the Bulgarians. They are all to be concentrated at Philippopolis. Arrangements have been made, in principle, with the Bulgarian Government for the mutual repatriation of those who are incapacitated for further service, but the military situation is such that it is extremely difficult to put it into execution. According to information in our possession very few of our men in Bulgaria are eligible for such repatriation.

Heat Stroke in the Persian Gulf.

In a written reply to another query put by the same member, Mr. Forster quotes from a telegram sent by the Viceroy of India on August 5 as follows: One hundred and thirty cases of heat-stroke occurred amongst British sick and wounded being transferred to India on the recent voyage of steamship Dongola from Busreh to Bombay. There were seventeen deaths attributable to heat-stroke among invalids and crew and five deaths among invalids considered to have been influenced by heat. The voyage was carried out under the most trying climatic conditions, and a following wind was experienced, which necessitated the Dongola being turned round every four hours for the first day and half of voyage in order that air might get into the wards of the ship. These cases, he adds, appear to have occurred on board the Dongola, and not on "an overcrowded light-draught steamer waiting for two days in the hot weather on the bar at the mouth of the Shatt-el-Arab because of the failure to co-ordinate her departure from Busreh with the arrival of the Dongola," as suggested by the question.

The Situation in Roumania. Oct. 25.

Sir H. Dalziel asked whether the Government had any information other than that which had appeared in the German wireless as to the fall of Constantza, and whether the Secretary for War could give the House any information as to the military situation in Roumania.

Mr. Lloyd George: The Roumanian official *communiqué* announces that it has been found necessary to evacuate Constantza. We have no information more recent than that which has appeared in the last *communiqué*. As has already been stated, we and our Allies are working in concert, and everything that can possibly be done for Roumania is being done. It is obviously undesirable to give more exact information.

Correspondents at Salonika.

Mr. Forster, asked by Mr. Ellis Davies why the representative of one newspaper had been allowed special facilities to send special despatches from the Serbian headquarters through Salonika, and whether he could see his way to extend the same privilege to the representatives of other newspapers, or provide that the information obtained should be supplied to all papers alike, said this question was now under discussion between the Newspaper Proprietors' Association and the War Office, and it was hoped that some solution satisfactory to both might shortly be found.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The correspondent of THE NEAR EAST in Morocco, in his letter which is published to-day, raises some interesting points regarding the future trading relations between British and French merchants in the French zone. At the present moment, he says, British firms who have handled cereals for years are gravely handicapped by the special conditions imposed through the war. Grain, he says, is almost entirely in the hands of the Government, and while no fault can be found with this particular restriction, considerable stocks are being ruined through lack of transport, "while British steamers . . . are unable to find on the Moroccan coast a cargo for Great Britain." This is, we fear, a question entirely for the French Government, which may be trusted not to place unnecessary obstacles in the way of grain shipments. The same remarks apply to wool and skins.

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An interesting suggestion made by our correspondent is that, after peace has been reached, France and Britain will combine to pool the openings for trade which their countries supply, an arrangement which would settle commercial questions in Egypt and Morocco. There is, of course, no valid reason why the trade representatives of two countries, which are now sharing the greatest of sacrifices with fine loyalty and devotion to each other, should quarrel over the fruits which the final victory of their respective countries will bring them, and the further development of affairs in Morocco will be awaited with more than usual interest.

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The cancellation of the Ralli jute contract by the War Contracts Department has not come as a surprise to the trade, which had made, together with the Government of India, strong representations to the Department. But the new situation which has been created can hardly be said to improve matters. At least, that seems to be the general impression, which looks upon the cancellation as a "compromise," of little favour to the trade. It was expected that, if the Ralli contract were called off, the whole scheme of Government buying would have been "called off" likewise. This has not been done, and the provision of the new scheme, whereby the houses in India will be called upon not only to buy the jute for the Government at cost price, but also to make good any depreciation in course of transport to this country, is not regarded favourably as being bound to result in a loss to the merchants, who are working with, practically speaking, no margin of profit. However, the whole scheme is dependent on its acceptance by a representative majority of the Calcutta traders and shippers, and no decision has as yet been made known. It would be premature, therefore, to prognosticate as to the immediate future of the trade.

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I am pleased to see that public interest in the German commercial taint in this country is daily growing. Last week I had occasion to speak rather pointedly on the subject, more particularly as regards the effect of that hybrid taint in our foreign trade. Since then the Unionist Committee appointed to investigate the matter has been doing useful work, and the Press has backed it up with commendable energy. Chambers of Commerce have also more or less openly joined the campaign, whilst welcome also is the resolution adopted by the U.K. Commercial Travellers' Association, expressing its opinion that the Consular Service should be an organisation for promoting commerce, and that "the paramount qualification for the office of Consul should be knowledge and practical experience in commerce."

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All these subjects amplify and supplement each other. The German peril must be combated where it is to be found, and that is both here and abroad. In the former case it is essential that we British should extirpate the "taint"—liquidate German concerns, protect our home interests, and help those who are striving to emancipate us from the enemy's economic grasp. Abroad, our consuls must not only do, but, what is more important, be allowed to do their share; moreover, banks and financiers, helped by the State when necessary or advisable, must actively push our interests. Happily, there are signs that we are beginning to realise all this, and the appearance on the scene of the Unionist Committee will be a great help in the right direction. It needs, however, all the backing it can get, in order to enable it to influence the powers that be, always loth to protect our trade interests. I hope, therefore, that all who are interested in the development of our Near and Middle Eastern trade will openly give their support to the good cause. Only in this way can definite and positive results be obtained.

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Whilst on this subject, I must make reference to the amalgamation by the Board of Trade of the Commercial Intelligence Branch and the Exhibitions Branch, under the Comptroller-Generalship of Sir William Clark. Both departments, in their own way, have done zealous work in the more recent past. Whether their amalgamation is a progressive or retrograde step it is difficult to say, but I fear that little advantage is to be gained therefrom by the trading community at large. Of course, practically everything will depend on the energy and abilities of the Comptroller-General. More cannot be said at present. Nevertheless, I regret the change.

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It is not my intention here to dilate on the political significance of the statements made last week at the Mansion House, when, under the auspices of the Lord Mayor and of the Earl of Cromer, president of the society, the Serbian Society of Great Britain was formed. But there is an economic aspect of the matter which I wish to emphasise, believing that in doing so I will awaken the interest of those who otherwise regard the whole matter as too distant and remote to be seriously considered.

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From this point of view it is essential that we should take careful note of one of the aims of the society—namely, to further the creation of a great Southern Slav State, comprising the Jugo Slavs within and without the borders of what is still called Austria-Hungary. The political reasons are self-evident. Some unfriendly people have insinuated that Italy's interests in the Adriatic will be attacked by the creation of this new State, but there is not an atom of truth in it. However, this has nothing to do with the economic aspect of the question, which consists in the formation in the Near East of a new market where our exporters can find buyers and our importers sellers. Hitherto the Southern Slavs, including Serbian, were cut off from the outer world, and were entirely dependent on the goodwill of Austria for their commercial relations with foreign countries. They were thus thrown into the arms of Austrian and German dealers, who exploited them ruthlessly, at the same time writing the word "Verboten" on every gate through which a non-German tradesman attempted to go. This must be stopped, in our own interests and in the interests of the open door. And the only way in which to do it is by the creation of a solid, serious Jugo Slavonia having a good commercial port opening on the Mediterranean or Adriatic, and connected by rail with its hinterland.

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The suggested port, mind you, is essential, not because it is intended as a menace to Italian interests (what tosh!), but because we shall never be able to aid satisfactorily in the economic development of a Southern Slav State which has no free, open port or seaboard of its own within reach of our mercantile marine. This is, I believe, a point which has not been sufficiently emphasised—excepting now and again in these columns. Nevertheless, I consider its realisation a *sine quâ non* of a successful Slavonia; wherefore, let the trading community interested in the Near East give its unstinted adhesion to the Serbian Society of Great Britain, at the same time drawing the attention of its leaders to the above economic aspect of the question. For a Southern Slav State with a *good* commercial port of its own will offer splendid trading opportunities, whilst, on the other hand, we shall be in a position financially to assist in the free development of its marvellous resources, to the greater annoyance of the Boches, hitherto the tyrant oppressors of Central and Eastern Europe and the brutal exploiters of the Southern Slav peoples.

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The thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, held in Montreal on October 4 under the presidency of the chairman, Lord Shaughnessy, was entirely satisfactory. Though the gross income of the company from the business of the railway lines was below the maximum, the net revenue was in excess of that of any previous year. Moreover, the statements and statistics give evidence of improved operating effectiveness and of greater financial strength and stability. The cash in hand on June 30 last, including the temporary investment in war loans, readily convertible, was nearly forty-seven million dollars, or about thirty millions more than at the end of the previous fiscal year. These are figures the significance of which will not be underrated by my readers.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Gold Currency of Egypt.

Case for Reform in the Tariff Rates: Wanted—A Standard Pound.

By Professor Todd.

The letter addressed by the High Commissioner of Egypt to the Sultan, which appeared in the *Official Journal* of October 20 (published elsewhere in this issue), concludes with the following paragraph: "His Majesty's Government desires to be consulted beforehand as to the weight, standard and general design of the coinage, as well as the rate at which foreign coinage would be admitted for circulation in Egypt." It is to be hoped that this paragraph foreshadows the intention of the Egyptian Government to carry out a long-delayed and much needed reform in the tariff rates of the various foreign gold coins which, theoretically or practically, constitute the gold currency of Egypt.

Englishmen and Australians, whom the fortunes of war have carried to Egypt during the last two years, must often have wondered why the value of a sovereign should have been fixed at the very awkward figure of 97½ piastres, instead of at the much more convenient round sum of 100, and, if their knowledge of the currency puzzle in Egypt extended so far, why the Egyptian, French, and Turkish gold coins, which are all nominally legal tender in the country at various rates, were never seen there in actual circulation even before the war. The explanation goes back to the beginning of the present Egyptian currency, which dates from a reform inaugurated by Mohammed Aly, the founder of the present Dynasty, in 1834.

Back to 1769.

The decree of 1834 made no mention of any specific unit of the new coinage, but it seems to have been based on the Turkish piastre, which was introduced in 1769 by Aly Bey and adopted by Napoleon in 1798. There is also no reference to the Egyptian gold pound, or 100-piastre piece, but the coinage of these was actually commenced about 1836. Meantime the privilege of legal tender had been granted to certain foreign gold coins, which apparently were already in circulation in the country in considerable quantities. The principal of these were the English sovereign at the rate of 97½ piastres and the French napoleon at 77.15 piastres. The Turkish pound had not then been introduced, but it was subsequently tariffed at 87.75 piastres.

Irregular Gold Coinage.

All these tariff rates were more or less under the real value of the coins as decided by their actual gold content in relation to that of the Egyptian nominal unit. Considerable quantities of the new coinage were issued by the Cairo mint, as well as from Brussels and Paris, but the gold coins were very irregular both in weight and standard, and entirely insufficient in quantity, so that the currency soon became saturated with foreign gold coins.

Even before the British occupation of Egypt in 1882 a Monetary Reform Commission had been set on foot, but the events of 1882 led to its suspension, and it was not till 1884 that it was formally re-appointed. After many meetings it issued a report, which was followed by the Khedivial Decree of November 14, 1885. The Commission pointed out that the piastre was too small for the standard unit, and the gold pound of 100 piastres was proposed in its place. The old standard of fineness (⅞ths fine gold, as against the English 11-12ths or the French 9-10ths) was maintained.

Mohammed Aly's Gold Pound.

As to weight, great difficulty was experienced in ascertaining the exact weight of Mohammed Aly's gold pound. Its weight in dirhems was known, but the exact conversion of dirhems into English or French measures was not ascertainable. Finally, the Commission had to take the average weight of a large number of Egyptian pounds actually in existence, the result being 8.544 grammes. It was then resolved, after long discussion, to adopt 8.5 grammes as the future weight.

This reduction of the gold weight of the Egyptian pound increased the difference between the tariff value and the intrinsic value of all the foreign gold coins, making them still more "strong" than before. The original idea of having any such difference at all was presumably to cover the cost of re-coining these foreign coins into Egyptian coins when necessary; but there is no apparent reason why, as was actually the case, the English sovereign should have been least undervalued of the three, the French next, and the Turkish pound most. To remedy this anomaly, it was proposed to raise the tariffs of the napoleon and the Turkish pound to 77¼ and 88 piastres respectively, which would at least have equalised the under-valuation of all three, and made it possible for them to circulate side by side, but this suggestion was never carried out.

Position of Gold Coinage.

Since 1885 very few of the new Egyptian gold pounds have been issued, and those previously in circulation have been steadily called in. The position of the gold coinage thus became as follows:—It consisted nominally of the standard Egyptian pound of 100 piastres and three foreign gold coins, all more or less undervalued or strong in comparison with that standard. Under the well-known economic law known as 'Gresham's Law' the effect should have been that the weakest of the four—viz., the Egyptian pound—would drive the others out; but as a matter of fact there were never enough of the former in circulation, and the result was a modified operation of Gresham's Law—the least strong of the three foreign gold coins, the English sovereign, drove out the other two. Thus the English sovereign is now practically the only gold coin in circulation in the country. The only disadvantage of this state of affairs from the economic point of view is that the tariff rate of 97½ is most inconvenient in business when metallic money is used This, however, is greatly mitigated by the fact that most transactions are carried out on paper in terms of the nominal standard, or Egyptian pound of 100 piastres, so that it is only when paying actual cash that the unit of 97½ is used at all.

A Standard Gold Pound.

It is very desirable that now that a complete recoinage is in view the opportunity should be taken to get rid of this difficulty by assimilating the Egyptian gold pound with the sovereign—i.e., making it of the same weight and standard, and retaining its present nominal value of 100 piastres. This would, of course, involve raising the value of the sovereign also to 100 piastres. It was impossible to do this until the occasion arose for issuing a new silver coinage also, because to make the change otherwise would practically have been equivalent to a premium of 2½ piastres to the holders of English sovereigns at the expense of the holders of Egyptian silver. Now, however, that the Government are contemplating a new silver coinage it will be possible to call in the old at 97½ and re-issue the new at 100. If the Government does not feel inclined to bear the loss which would be involved in this process (assuming that the new silver coins are of the same weight and standard as the old), that loss could be avoided by a slight reduction in the pure silver content of the new coins.

The Silver Factor.

As it happens, the present high price of silver will involve some loss to the Government in any case, but, as silver is only token money at the best, its intrinsic value matters relatively little, and the loss would certainly not be comparable to the convenience of having a gold coin on a decimal basis, which would at the same time make it possible to gratify the long-cherished desire of the Egyptians for a gold currency of their own. It would then be possible, if it were thought desirable, to dispense altogether with the tariff rate of the French napoleon, which has all along been a dead letter, and French gold would find its level in Egypt at its true value in proportion to the English and Egyptian gold. The nominal legal tender of the Turkish pound in Egypt will disappear as a matter of course, but that will make no difference to anyone, as there never was a sufficient quantity of it available for circulation in Turkey, let alone in Egypt.

AMERICA IN PERSIA.

American consuls continue to take exceptional interest in the commercial and industrial possibilities of Persia. Thus, Mr. Jafferson Caffery, the Chargé d'Affaires, American Legation, Teheran, in a recent report to his Washington headquarters, discusses affairs from fisheries to minerals.

"Factories, as that word is understood in the United States, do not exist in Persia," he writes. "Manufactures are the output of private workshops or the production of particular sections. In this manner are produced silk, woollen, and cotton tissues, and artistic manufactures. The customs of the trade are regulated by associations of workmen.

"The best camels in Persia are the powerful one-humped kind, which are bred in the Province of Khorassan. This animal can carry a burden of 600 pounds at the rate of twenty miles a day. The ordinary Persian camel, however, will carry 400 pounds at the rate of fifteen miles a day.

"Large quantities of skins and hides are exported in ordinary times to Baghdad and to Russia. The principal tanneries and leather factories are at Hamadan. The principal centres for exportation are Hamadan, Shiraz, Isfahan, and Khorassan.

"The chief districts where wool is produced in Persia are Khorassan, Fars, Luristan, Azerbaijan, Kermanshah, and Kurdestan. The best quality comes from Khorassan. The trade is in the hands of Armenians, and exports are increasing.

"The zones producing minerals are (1) the Province of Azerbaijan, (2) the slopes of the Elburz range, (3) Khorassan, (4) Kerman, (5) the districts around Isfahan and Nain, and (6) the region of the Persian Gulf.

"In Azerbaijan iron, lead, and copper ores exist in abundance. Lead is found in Khalkal region. Coal is dug near Tabriz. The slopes of the Elburz are rich in deposits of coal and iron. Turquoise mines are found in Khorassan, and also copper, coal, and salt. Kerman produces copper, lead, manganese, marble, borax, turquoises, iron, mercury, nickel, and cobalt. In the southern region along the Persian Gulf the chief minerals found are naphtha, rock salt, and iron ochre.

"The intrinsic value of these minerals is great, but their worth as articles of commerce depends entirely upon their situation, as means of transportation are extremely difficult, the cost of machinery is very high, and the questions of ownership and concessions from the Government are difficult to arrange."

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SUDAN DATES.

Work of the Central Economic Board.

In the matter of developing the Sudan date industry the Intelligence Branch of the Central Economic Board appears to be doing a great work.

The Sudan is greatly indebted to Mr. H. P. Hewins, director of this branch, and his assistants, for the good work done by them. New markets have been found, and better terms and prices secured for the Sudan products through their efforts.

Though no profit worth mentioning accrued to the country from the recent trial consignment of dates, the prospects of a successful effort on a larger scale, and the hope that native farmers will take more interest in improving the quality of their dates, will enable the Sudan to compete in this line with Persia.

An Official Report.

We publish hereunder a statement taken from the monthly report of the Intelligence Branch, Central Economic Board, for August, referring to the subject, which runs as follows :—

The three samples of dates which are the subject of this report were forwarded to the Imperial Institute by the Governor of Halfa Province, and were referred to by the Director of the Commercial Intelligence Branch, Central Economic Board. It was desired to ascertain whether these dates would be saleable in the United Kingdom, and if so to obtain information regarding methods of packing and marketing.

The dates were packed in wood boxes, about 10 ins. square and 4 ins. deep, each box containing approximately 8½ lbs. of fruit. The dates had been packed irregularly in the boxes and pressed, and although on the whole they could be separated fairly easily from one another as entire fruits, many of them were slightly broken owing to the irregular packing. The dates were of the "Gondeila," "Garban," and "Bertamoda" varieties.

(1) 21 boxes of "Gondeila" dates; weight, about 178 lbs. net.

These dates were slightly larger than the other two varieties on the whole, averaging about 46 to the pound. They were of light reddish brown colour and had the best appearance of the three samples. The fleshy portion of the fruit was rather thin, and separated easily from the stone, which was somewhat large. The flavour was good and not too sweet.

(2) Four boxes of "Garban" dates; weight, about 34 lbs. net.

These dates were dark reddish brown, and averaged about 48 to the pound. The fleshy portion of the fruit was firmer than in the "Gondeila" or "Bertamoda" varieties, and slightly less sweet. The stones were rather large.

(3) Eight boxes of "Bertamoda" dates; weight, about 68 lbs. net.

These dates were similar in colour to the "Garban" variety. The fleshy portion of the fruit was somewhat softer than in either the "Gondeila" or the "Garban" dates, and the fruits when separated were more broken and sticky. The dates averaged about 50 to the pound. The flavour was sweeter than that of the other varieties, but not so pleasant. The stones of these were also rather large.

Commercial Valuation.

Samples of the three varieties of dates were submitted both to retail dealers and to brokers, and the following opinions were obtained :—

(1) The retail dealers stated that the samples did not represent dessert dates of the best class, such as Tunis or Tafilat, but that they were of good quality for ordinary dates. They would be classed with Persian dates, and it was thought that the "Bertamoda" variety would compare with Sayer dates and the "Gondeila" variety with Khedrowie dates.

(2) The brokers reported that the dates resembled the Sayer variety now shipped from the Persian Gulf and would be saleable in the United Kingdom. They estimated the value of the samples at about 21s. per cwt. landed in London (July, 1916), and added that the three varieties would be considered as of equal value in the United Kingdom, as the ordinary buyer does not distinguish between the different varieties.

In connection with their valuation of the samples the brokers mentioned that the yearly importation of Persian dates into the United Kingdom is from 500,000 to 700,000 boxes containing 70 lbs. each, and that their normal price is from 10s. to 12s. per cwt. ex-wharf London, the present high value being due to the short supply combined with very high charges for freight.

Thirty of the boxes of the Sudan dates were handed to this firm of brokers for sale, the remaining three boxes (one of each variety) being retained at the Imperial Institute for purposes of reference. The consignment, which had a net weight of 2¼ cwts., was sold in London at 24s. per cwt. (July 29, 1916), i.e., at 3s. per cwt. more than the original valuation.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

We extract the following from Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall's Cotton Trade Circular Report for September :—

During the past month the raw cotton markets have been excited, and a further upward movement in prices has transpired, past high records being broken. On September 13 middling American on the spot in Liverpool was at 9.47d. Comparatively small fluctuations occurred during the next few days, but the tendency of rates was against buyers, 9.62d. being the figure on September 22, and the month closed with the quotation at 9.50d.

Large buying has been reported by trade interests in the United States, and spinners on this side have been disposed to keep very fully covered, and "bears" are decidedly scarce. Now and again some profit-taking by speculators has transpired, but it is quite evident the article has many friends at the moment.

Judging from private advices, some people believe the official reports are too pessimistic, but the fact remains we are face to face with a shortage of supplies this season, and it would not be surprising if still higher prices prevailed in the near future. So far as can be gathered from information received, the crop will be very little more than 12,000,000 bales, and consumption estimates continue large.

An extraordinary condition of affairs has prevailed in Egyptian cotton prices, and violent fluctuations have transpired from day to day. Fully good fair brown a month ago was at 12.90d., while the figure to-day (October 12) is 15.55d. It is said that serious deterioration in the plant has taken place during the last few weeks, and some forecasts of the yield are very low. On the 13th ult. Fully Good Broach was at 8.85d., and the figure to-day (October 12) is 9.32d.

A strong tone has prevailed in the yarn market throughout the month. Spinners have put up their quotations very firmly to cover the increased cost in the raw material, and in certain directions an increasing business has been done. In American qualities the finer counts have gained strength, owing to the marked rise in Egyptian descriptions. Medium American numbers have also done well. A little more irregularity is showing itself in coarse counts, partly owing to the delivery instructions not coming in so freely as desired.

Spinners as a whole have experienced a healthy demand, and users are finding sellers more difficult to deal with than for a long time back. The production of the mills tends to be further reduced, owing to more men being taken into the Army, and there are no signs of stocks accumulating in first hands. The export yarn section has been rather disappointing. . . . Prices in Egyptian yarns have considerably advanced, and buying has been irregular. Some spinners, owing to the uncertain outlook, have withdrawn quotations. Engagements are extensive, and for small lots to be sent in at once special rates have had to be paid.

TRADE NOTES.

Openings.

The Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior (Personnel and Equipment Department), invites tenders for the supply of uniforms, cloth, white and khaki drill, saddlery, accoutrements, furniture, enamel ware, leather, boots, paints, oils, tarbrushes, cotton shirts and drawers, blankets (woollen), and miscellaneous stores. (December 10.)

The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of drugs, dressings, sundries, etc., necessary for Central Stores for one year from April 1, 1917, to March 31, 1918. (November 25.)

The same Department invites tenders for the supply of equipment, clothing, etc., necessary for Central Stores for one year from April 1, 1917, to March 31, 1918. (November 30.)

The Ministry of the Interior (Egypt) invites tenders to the Lunacy Division, Abbassia, for the supply of clothing, bedding, furniture, hardware, slippers, brushes, and other household necessaries required for Abbassia and Khanka Hospitals for the Insane for one year, from April 1, 1917.—(November 15. 1916.)

Liquidation.

Mr. F. H. Russell, Gresham House, Cairo, has been appointed receiver of the business of Bunder Stross, with instructions to liquidate it.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST GRAPE PESTS.

Petroleum is being used successfully in Switzerland as an insecticide by grape cultivators. Owing to difficulty in importing carbon disulphide—the usual medium—experiments were made last year for the extermination of the grape louse in infested stocks by more thoroughly sprinkling the ground with petroleum the first of the season and once or twice later. Subsequent investigation showed that to a depth of 8 ins. no living grape louse could be found, and the surface spreading of the same seems also to have been prevented. It is, however, presumed that during a season of greater moisture this method would not have proved so successful.

The more thorough sprinkling with petroleum did not kill any of the vines, although it did in some instances seem to check their growth. For fear that the grapes of the vines so treated might have an unpleasant petroleum taste they were gathered early, but the composition of the wine when tested at the Experiment Station at Wadenswil was proved to be normal, and the presence of petroleum could also not be detected by the taste.

MANCHESTER AND EGYPT.

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Manchester Importers and Exporters the chairman, Mr. E. H. Langdon, said the Egyptian Section had arranged a freight agreement with the Egyptian Conference liners for the year 1917 at the rate of 75s., less a rebate of 5s. per ton, making a net rate of 70s. per ton of 40 cubic feet, for the conveyance of fine goods and yarn from Manchester to Alexandria.

ROUMANIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

According to the *Curierul Financiar*, of Bucharest, the textile industry would have every chance of making progress in Roumania if the raw materials that are produced there, such as wool, flax, and hemp, were cultivated more intensively, and then were systematically employed in the textile industry.

At the end of 1915 this industry included twenty-three enterprises enjoying the benefits of the law for the encouragement of industry, and representing a fixed capital of £252,740. The raw material utilised in 1912-13 amounted to £218,800, of which only £24,879 represented domestic products, the remainder, mostly cotton, having been imported. The value of products of the textile industry in the same year was £088,132. The total number of employees was 1,708.

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PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, October 26.

Figs.

There is only a moderate demand, with small business passing at recent rates. New crop Greek figs are quoted equal to about 57s. to 60s., duty paid.

Seeds.

Linseed is closing quieter, but recent advance is steadily upheld; Calcutta to London, spot, quoted 85s.; afloat, 85s. 6d.; October-November, 86s.; November-December, 88s.; Bombay, small, October-November, was sold at 86s.; November-December, 88s. Bombay to Hull, October-November, 88s. 9d. Rapeseed is firm, but sellers scarce. Brown Cawnpore, to London, afloat, 71s.; and bold Ferozepore, prompt, 75s. 6d. Toria, to Hull, October-November, 75s. Cottonseed is firm and dearer in sympathy with Alexandria. Egyptian, to London, afloat and prompt, £14 10s.; Sakelarides, loading, £14 3s. 9d.; Egyptian, to Hull, spot, old, £13 5s.; and afloat, new, £14 12s. 6d. is asked; October was sold at £14 17s. 6d. f.a.q. and £14 12s. 6d. for Sakelarides. Rangoon beans are fully steady with a moderate business passing. Spot sold at from £26 17s. 6d. to £27; and November-December at £28 c.i.f.; December-January is quoted £28 10s. c.i.f.

Oils.

Linseed oil has been quiet. Spot, pipes, were sold at £42 10s.; and barrels, spot and October, £43 5s.; November-December, £43 12s. 6d.; and January-April, £44. Rape oil is firm; refined English, in barrels, spot, £50 to £52. Cotton oil is steady. Crude, pipes, spot, £41; refined, pipes, pale, nominal; barrels, sweet, £50 to £52, as to make. Olive oil, spot, is firm at £62 to £64 per tun for Spanish, ex store, in barrels, and shipments steady, but quiet. Levant olive oil, no offering.

Oilcakes.

Cotton Cakes.—Egyptian are not offered on spot, but considerable business was done on October-November shipments at £10 15s., ex ship, although shippers are demanding fully 5s. per ton from time on these quotations. English continue to offer in very limited quantity at £11 5s. per ton. Linseed Cakes.—Only small business passing, but values are firmly held up, and in some cases rather more money is asked. Best London made move off at £14 15s. to £15 per ton, while American prime Westerns are offered at £14 5s. to £14 10s., as to quality.

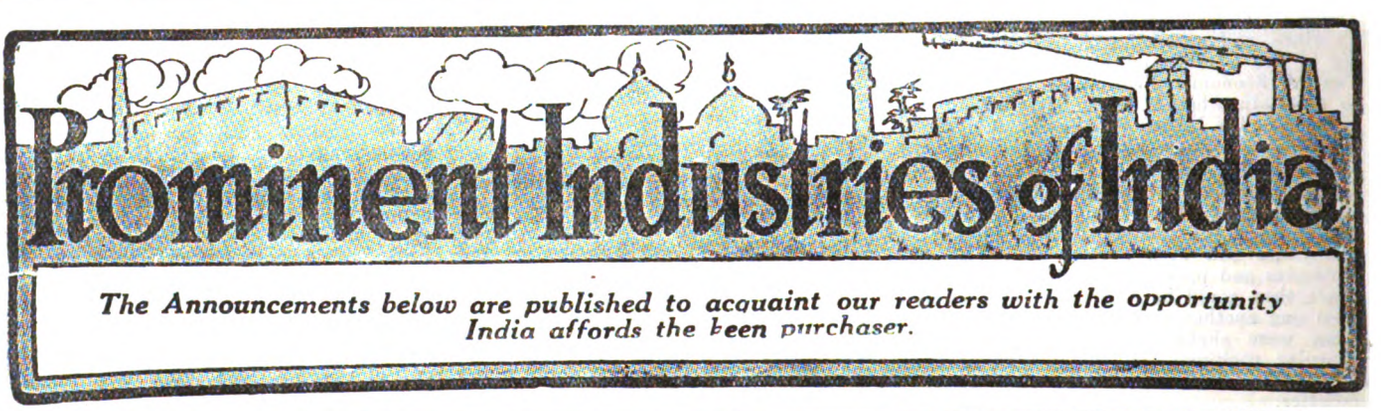
LIVERPOOL MARKET.

The oversea markets on October 24 closed strong at 27 to 35 points further advance. Here the initial dealings were done at quotations varying between 17 to 20 points, but the best quotations were afterwards not maintained on somewhat freer offering.

Egyptian futures opened strong at an average rise of 40 points, but later on reacted, and at noon the market was unsettled at 11 points advance on balance. Hardening a little in the afternoon, the market closed steady at 14 to 18 points advance on the day.

Wednesday's total import, 14,750 bales, of which 12,900 American, 1,850 sundries. Yesterday's sales comprise:—American, 8,600 bales; Egyptian, 300; Peruvian, etc., 800; East Indian, 100; sundries, 200.

Wednesday's deliveries: American any port, basis of middling f., G.O.C. Tendency, irregular and unsettled. Oct., 11.08½; Oct.-Nov., 11.08½; Nov.-Dec., 11.07½; Dec.-Jan., 11.07½; Jan.-Feb., 11.09; Feb.-March, 11.12½; March-April, 11.16; April-May, 11.19½; May-June, 11.23; June-July, 11.22; July-Augusa, 11.21½. Egyptian futures—Tendency, steady. Nov., 16.94; Jan., 17.04; March, 17.10; May, 17.06. Alexandria futures—Nov., 32.68; Jan., 32.05.



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Trade and Commerce in Morocco.

Handicap of British Merchants.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, October 14.

The attention of the British communities in Morocco is becoming more and more directed to the question of their position—especially in the French zone—after the war. One reason for this fact is, no doubt, that from the height of success which the Allies' cause has now reached the end of the war seems well in sight, though at a distance which cannot be closely calculated; a second reason is to be found in the irksomeness of local war conditions, which, though borne here as everywhere with uncomplaining patience, intensify the anxiety to know what will be the permanent conditions under which British trade in the French zone of Morocco will, after the war, be carried on.

At the present moment the chief trade of the country—the export of cereals—is, in the French zone, in the hands of the French military authorities, who alone are authorised to export wheat, barley, or maize, and are therefore able to fix their own prices. British firms, in whose hands the greater part of the export of these grains has for many years been, and who have built up their organisations largely with an eye to this particular trade, have found their businesses perforce revolutionised, a great part of their organisation and staff rendered, for the time, useless, and the possibilities of taking advantage of two unusually good agricultural years, which would, under ordinary conditions, have been extremely profitable, enormously reduced.

Stores of Grain.

Grain is now in very great quantities piled in the warehouses, quays and even streets of the various ports, awaiting shipment, which French shipping is unable adequately to ensure, and it is feared that, like last year, when piles of grain stored in the open were spoilt by the rain, much of these valuable grains will be lost, while British steamers, which with difficulty cope with the demands for outward shipment to Morocco, are unable to find on the Moroccan coast a cargo for Great Britain.

Others of the staple products of the country, such as wool and skins, are only allowed to be exported by the military authorities, so that British merchants who still include the chief import and export houses of Morocco find one-half of their business—their export trade—semi-paralysed, and their import business considerably handicapped.

A French Exhibition.

Meanwhile, every effort is being made to push French trade. An important trade exhibition, from which all but French and Moroccan goods were excluded, but to which British contributions in money were asked for and received, was held last year at Casablanca. Another and more important exhibition, to which also only French and Moroccan goods are admitted, will be opened in a few days at Fez, and arrangements are being made to sell there large quantities of merchandise for the transport of which over the Moroccan railways special facilities in the way of priority will be given.

Altogether it is not surprising that the British communities in the French zone look forward with eagerness to the end of war conditions and are anxious as to the nature of the final settlement, which will in all probability before very long define their position.

Capitulations.

At present, it is perhaps needless to say, the Capitulations, under which, amongst other rights, British consular jurisdiction is maintained, are retained. New laws and regulations issued in the French zone are not applicable to British subjects unless approved by the British Government. The principle of commercial equality is recognised by treaties and buttressed by certain provisions of the Act of Algeciras. It is a state of things which, if not ideal, is, with goodwill on the part of those concerned, quite tolerable, and does not impede the administrative authorities in their efforts for the good government and welfare of the country. There is, however, little doubt that attempts will be made to bring about a change.

The obvious and most probable principle on which to base any alteration is that of mutual concession—by Great Britain in Morocco, by France in Egypt—outlined in 1904. An arrangement starting from such a basis, which would place French subjects and trade in Egypt on exactly the same footing with respect to the Protecting Power as British subjects and trade in Morocco, and secure to subjects of the two nations the same rights, and the same treatment, would seem to offer no possible chance of disagreement even were Great Britain and France less closely united by sympathy and interest than is the case.

Will the Allies Pool Trade?

It may be said with confidence that with such a position, fully and permanently secured, and, as no doubt would be the case, all outstanding questions in Morocco as in Egypt cleared up before the settlement came into force, the vast majority of British subjects in Morocco would face the future hopefully, and British merchants would take up vigorously after the war the work of developing the opportunities which Morocco will offer.

If, as indeed seems possible, the Allies agree to "pool" the openings for trade which their territories supply, and the anomaly of Great Britain holding open her trade doors even to those who when opportunity serves close their own against her is brought to an end, the settlement of commercial questions in Egypt and Morocco would, of course, be made much easier.

TRADE IN 1915.

Morocco's Large Purchases of Egyptian Sugar.

We extract the following from a report dealing with the foreign seaborne trade of Morocco in 1915, and published in the *Board of Trade Journal*:—

In 1915 the total value of the trade of Morocco by sea amounted to 245,851,292 frs., as compared with 180,410,424 frs. in 1914 and 236,729,055 frs. in 1913. It is interesting to note that, notwithstanding the war, the total seaborne trade of Morocco in 1915 was greater than in 1913, an increase of nearly 42 per cent. in the value of exports more than counterbalancing a decrease of about 3 per cent. in imports.

As might have been expected from the disappearance of enemy shipping, the trade of Germany and Austria has practically disappeared. Germany's total seaborne trade with Morocco of 26,887,896 frs. in 1913 declined to 204,655 frs. in 1915, whilst that of Austria-Hungary decreased from 5,703,230 frs. in the former year to 120,088 frs. in the latter. Such enemy trade as there was in 1915 consisted of goods of enemy origin imported into the Spanish zone viâ neutral countries.

Advance, Egypt.

The following table shows the share of certain countries engaged in trade with Morocco by sea in 1915, as compared with the figures for 1913, the last pre-war year:—

—	1913.		1915.	
	Imports from	Exports to	Imports from	Exports to
	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
France	97,662,412	13,530,244	92,057,711	33,295,638
United Kingdom	44,411,988	6,585,498	51,111,444	13,461,307
Egypt	34,154	746,445	8,025,768	137,785
Netherlands	4,843,795	154,220	6,378,359	11

Imports.

The value of imports into Morocco by sea in 1915 was 193,132,048 frs., as compared with 154,196,118 frs. in 1914, and 199,584,515 frs. in 1913. A satisfactory feature of the returns for 1915 is that imports from the United Kingdom showed an increase of 15 per cent. as compared with 1913. Imports from France, on the other hand, showed a slight falling-off. The very large increase in imports from Egypt was entirely due to the importation of large quantities of sugar from that country, to the value of 7,895,993 frs.

An examination of the returns shows that imports from the United Kingdom advanced in all the principal items except hardware, cloth, and readymade clothing, in each of which there was a decline; this was to be expected in view of the large demand made upon the United Kingdom factories in connection with the war.

An interesting item in the statistics of imports is motor-cars, for which, with the laying out of roads, there is an ever-increasing demand. The majority of the cars at present being introduced are of American make.

Referring to the principal articles imported from Germany prior to the war, it may be pointed out that as a supplier of sugar Germany was replaced by France, Egypt, the Netherlands, and Spain in 1915; of flour by France and Spain; of tea by the United Kingdom; and of cloth partly by Spain.

Exports.

The value of exports from Morocco by sea in 1915 was 52,719,244 frs. as compared with 26,214,306 frs. in 1914, and 37,144,540 frs. in 1913.

SHIPPING NOTES.

The British Consul-General at Alexandria reports that quarantine has been imposed on arrivals from Busreh, Mesopotamia.

The *London Gazette* notifies that proceedings have been instituted in the Prize Court in Malta in respect of certain goods ex the vessels Agostolion, Angeliki, Anna, Maleas, and Zakinthos. The date of appearance in each case, except in regard to the Maleas (October 17), was given as October 19.

A recent issue of the French *Journal Officiel* contained a Presidential Decree, dated October 12, which prohibits the importation into France and Algeria, under any Customs régime, of wine lees and crude tartar produced in, or exported from, foreign countries. The prohibition is not, however, to apply to such goods imported on account of the State, nor to consignments which are proved to have been despatched direct to France or Algeria prior to the date of publication of the Decree.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

(From a Greek Correspondent.)

Prospects in the Ægean Islands.

Recent events in the Eastern Mediterranean have brought again into unexpected political prominence the islands of Crete, Mytilene, Chios, and Samos. It has been usual to think of these islands as places solely of historical interest; little appears to be known of their natural economic resources and commercial value. Yet these large islands, with many others, which stud the Ægean Sea form a desirable market in the Near East, the value of which, the Germans, in their efforts to conquer, commercially, Asia Minor, have not failed to appreciate. In spite of the continuous troubles and insurrections which occurred in these islands during the last century under Turkish rule, their industrious inhabitants have been able to develop the industrial and commercial resources to an extent that would do credit to any other Mediterranean island in the West under European rule. Here are some facts concerning the industrial progress of the islands which British engineers, manufacturers, and other firms will do well to note.

Crete.

Crete is a most fertile and salubrious island. Her unique position in the Mediterranean offers great advantages from a commercial point of view. She stands in the high road along which the commerce between East and West is carried on, and in a position which places her within from a few hours to two or three days' sail of any market on the Mediterranean coast, and particularly that of Egypt, which her agricultural products can reach in fresh condition. The island is famous for its olive oil, oranges, lemons, almonds, chestnuts, pomegranates, raisins, sultanas, wines, locust beans, vallonea, soap, cheese, etc. In recent years, the agricultural population has shown a remarkable desire to increase the use of modern machinery and implements, and Germano-Austrian, as well as French and American, travellers availed themselves of the opportunity to introduce their goods on the spot, while the British have not even visited the islands.

With the same activity foreign firms have canvassed the island for orders for industrial machinery; also contracts for railways, tramways, electric lighting, etc. It must be remembered that the island of Crete has a population equal to that of Montenegro (before the war), the last census showing 336,151 inhabitants, the majority of whom are engaged in agricultural and industrial pursuits. The kinds of machinery most needed are light ploughs, harrows, sowing machines, harvesting and threshing machines of light construction, small power flour mills, olive-oil presses, oil motors, tractors, etc.

Mytilene.

Mytilene is one of the most important islands in the Ægean Sea, and has two of the best harbours in the Mediterranean. Her imports are £600.000, and exports £720.000. There are 150 olive oil mills in the island, most of them worked by steam power, and the latest type of hydraulic presses and oil refineries, 40 tanneries, 30 soap factories, four oilcake mills, three flour mills, one engineering workshop, one cotton spinning, and 10 wool weaving factories, 115 brick and tile factories, and various other smaller workshops. There are openings for the establishment of more factories, and manufacturers of machinery for the above purposes, in England, should make a note of it: the importance of supplying the existing factories with accessories and renewals should be obvious to engineers and merchants.

Chios.

Chios, which lies outside the Gulf of Smyrna, is justly called "the garden island." Its harbour, of recent construction, has an area of 300,000 square yards, and a depth of 23 to 27 feet. Considerable improvements are needed, and are already planned to be carried out after the war. I have observed in a recent publication that the municipal authorities of the capital of the island have invited tenders for the electric lighting of the town. There are two flour mills in Chios producing 25,000 sacks of flour, about 18 tons of macaroni and other pastes, 70 tons of bread, and about 12 tons of ship-biscuits. There are also 18 tanneries, which represent the principal industry of the island, employing 500 to 600 men, and producing annually 1.500 to 1,700 tons of leather, of which about 1,200 tons are exported to Asiatic Turkey, Roumania, Bulgaria, etc. A steam-power mill grinds the bark, vallonea, and other materials for the tanneries. In the north of the island there are some rich antimony mines with the necessary furnaces and workshops. In commerce and industry the Chiotes are very enterprising, and the names of Ralli, Rodoconachi, Skilizzi, Petrocochino, Argenti, and other well-known names in the commercial world are mentioned with pride by every Chiote in and out of the island. British engineers and manufacturers, therefore, must not overlook Chios, for apart from her position on the coast of Smyrna, there is every possibility that important public works will be carried out at no very distant date.

A Story with a Moral.

A correspondent sends to *The Engineer* an example of German slimness which has come to his own knowledge. A German traveller working for a British firm secured orders beyond the output of the factory, with the result that the firm could only deliver part of the requirements of their customers. Having a list of the customers and a knowledge of the demand, he went for a holiday to his own country, and, on the evidence at his disposal, obtained the necessary funds to erect and equip works for the production of the same articles on a larger and more economical scale than the British firm. The arrangement was made with a German bank, the new works being under its control until the outlay was recovered, and he then retired from the British firm as soon as he was in a position to enter into competition with them, which he did with remarkable success. Had the British firm been in a position to raise funds in order to increase its works and output more speedily, and had it suspected the duplicity of its traveller, it might have developed an important and thriving industry; but as the next move of the German was to secure control of the supplies of raw material for the production of the articles in question, the industry in this country speedily declined. Moral.—Don't supply Huns with positions of trust.

Another Petrol Substitute.

A patent has recently been taken out by Mr. H. K. Tompkins, Champion Hill, London, S.E., for a new petrol substitute, the constituents of which are cheap and entirely obtainable in this country. The fuel consists essentially of a solution of ethane and its higher gaseous homologues or isologues in paraffin oil or other liquid hydro-carbon under pressure. Coal gas produced by the low temperature distillation of coal is washed with paraffin oil or other liquid under pressure and at a low temperature, and the solution of hydro-carbon gases so obtained is delivered under pressure into drums. For use, the solution of gases is drawn off from the bottom of the drum, and is delivered into the carburetter through a small orifice, without wire-drawing, so as to obtain the full atomising effect of the dissolved gases. The paraffin oil is partly or entirely volatilised in the carburetter, according to the proportion of dissolved gases.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

An Italian official Decree suspends the exportation of all vegetables, herbs, and fruit, with the exception of citrons and oranges.

It has been decided by the Government of India not to establish a direct mail service between Aden and Busreh or between Aden and Karachi, as had been suggested, with a view to speedier communication with the troops in Mesopotamia. The proposal is impracticable owing to dearth of shipping.

H.M. Consul-General at Algiers writes under date September 28 that, according to reports from administrators of country districts, the grain crops in Algeria this year are considered to be only moderate in quantity, late frosts in the spring and great heat in the early part of the summer having prevented the harvest from being as abundant as had been anticipated.

A Beylical Decree of September 1, 1916, published in the *Journal Officiel Tunisien*, provides that certificates of origin shall not be required by the Tunisian Customs authorities in respect of merchandise of neutral origin shipped to Tunis from a British port. The Decree amends that of October 25, 1915, which provided that, as from November 15, 1915, merchandise of neutral origin might only be imported into Tunis if accompanied by a certificate issued by the Customs authorities of the country of origin, and *visé* by a French Consul, attesting that the goods had been produced or manufactured in that country.

The Egyptian *Journal Officiel* of August 28, 1916, contained a notice issued by the Ministry of Agriculture notifying importers of grapes, and all other persons concerned, that they "must take immediate steps to ensure that the use of vine leaves as packing material for grapes consigned to them from abroad is discontinued. The importation of vine leaves into Egypt is prohibited by Law No. 1 of 1916, and all parcels coming from abroad and containing vine leaves used as packing material must, in terms of Article 4 of the same law, be sent away again within fifteen days, and if not sent away may be destroyed and their owners shall have no claim to compensation." Notice was given that on and after September 1, 1916, the provisions of this law would be rigidly enforced.

EGYPTIAN COINAGE.

The letter addressed by the High Commissioner of Egypt to H.H. the Sultan, referred to in Professor Todd's article on page 622, was as follows:—

"It has pleased your Highness to inform me that the Egyptian Government has examined the question of the eventual stamping of the Egyptian coinage, and has asked me to ascertain the opinion of the British Government on the matter.

"In reply, his Majesty's Government has charged the Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to acquaint your Highness that the British Government is of opinion that it would be most natural to replace the monogram of the Sultan of Turkey by the monogram of your Highness. It feels at the same time that the employment of the English language, side by side with the Arabic language, on the face of the coins, to indicate the value, would facilitate circulation, and would serve to recall the bonds existing to-day between Egypt and Great Britain. His Majesty's Government desires to be consulted beforehand as to the weight, standard, and general design of the coinage, as well as the rate at which foreign coinage would be admitted for circulation in Egypt."

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers of Egypt and the Sudan.
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
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O. B. 117. Telg.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 738.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY.
P. O. B. 1095. Telg.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2056.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nicosia, October 9.

Restrictions have now been imposed with a view to checking diminution of the island stock. Also no shipment of sheep will be allowed unless at the same time an equal number of goats is exported by the owner, or such a proportion of goats as the authorities may from time to time determine.

Forest Work.

The felling of trees and the work of the Government steam saws are actively carried on in the Papho forests, furnishing labour to large numbers of villagers. Owing to the cutting off of supplies of timber from foreign ports, due to the war, the island demands have, of course, been largely increased. One of the papers advocates a large extension of felling in all forests in the island.

This, of course, would be most impolitic, as the fear is lest the present drain on the forests should exceed the limits which prudence would lay down. Needless to say, the greatest vigilance is needed on the part of the Forest Department respecting the extent to which the sparsely wooded State forests can bear denudation, in consequence of the havoc wrought in Turkish and preceding periods.

CYPRUS TRADE IN 1915.

Increased Exports and Imports.

The High Commissioner's Report on the trade of Cyprus for 1915 contains the usual interesting statistics, from which we quote the following:—

Value of imports of merchandise during 1915 was £588,019, as against £496,744 during the previous year—an increase of £91,275. The principal articles showing increases are:—Wheat, £46,891; flour, £37,367; sugar, £16,901; olive oil, £10,309; coffee, £8.237; rice, £8,121; cotton yarn and thread, £6,612; cotton piece goods, £2,044; leather, sole and dressed, £4,905; matches, £2,695; cigarette-paper, £1,716; sesame, £1,563; carriages, £1,155; petroleum, £1,144; indigo, £1,082.

The principal articles showing decreases are:—Timber, £19,847; machinery, £12,258; tiles, £6,797; iron and steel manufactures, £6,178; empty sacks, £3,955; coal, £3,669; glassware, £3,408; soap, £2,262; woollen manufactures, £2,253; silk manufactures, £1,418; hides and skins, £2,331; straw manufactures, £1,945; hardware and cutlery, £1,694; earthenware and china, £1,487; furniture, £1,329; beer and ale in wood, £1,135.

The total value of exports of merchandise during 1915 amounted to £650,490—an increase on the exports during the previous year of £153,714. Of the exports, the principal items were:—Carobs, £203,162; barley, £68,371; animals, £51.622; wine, £38,158; silk cocoons, £37,299; raisins, £34,468; potatoes, £28.513; pomegranates, £20.250; wool, £14.523; lemons and oranges, £13,235; asbestos, £9,509; sponges, £7,937.

The value of specie imported during 1915 amounted to £23,899, as compared with £72,472 in 1914, and the value exported to £10,907, as against £53,463 during the previous year. This low movement in specie is due to the war, and to the consequent restrictions regarding the exportation of specie.

The total tonnage entered, steam and sail, in the foreign trade during the year was 492 vessels of 155.152 tons, and the clearances were 481 vessels of 153,159 tons. In the coasting trade the total number entered was 2.183 vessels of 267.944 tons, and cleared 2,221 vessels of 273,878 tons. There was a decrease of 71 steamers entered from foreign ports, amounting to 126,329 tons, and of 46 steamers, of 92,147 tons, in the coasting trade, due to the war.

We hope to deal with other features of the Report next week.

BELGIAN CONGO.

Possibilities Wrapped Up in Cape-to-Cairo Railway.

Generally speaking, the Belgian Congo has not been regarded as of any considerable interest to the Near East and to those who have trading interests in that sphere of somewhat elastic borders; but our American friends, as alive to the future as ever, regard the great African tract as possessing great potentialities.

They look far ahead, of course. "When the Cape-to-Cairo Railway is linked up with the Congo River and Grands-Lacs Railway route the two sections of Belgian Congo will be brought into closer relations, but at present, owing to its situation, practically in the heart of Central Africa, Katanga is dependent for an outlet upon the railways running south through Rhodesia to Beira, Portuguese East Africa, and to Cape Town," the American Vice-Consul at Boura wrote in the course of a voluminous report to his Government recently.

The Copper Industry.

Are there not possibilities for Egypt also when the railway has been constructed completely? It ought not to be necessary to point out that Katanga derives its industrial importance from the great copper deposits now being exploited by the Union Minière du Haut Katanga, a Belgian company, about 40 per cent. of the shares of which are owned by the Tanganyika Concessions, Limited, a British enterprise engaged in the industrial development of Central Africa. There are several other small mining companies, but of little importance as compared with the Union Minière.

The prophecy set forth in previous reports that the Katanga copper mines would soon become one of the world's important sources of copper supply seems about to be realised, and even the war has not interfered in any serious degree with the mining operations and production. When the war broke out the headquarters of the Union Minière at Brussels were removed to the London office of the Tanganyika Concessions for the purpose of continuing operations and furthering the sales of copper.

Americans Forward.

The report of the Union Minière, which has charge of the copper mines and smelters, states that active mining works had been carried on during 1913 and 1914 on the Star of the Congo, Kambove, and Luushia mines, and on the Musoshi iron deposits for iron-stone flux. The total ore and flux mined during 1914 amounted to 360,000 metric tons, as compared with 170,000 metric tons in 1913.

Engineers claim that the ultimate success of the mines depends on the development of an economical scheme for low-grade ore treatment. The Union Minière, under the direction of Messrs. Wheeler and Horner, American experts, is now experimenting with the electrolytic leaching treatment of these ores, and the results are said to be promising. The product of this method is known as "electrolytic copper," which commands the highest market prices.

American and other mining interests and copper consumers are now giving considerable attention to the Katanga mines, and it seems quite possible that the estimated production of copper therefrom, which is placed at 40,000 tons for 1917 and thereafter, may be realised, in which case Katanga would be near the head of the list of the world's greatest copper suppliers.

The Land.

Even more interesting, perhaps, is the question of agriculture and cattle-raising. The Agricultural Department has made efforts to encourage farming, but it is claimed that the soil is not sufficiently rich for profitable results. At the end of 1914 about 2.270 acres were under cultivation by the Department and by immigrants that had been induced to take up this work. These farmers, who now number thirty-seven, receive free land from the Government, and are given assistance in procuring seeds, clearing the land, and even in ploughing with steam tractors. There is an experimental station near Elizabethville where extensive investigations have been carried out in crop raising and irrigation, but until the demand for farm products is greater the results will have little value.

There is a more promising future for cattle raising, and the Biano Plateau, which is free from the tsetse fly and has abundant pasturage, offers a good field for this industry. At the end of 1914 the Government breeding station at Katentania on the plateau had 1,737 head of cattle, 734 of which had been imported from Northern Rhodesia. It is planned to start sheep raising in the near future.

ANOTHER GERMAN LIE.

The *Weser Zeitung*, of Bremen, publishes an article on "England and Abyssinia," in which it states:—"England, ever since she has established her powerful influence in Egypt, has kept a wakeful and eager eye on Abyssinia, and of late, not content with having deviated the waters of the Nile in order to fertilise the Abyssinian soil, and so causing a certain amount of injury to the Egyptian cotton-grower, she has tried to place this country entirely under her political influence and control. England's devices with regard to Abyssinia are very clearly shown by the *coup d'état* which she has just made to place on the throne of Abyssinia the lord of the richest region of the land—that, namely, which stretches to the borders of the Tana Sea and to the banks of the Nile. This region is one which Italy has long coveted, as it is near her colony, Erythrea. Italy will, therefore, be but half-pleased with the influence which England possesses here."

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Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA

Head Office: BUCHAREST.

Branches: BRAILA, CRAIOVA, GALATZ, JASSY.

Agencies at

Bacau, Barlad, Botoshani, Buzau, Calarashi, Campulung, Caracal, Constantza, Bazargic, Dorohoiu. Falticeni, Focshani, Giurgiu, Husi, Piatra-N., Piteshti. Ploeshti, Roman, R-Sarat, R-Valcea, Silistria, Slatina, Targovishte, Tecuci, T-Jiu, T-Magurele, T-Severin, Tulcea, and Vaslui.

Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05.

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.

DIRECTORS:

N. Barbulescu, Henry Catargy, Th. Capitanovici, Corneliu Cioranu, G. G. Danielopolu.

CENSORS:

Dr. Cantacuzino, I. Pr. Dumitrescu, C. Krupenski, N. N. Murgaseanu, C. Nacu, J. C. Negruzzi, A. Saligny.

GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - Ath Moschuna.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(By Our City Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, E.C.

The market in Egyptian shares continues very quiet, with very small changes in prices. Aboukirs are slightly firmer, having been done at 15s. for 250 shares. About 100 Agricultural Banks have changed hands at 4½. Some small business is passing in Delta Light round 5⅛ to 5¼. The increase of 1 per cent. (making 5 per cent.) on Markets was a pleasing surprise, but there has been nothing doing this week in the shares, which are still wanted at about 25s. 6d. Salt and Sodas have further improved 6d. to 19s. 6d. on Egyptian buying, but fewer than 1,000 shares have changed hands, sellers being scarce. Land Banks are wanted at 5.

In National Banks some small business has been done at about 12⅜, at which price there are further buyers, with a small seller at 12½. An exceptional transaction took place in New Egyptians at about 8s., and some Uniteds have been done at 9d.

In Greek securities business is at a standstill, and there is absolutely nothing further to report.

Roumanian Oil.

Yesterday Oil Shares were steadier. Roumanian Consolidated, after a fair number of dealings, from 12s. 4½d. to 13s. 7½d., finishing 3d. better on balance at 13s. 3d.

COMPANY NOTES.

Meeting.

Anglo-Egyptian Bank, November 21.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Limited.—Gemsah production for the week was 17 tons, against 21 last week; and the Hurgada production 508 tons, against 692.

British Maikop.—Week ended October 21, 36 tons.

Dividends, etc.

The board of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, has declared a dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent., less tax at 4s. 6d. in the pound, in respect of the year ending December 31, payable November 14.

The directors of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, recommend a dividend of 10s. per share, less income-tax, for the half-year to August 31, making, with the interim dividend of 5s. per share, 15 per cent. for the year and a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, free of income-tax. After providing in full for depreciation of securities and appropriating £5,500 bonus to staff, £10,000 to reserve fund, and £5,151 to premises account, they carry forward £52,000.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—An interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of four per cent. on ordinary stock, less tax.

NOTICE.

Société Anonyme pour la Fabrication des Cigarettes Egyptiennes marque HADJES NESSIM en liquidation.

Offers for the purchase of the following items of Stock and House Property will be received in the name of EDWARD D. JOYCE, P.O.B. 206, Alexandria (Egypt), Receiver of the above Company, up till 8 a.m. on the 15th of NOVEMBER, 1916:—

(*a*) The TRADE MARK belonging to the Company, together with all the Stock of Tin Boxes, Labels, Cigarette Paper, etc., on which the Trade Mark is printed.

(*b*) The BUILDING situated No. 12-14, Rue Abou El Dardar, Alexandria (Egypt), belonging to the Company.

Details of the above can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, 12-14, Rue Abou El Dardar, Alexandria, between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon, on any day except Sundays, from this date to the 13th of NOVEMBER, 1916.

Offers must be made in writing, under registered cover, to the above mentioned P.O. address, and must be accompanied by a deposit in Cash of 10 per cent. of the amount offered.

Offers may be made for items A and B separately.

The Receiver is not bound to accept the best or any offer made.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27, 1915.	Price Oct. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	74	74
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	47	47
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	75	75
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	62½	62½
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	71½	71½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	77½	78⅛
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	66½xd	66½xd
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	65xd	65xd
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	51½	51⅝
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	51½	51½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	47½	47½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	41	41
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	51½	51½
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	49	49
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	90	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	74	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82⅝	55	55
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	72½	72⅝
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	77½	77½
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	xd	xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	85	85
Do. 4 %, 1891	94⅛	78	78
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	52	52
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65⅛	37½	37½
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	38	38
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅛	4⅜	4⅜
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	67½	67½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	69½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12	12⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	⅜	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	2	2
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	80/-	80/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	6⅜	6⅜
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	6⅜	6⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	3⅜	3⅜
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅜	5	5
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	12½	12⅝
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	5	5
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8⅜	5½	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	88½	88½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89⅛	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅛	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	10	10
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	11½	11½
Do do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	59⅛	59⅛
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	55	55
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	10⅛	10⅛
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	74	74
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	55xd	55xd
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	15/-	15/-
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	91	91
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	⅜	⅜	⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2¼	2¼
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8⅜	6	6
Do. Pref.	4⅛	3½	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	7/8	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	9/3	9/3
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	87	87
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	⅜	⅜
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	⅛	⅛
,, Founders	⅜	¼	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	96	96
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	7½	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	76	76
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	8/9	8/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	¼	¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅜	1	1
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-/9	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11⅜	11⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	12/6	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	100	100
Egyptian Hotels	1¼	⅞	⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	25/9	26/-
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	95	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	19/-	19/6
Do. 6 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	95	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	25/6	26/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3½	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	89	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (*fr.*500)	£179½	81/6	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	1½	1½

OIL.

	Price on Oct. 19.	Oct. 26.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	9/6	9/3
Anglo-Persian	20/3	20/6
European Oilfields	3 9	3/9
Roumanian	14/3	13/3

PARIS BOURSE.

	Oct. 19.	Oct. 26.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	470	465
Canal de Suez	4580	4500
Credit Foncier Egyptien	633	644
Turkish Unified 4%	62	61.50
Egyptian Unified 4%	86.65	86.10
Serbian, 1895	63	63

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON OCTOBER 13.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	12½	to 12⅝
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	85	,, 86
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11⅞	,, 11⅞
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5½	,, 5⅝
,, priv.	L.E.	3	,, 3⅛
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	124	,, 130
Bons de Panama	Frs.	101	,, 103
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	61	,, 62
,, Privilligiée	Frs.	ε5	,, 90
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	75	,, 76
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2⅛	,, 2⅜
Comptoir Financier et Commercial	£	⅜	,, —
Building Lands of Egypt	£	⅜	,, —
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	10/-	,, —
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	4⅛	,, 4½
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	4⅛	,, 4⅜
Unifiée	L.E.	81½	,, 81⅝
Privilégiée		71	,, 72
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4⅜	,, 4⅞
,, Fondateur	£	24	,, 25
Pressage et dépots	£	30	,, 31
Nungovitch Hotels	£	2⅛	,, 2½
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	4⅛	,, 4½
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.		3½	,, 3⅝
,, Ord.	£	20/-	,, 20/6
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3⅜	,, 3⅞
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£	5⅛	,, 5⅜
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	103	,, 104
,, Jouissance	Frs.	155	,, 156
Egyptian Markets		24/6	,, 25/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	210	,, 215
,, Div.	Frs.	140	,, 145
Brasseries d'Egypte	Frs.	125	,, 130
Egyptian Salt and Soda		18/3	,, 18/6
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	597	,, 599
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	309	,, 310
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	247	,, 248
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	293	,, 293½
Delta Lands		⅜	,, 5
Port Said Salt		34/-	,, —
Cotton Ginners		—	,, —
New Egyptian Co.		7/-	,, 7/6
United Lands	P.T.	—	,, —
Levant S.S. Co.		27/-	,, —
,, Fond	£	5/-	,, 5/10

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 31 Août, 1916, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

		£E.
Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien		8,347,341
Titres divers		245,109
Comptes-Courants		295,746
Avances sur Marchandises		110,999
Avances sur Titres		1,180,763
Avances sur d'autres garanties		827,308
Effets sur l'Etranger		553,215
Effets sur l'Egypte		171 563
Immeubles et mobilier		235,746
Placements à courte échéance		585,000
Comptes Banques		842,734
Gouvernement du Soudan		517,264
Comptes Divers		167,374
Encaisse:		
Billets de Banque	£E.1,423,689	
Or	£E.121,117	
Argent, nickel, etc.	£E.194,895	
		1,739,701
		£E.15,819,861

	£E.
Capital (300,000 actions de £10 chacune entièrement libérées)	2,925,000
Réserve Statutaire	1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	6,996,464
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,368,785
Gouvern. Egyptien	2,500,687
Comptes Banques	131,961
Chèques et effets à payer	174,337
Comptes Divers	455,127
	£E.15,819,861

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Or	£E.6,267,440
Titres	4,932,560
	£E.11,200,000
Billets émis	£E.11,200,000
	£E.11,200,00

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended September 30, 1916.

	1915. £E.	1916. £E.
Sept. 20-30	5,234	6,356
April 1-Sept. 30	73,136	88,756

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as stated on the dates mentioned:—

	1915. Francs.	1916. Francs.
October 22	360,000	260,000
October 23	320,000	230,000

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc, Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

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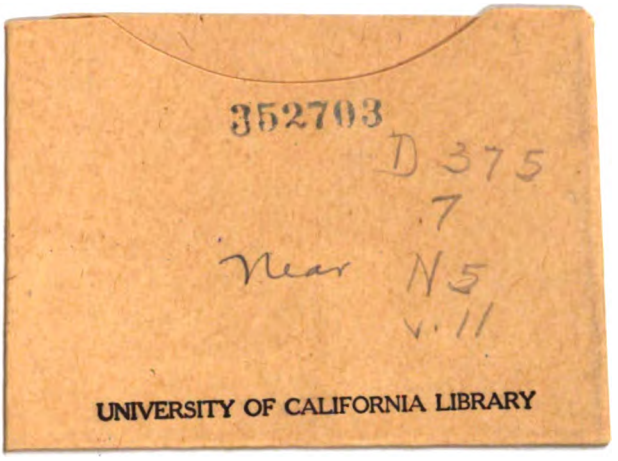
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